

SUNDAY OBSERVER

www.sundayobserver.lk

SRI LANKA'S ENGLISH NEWSPAPER WITH THE LARGEST CIRCULATION

Vol.94 - No 08 | Pages 72 | Rs. 8000 | ★

Nearing Completion!
HOTLINE 076 311 2233

Capital
Best Investment In Luxury!

View the Show Apartment

Member of
Access

UNHRC MUST LOOK BEYOND THE PRISM OF FABRICATED LIES PAGE 5

NO SCIENTIFIC BASIS TO LOCK DOWN COUNTRY PAGE 8

APPEAL TO LIFT LTTE BAN IN THE UK DECLINED PAGE 10

REENA SILVA: FROM BEAUTY PAGEANT TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Youth OBSERVER

THREE LANKANS HELD FOR ISIS LINKS

LANKAN ENVOY IN TALKS WITH US OFFICIALS

لا إله إلا الله
الله
رسول الله
محمد

Sri Lanka's Ambassador to the United States (US) Ravinatha Arayasinha had a virtual discussion with Deputy Chief of Staff and Counsellor for International Affairs, Department of Justice (DoJ) Dan Stigall and senior officials earlier this week to follow-up on the charges filed...

SEE PAGE 2

“COUNCIL SHOULD PAY ATTENTION TO FORCES BEHIND ACCUSATIONS”

FOREIGN MINISTER TO ADDRESS UNHRC AMID RESOLUTION MOVE ON LANKA

Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena is scheduled to address the United Nations Human Rights Council on Wednesday (24) where he will outline Sri Lanka's case amid a move by the Core Group to bring in a fresh Resolution on Sri Lanka.

Jayanath Colombage told the *Sunday Observer* yesterday that the Minister will make a pre-recorded video message to the Council on Wednesday but he will not speak at length on Sri Lanka's case as it had already been conveyed to the Office of the Human Rights High Commissioner last month. The time of his

speech is yet to be confirmed.

At an event on the sidelines of the 46th UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on Friday, the Minister said that solutions to the internal problems of Sri Lanka should be sought in “accordance with our Constitution”. He said, “The previous Gov-

ernment had agreed to co-sponsor the Resolution 30/1 of the Geneva Human Rights Conference, in violation of the Constitution of our country, pointing out that there was no provision in the Constitution of Sri Lanka to implement the contents of that Resolution”. Hence, the Government withdrew from

Resolution 30/1 last year, in keeping with the massive people's mandate received at the elections, he said.

However, the Minister said the Government has made it clear that if any human rights violations had occurred during the humanitarian operation that was carried out to suppress...

SEE PAGE 2

Crisis created by PC system

No salaries for WP doctors for nine months

- GMA

By Nadira Gunatilleke

The damage done by the Provincial Council system to the health service of the country was proven recently after the Secretary of the Western Provincial Council refused to pay salaries...

SEE PAGE 2

Around 250,000 persons including state health sector employees, security personnel, police, private sector health, Colombo Municipality city cleaners, parliamentarians and several vulnerable segment people have been given the anti-Covid-19 vaccine while over one million people will be vaccinated in the coming weeks. There has been an overwhelming response from people towards this and it is a significant achievement by the Government, considering the fact that the World Health Organization disclosed that about 130 countries have not got a single vaccine so far. Here health officials inject the anti-Covid-19 vaccine to the public at Rahula Vidyalyaya, Meethotamulla on Friday. Pic: Dushmantha Mayadunne

TALKS WITH PRESIDENT, PM

Pakistan Premier to sign MoUs

Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan is scheduled to sign a number of MoUs to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries during his two-day official visit starting on Tuesday (23). The Premier is undertaking his maiden visit to Sri Lanka since he assumed duties to hold bilateral meetings with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. He will also participate in a joint Trade and Investment Conference to promote...

SEE PAGE 2

Environment destruction

Hotline for public complaints

By Aanya Wipulasena

The public could now reach out to the hotline 1997 to lodge complaints regarding environment destruction that includes the illegal felling of trees, sand mining and deforestation. The police launched the hotline following an increase in the number of cases that have been reported across the country. The news comes amid a historic Court of Appeal decision to consider a writ...

SEE PAGE 2

SUPPORT OF FRIENDLY NATIONS SOUGHT TO FACE 'UNHRC CHALLENGE'

Govt to reject any Geneva Resolution

- Udaya Gammanpila

By Uditha Kumarasinghe

Co-Cabinet Spokesman and Minister of Energy Udaya Gammanpila said that since Sri Lanka has already decided to reject the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet's report and any Resolution or Commission based on that report will be resisted by the Government at the upcoming United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) sessions. The Minister said the Government through its diplomatic channels has sought the support of friendly nations to successfully face...

SEE PAGE 2

Kim files to divorce Kanye

NEW YORK, Feb. 20 (BBC) - Kim Kardashian has filed for divorce from rapper Kanye West, according to reports in the US media. The couple had been married for almost seven years and have four children together. The news was broken by celebrity news website TMZ after



ter months of rumours of marital difficulties. Reports in US media suggest the...

SEE PAGE 2

MOVE TO PRODUCE OVER 300 ESSENTIAL DRUGS

Pharmaceutical industry targets US\$ 1b exports in 2030

By Rajitha Jagoda Arachchi

The Sri Lankan pharmaceutical industry with continuous Government support is targeting a US\$ 1 billion export income by year 2030, making it the third highest export revenue earner of the country, in-

dustry experts said yesterday.

Sri Lanka's private pharmaceutical manufacturers currently cater to a 25 percent demand of Out-Patient Divisions (OPDs) at all state hospitals under an agreement signed between the Sri Lanka Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Asso-

ciation (SLPMA) and the Health Ministry in 2014. This agreement covers the supply of 88 essential drugs in state-run hospitals.

“We aim to produce over 300 essential drugs saving the country an estimated US\$100 million annually in foreign...”

SEE PAGE 2



ABANS IRONS BUY BACK OFFER

Enjoy amazing discounts when you trade in your old iron for a Brand New Abans Steam Iron.

0115 999 000

Abans.com

Available at Abans Elite Showrooms Islandwide.

Abans Elite Showrooms Open Till 9.00p.m. Daily

ASW-501BL Rs. 3,490	Special Price Rs. 2,990	ASW-501RD Rs. 3,490	Special Price Rs. 2,990	ABS-1688G Rs. 2,190	Special Price Rs. 1,790	ABS-1688P Rs. 2,190	Special Price Rs. 1,790
------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------	----------------------------

News

Govt to reject any... From page 1

...the 'UNHRC challenge' in Geneva. The President, Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister have met Ambassadors and High Commissioners in Sri Lanka to explain the country's position and to canvas support in favour of Sri Lanka, the Minister told the *Sunday Observer* yesterday.

Articulating the country's position on the latest report on Sri Lanka by United Nations Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet and the decision by the Core Group to submit a fresh Resolution on Sri Lanka to the UNHRC, Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena is scheduled to address the high-level segment of the 46th session of the UNHRC on February 24.

Asked whether Sri Lanka would submit a home-grown Resolution at the UNHRC, Minister Gammanpila said so far, the Government hasn't decided to do so.

Commenting on the attempt by the Core Group led by the UK, Canada and Germany to present a fresh resolution on Sri Lanka based on the UN Human Rights Commissioner's report, the Minister said this is nothing new. Whenever there is a patriotic Government, these countries bring Resolutions against such Governments. In the past, we have been fighting against these Resolutions. So, we will definitely face this Resolution to do so.

Minister Gammanpila said this time, the UNHRC sessions in Geneva would be a virtual conference with no room for a healthy debate, negotiations or compromises. Therefore, this will have an adverse effect on us. When this kind of Resolution

is being brought against a nation it needs to have fair opportunity to explain that country's position.

Unfortunately, Sri Lanka has been denied that opportunity due to the Covid-19 pandemic which is really unfair. That is why many nations such as China, Russia and Cuba had insisted that the UN Human Rights Commissioner postpone this UNHRC session. However, the Western dominated UNHRC didn't agree to postpone the session. So, we consider holding this UNHRC session when the entire world has faced a pandemic is extremely unfair and it reflects the arrogance of several member nations of the UNHRC, he said. The Minister said, "It should have been right is might but at the international fora especially, within the UNHRC forum might is right. So, we know it is an upheaval task but we are ready to face it."

Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena during a recent meeting of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Foreign Affairs said that the Government and Opposition should work together when representing the country's foreign policy. Though the country's foreign policy may have debates within the country, Minister Gunawardena said that everyone must unite in one voice when representing the country internationally. He said that many countries including our neighbour India represent their nation in one voice at international platforms despite domestic differences.

The Minister said he is hopeful that all parties will unite in representing the country's foreign policy internationally as one nation.

No salaries for... From page 1

...for the past nine months to Government doctors who worked to control the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) Secretary Dr. Senal Fernando said yesterday. He told the media in Colombo that the Governor and the Secretary of the Western Provincial Council refused to pay the salaries due to doctors saying that at present there is an excess of doctors in the Western Province and, therefore, salaries cannot be paid for the additional number of doctors. According to Dr. Fernando, those doctors who had been named as 'excess' by the Western Provincial Council were appointed to their current posi-

tions by the Public Service Commission (PSC) on the recommendations of the Health Ministry. They assisted to expand the health service in the Western Province and played a significant role to control the Covid-19 pandemic, he added. Dr. Fernando said that trade union action will be taken within the next two or three weeks if the Western Province Governor and the Secretary fail to pay the salaries due to the doctors.

The Government should make the Health Services, a 'Closed Services' under the proposed new Constitution. Even the Federal states in the world keep their health services with the Central Government, he added.

Hotline for public... From page 1

...petition filed by the leader of the indigenous population Uruwarige Wannila Aththo and three others who sought an interim order to invalidate the acquisition of around 4,000 acres of their ancestral land in the Rambakan Oya Forest by the Mahaweli Development Authority. The Court of Appeal decision was announced on Friday (19). The land was acquired by the Mahaweli Authority to be given to several private companies for agricultural and livestock development projects. The petitioners claim that the Authority is planning to cultivate maize on the land. The plan is to issue 500 acre plots to seven parties.

"We have brought forward a very real issue. We have no other way to receive justice than go to court. These are traditional lands of the indigenous people. They protected

it and refrained from even cutting down a single tree," Centre for Environmental Justice's Executive Director, W. D. Hemantha, who is also a petitioner said. He said the Government has already permitted people to cultivate maize in the catchment area of the Rambakan Reservoir. He said that the forest areas in Welikanda and Kandakadu are also facing the threat of destruction as there are plans to cultivate maize, cinnamon and palm oil trees.

"What we have found out is that the Mahaweli Authority is more powerful than the Forest Department and wherever the Mahaweli Authority goes there is damage to the forests."

He added that forests are in 'real danger' and this has threatened the habitat of elephants and other animals.

Foreign Minister to... From page 1

...terrorist activities in the North, the victims would be provided with justice and the perpetrators punished. "We have commenced working on it now," he added. The Minister said that the appointment of a Presidential Commission headed by a Supreme Court Judge to investigate the allegations of human rights violations made at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva has already been done, in accordance with this commitment. Minister Gunawardena also said that the UN Human Rights Council should pay attention to the 'dominances and forces' behind the same repeated accusations against Sri

Lanka and their underlying motives. His speech was made in the backdrop of a statement by the UNHRC Core Group announcing a fresh Resolution on Sri Lanka. In a statement the Core group - Canada, Germany, North Macedonia, Malawi, Montenegro and the UK - announced that they recognise and welcome the progress made by the Government of Sri Lanka in rebuilding infrastructure, demining, land return and resettling internally displaced persons. However, it said, more needs to be done to address the harmful legacies of war and build sustainable peace in the country.

Lankan envoy in... From page 1

...last month by the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles against three Sri Lankans for "conspiring to provide material support to the ISIS" involved in the April 29 Easter Sunday bombings in 2019. All three are currently in Sri

Lankan custody. The Ambassador also called for closer monitoring of the pro-LTTE organisations in the US, who contrary to US laws, were glorifying terrorism and martyrdom, while propagating hate speech and disinformation.

Kim files to... From page 1

...reality star, 40, has requested joint legal and physical custody of their children. Neither has publicly commented. The couple is among the most recognizable stars in the world and are both hugely successful in their own right.

Kim first achieved fame in 2007 as the star of an E! Television reality series about her family. Keeping up with the Kardashians has remained hugely popular since, with its 21st and final series due to be aired next year.

The reality star has been successful

in many other areas of business, from mobile apps to make-up and Forbes estimates her personal wealth to be about \$780m (£556m). Known for huge international hits such as Gold Digger, Kanye West has been one of the biggest names in rap music for over 15 years. The Grammy-winning musician has also been successful as a fashion designer.

They were friends for years before they got together and West first appeared on her family's reality show in 2010. Their first daughter, North, arrived in June 2013.

Pharmaceutical industry... From page 1

... exchange," SLPMA President Sanjaya Jayaratne said. Jayaratne also commended the support extended by the Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Mahinda Rajapaksa Government towards the local pharmaceuticals industry.

"We are grateful to Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa for initiating the concept of the Guaranteed Buy Back Scheme under which essential drugs are purchased by the Ministry of Health.

We are currently exporting es-

sential drugs worth US\$ 10 million annually and our target is to increase it to US\$ 1 billion within the next 10 years", Jayaratne added.

Local pharmaceutical production began six decades ago in 1956, where currently many players in the market produce international quality drugs in keeping with World Health Organization (WHO) standards. They have also invested more than Rs 20 billion for the expansion of production facilities in the industry.

Pakistan Premier... From page 1

...trade and investments with Sri Lanka. He will be accompanied by a high-powered business and investment delegation that will consist of business leaders in Pakistan, mainly from the sectors of textile and apparel, pharmaceuticals, agro-food commodities, sports goods, gems and jewellery, auto parts, ICT, construction material and surgical equipment.

In a tweet, PM Rajapaksa said that he was looking forward to the visit. "The visit will further reinforce

our bilateral relationship and pave the way for joint ventures that mutually benefit both our nations," he said.

A press release issued by the Pakistan High Commission in Colombo stated that PM Khan will also lead the delegation-level talks, covering all areas of cooperation between the two countries including trade and investment, health and education, agriculture and science and technology, defence and security, and culture and tourism. Besides bilateral mat-

ters, views will be exchanged on key regional and international issues.

The event will also be used as a platform to reconstitute the Sri Lanka-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Association to promote parliamentary exchanges between the two South Asian nations. "Pakistan and Sri Lanka have maintained close, cordial and mutually supportive relations since 1948," the statement added. The two countries share a commonality of views on a wide range of international and regional issues.

Both sides also work closely at the international and regional fora including the United Nations and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

The Foreign Ministry said Prime Minister Khan will be accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood, Secretary, Foreign Affairs Sohail Mehmood and senior officials of the Pakistan Government.

SAMSUNG



Galaxy S21 Series 5G

Available at:

JKOA | softlogic | SINGER | SINGHAGIRI | DAMRO | Dialog The Future Today | SLTMOBITEL The Connection | SAMSUNG e-Store | daraz | my softlogic.lk | And all authorized dealers island wide | Exclusive flagship customer hotline 011 7540540

Images Simulated. *T&C apply. Offers valid till 28th February 2021 and are subject to change without prior notice. *Service charges applicable. For more details visit www.facebook.com/SamsungLanka/. Galaxy S21 series is commercial 5G Ready. Compatibility dependent upon commercial 5G network availability.

Buy now for free gifts

Buy Galaxy S21 Ultra 5G
Get Galaxy Buds Live*

or

Buy Galaxy S21+ | S21 5G
Get Galaxy Fit2*

+

Galaxy SmartTag*

+

Samsung Care Pack[®]

One time screen replacement

Galaxy S21 Ultra 5G: Rs. 299,999
Galaxy S21+ 5G: Rs. 249,999
Galaxy S21 5G: Rs. 199,999



Prof. Channa Jayasumana receiving the appointment as the acting Minister of Health from President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the Presidential Secretariat until the Minister in charge of the subject returns to work. Prof. Jayasumana is the State Minister of Pharmaceutical Production, Supply and Regulation



Roshan Ranasinghe, the State Minister of Land Management, State Enterprises, Land and Property Development, receiving the appointment as the State Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government, from President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Committee to study reports on Easter Sunday attacks

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has appointed a six-member Committee to study the facts and recommendations on the course of action contained in the final report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) into the Easter Sunday attacks and the report of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security which has been submitted to Parliament.

The Committee is headed by Minister Chamal Rajapaksa.

Ministers Johnston Fernando, Udaya Gammanpila, Ramesh Pathirana, Prasanna

Ranatunga and Rohitha Abeygunawardene are the other members.

The Committee will be provided with the report of the PCoI and the report of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security by the Presidential Secretariat.

Director General (Legal), Presidential Secretariat, Hariguptha Rohanadheera has been appointed as the Secretary to the Committee to facilitate the activities and to carry out other functions of the Committee.

The Committee is required to submit its report before March 15, 2021.

SLPP coalition partners to meet President, PM regularly

BY UDITHA KUMARASINGHE

Co-Cabinet Spokesman and Energy Minister Udaya Gammanpila said that the party leaders of the SLPP led Government should frequently meet the President and the Prime Minister to assess the political situation and discuss the measures to be taken to face the political challenges.

"Ten political parties representing the Government met President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the Presidential Secretariat on Friday and urged him to get involved in political affairs in addition to the administrative affairs and the President agreed to our request," the Minister told the *Sunday Observer* yesterday.

The Minister said they decided to hold a Party Leaders' meeting with the participation of the President and the Prime Minister frequently in the future.

"We are a democratic coalition. Exchanging views openly without restrictions shows the healthiness of our broad coalition. Since the Opposition has never enjoyed democracy within their coalitions, they can't understand this, he said.

Gammanpila said, "We want to ensure the forward march of the Government. That is why we are struggling in the Government."

Following the meeting with President Rajapaksa on Friday, Industries Minister Wimal Weerawansa told the media that the President assured his intervention as the country's leader to preserve harmony among political parties in the Government while guiding the country forward.

He said the discussion with the President was successful. "He accepted most of our views. The President expressed willingness to hold a meeting with political parties representing the Government once every two or three weeks," Gammanpila said.

The President also committed for leadership intervention in taking the Government forward while maintaining unity and continuing discussions with the Government's constituent parties, he said.



Energy Minister Udaya Gammanpila



Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)

Design and Consultancy Services on Construction Management

UNICEF, Sri Lanka Country Office wishes to call for EOI from qualified firms for the services of designing and consultancy services on Construction Management of its Proposed Office Building at Colombo 07.

Interested bidders are requested to submit an EOI including following :

1. Firm shall be an active multi-disciplinary design and consultancy organization with minimum 10 years' experience.
2. Copy of valid Business Registration Certificate in Sri Lanka with Organogram.
3. Should engage key management and technical personnel with minimum 10 years' experience.
4. Provide details of academic & professional qualifications/experience of following : Team Leader, Architect, Structural Engineer, Service Engineers, Quantity Surveyor.
5. Evidence of similar projects (Construction cost above Rs.150 million) done in last five years. Give details of clients & references.
6. Evidence of similar work in hand. (Construction cost above Rs. 150 million). Give details of clients & references.
7. Evidence of winning any recognized awards in last five years relevant to industry (If any)

EOI should be sent **on or before 28th February 2021 to:**

Supply Officer
'EOI - Designing and Consultancy Services on Construction Management for UNICEF Colombo' should be stated in the subject line.

Via electronic mail to: srilankasupplybids@unicef.org

Please note:

- We do NOT require prices at this stage, and we merely seek your expression of interest in participating in the bid.
- A response to this Request for Expression of Interest does not automatically ensure that you will be selected for Request for Proposal. The evidence/ documents provided by the agency will be used to shortlist firms which fulfil the requirements of the criteria after careful review of the evidence provided an invitation for bid will be sent respectively, hence please submit all relevant documents along with the EOI.
- For any clarification, you may contact Supply Section, UNICEF Office during office hours. Tel: 0773710645 (Mr. Kanchana), 0713394959 (Mr. Nalinda)

Telesonic

Comfort . Convenience . Care

Midea

WORLD'S NO.1
Air Treatment Company



ANY ROOM. ANY SPACE. ANY NEED.

Midea's obsession for innovation is legendary. So is its commitment to building a solid reputation. That's why it's the world's most awarded Air Conditioner; and the most purchased. Midea comes to you with the most trusted after-sales service in Sri Lanka - from Telesonic.

Like to switch on the best?



World's No.1 Brand of Air Treatment Products
*Source : Euromonitor 2014



Accumulated Global Sales up to 120,000,000 Units
*Source : Midea Brand AC accumulated sales till 2015



Forbes 500 Companies
World's biggest public companies

0117 273 737
HOTLINES 0715 653 653

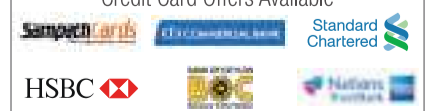
Price Rs. 89,650/- upwards.

TELESONIC LANKA No: 18, Daisy Villa Avenue, R. A. De Mel Mawatha, Colombo 04.

Email: ac.sales@telesoniclanka.com | Web: www.telesoniclanka.com

Facebook: [TelesonicLK](https://www.facebook.com/TelesonicLK) | Instagram: [telesonicrilanka](https://www.instagram.com/telesonicrilanka)

Credit Card Offers Available



SUNDAY OBSERVER

A regional response to Covid-19 vital

SAARC, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, has taken a lot of flak recently as an organisation that had not lived up to its promise of greater South Asian integration. The region, home to more than one-fifth of the world's population, has great economic potential. But intra-region trade and connectivity remains low by world standards and Indo-Pakistan tensions and several other factors have stymied its progress.

Sometimes, it takes an emergency for countries to realise that a collective response could be a better way of addressing problems. This was most potently demonstrated by the European Union, which ordered Covid-19 vaccines for all 27 countries as a single entity. While there have been some problems with this approach, it ultimately leaves no one behind. And with Covid-19, "no one is safe until everyone is safe", according to the WHO.

The SAARC region has also realised that acting together is better than trying to tackle Covid-19 alone. SAARC leaders were the first to set up a video conference to talk about taming the pandemic way back in March last year. Since then, amid travel and other restrictions, SAARC countries have continued to cooperate vis-à-vis the pandemic. SAARC has already established a COVID Fund which can be used for the Covid mitigation efforts of the eight Member States. India has donated the Oxford/AstraZeneca Covishield vaccine manufactured at the Serum Institute of India under its *Vaccine Maitri* program to SAARC nations including Sri Lanka, which received 500,000 doses. This helped to kick-start the vaccination campaign here and the health authorities have started inoculating members of the public after giving the jab to the Security Forces and Health personnel.

Yet, more needs to be done. This was the general consensus reached at the latest video conference among SAARC health secretaries. Several plans were mooted at this session, but one stands out from the rest, along with the question "why was this not done all this time?"

During the conference call, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi mooted an ambitious regional cooperation plan for the seamless movement of doctors, nurses and air ambulances between countries of SAARC and Indian Ocean Region (especially Mauritius and Seychelles) during medical emergencies.

Addressing health secretaries of 10 countries, Prime Minister Modi asked experts to consider creating a special visa scheme for doctors and nurses so that they can travel quickly within the region during health emergencies, on the request of the receiving country.

This is a timely idea. Sri Lanka and India have already become preferred destinations for medical tourists from other SAARC nations as well as from Mauritius and Seychelles. In fact, private hospitals in Sri Lanka already employ customer liaison executives who can speak the native languages used in the Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles.

A regional air ambulance service should be funded by the eight nations, plus Mauritius and Seychelles, for the easy transport of patients. Perhaps each country can buy and maintain one air ambulance, plus several ambulance helicopters. In the alternative they can sub-contract companies that operate air ambulances.

This way, there will be at least 10 aircraft with ambulance facilities that can get airborne at a moment's notice. A "SAARC Visa" scheme should be introduced for doctors and nurses so that they can visit any SAARC country during medical emergencies such as Covid-19. In fact, SAARC should eventually think about an EU-style visa-free movement facility for all its citizens that will truly impart a South Asian identity and a sense of belonging to all South Asians. Sri Lanka should take this proposal to two other regional groupings of which it is a member - BIM-STEAC and IORA - to effectively increase the strength and reach of the air ambulance service.

Prime Minister Modi raised two other pertinent questions at the forum. "Can we create a regional platform for collating, compiling and studying data about the effectiveness of Covid-19 vaccines among our populations? Can we similarly create a regional network for promoting technology-assisted epidemiology, for preventing future pandemics?"

Both Sri Lanka and India have done well in terms of responding to the pandemic. Sri Lanka was placed 10th in the prestigious Lowy Institute rankings of 100 countries in terms of responding to the Coronavirus crisis. This is actually a great honour to the whole of South Asia. India, which once experienced a huge death toll second only to the US, had seen a drastic decline in cases and deaths thanks to preventive measures.

Its 'mask messaging' has worked particularly well and now practically every Indian wears a mask, which is one of the main reasons for the drop in cases. Compare this situation with the US, for example, where there has been stiff civic opposition to masks. In Sri Lanka too, practically every citizen wears a mask.

It is time that SAARC countries initiate a common research facility on tropical diseases as well as Non Communicable Diseases, which are increasingly prevalent in South Asia. SAARC researchers should also concentrate on developing vaccines for malaria (which has been eliminated from Sri Lanka and the Maldives), dengue, HIV, cancer and also be ready for future pandemics as scientists estimate that hundreds more coronaviruses can jump from animals to humans. SAARC countries should also have more shared facilities for genetic research and genomic sequencing. SAARC should also have an exchange program for doctors and nurses.

The pandemic has taught us many lessons, but the biggest one is that we must respond to it on a regional and global scale. The virus does not respect whether countries are rich or poor. It is only through such a global response that we can hope to eliminate its threat.

Economy critics are glib, but fudge the basics

by
Rajpal Abeynayake



An ostrich with head buried in the sand talking about an ostrich with head buried in the sand? Surreal tough it may seem, it happened recently. A former Assistant Governor of the Central Bank, Anila Dias Bandaranaike used her credentials and all that, to tell us that the government's last budget was a case of ostrich burying its head in the sand.

Hardly stopping for breath, she piled on. Here is an excerpt from what she wrote: "In conclusion, this budget is a farce set in an alternate reality. I cannot understand whether those who prepared it and who supported it are entirely devoid of thinking capacity or callously devoid of any regard for our people and our environment. Are they playing ostrich to fool themselves or making the emperor parade in his new clothes to fool himself and others? Either way, during 2021 and beyond, Sri Lanka will remain a country of vast potential and lost opportunities." End quote.

Now, that's the mother-lode of verbose excess, but what was she smoking anyway? Playing ostrich to fool themselves? Say what? Is it okay to play ostrich to fool others? Well, if you say so. Making the emperor parade in his new clothes to fool himself and others? See, the hoi polloi need an explanation of the fables when the ex-Assistant Governor of the Central Bank talks down to them. What next? When the emperor's critic's domestic staff is spinning yarns?

The lady's takedown of the Government's economic policy as reflected in the budget in particular has already been scoffed at by the present Governor of the Central Bank, Prof. W D Lakshman. The Government's new approach to the economy is not understood by the doomsayers, he has said.

Delve into Anila Bandaranaike's critique of the budget, to learn about her own stance - which is so ostrich like it's amazing she has the time to mix her emperor and ostrich metaphors. The bulk of her article is full of run of the mill cavils, such as the alleged lack of budgetary allocation for key areas such as health.

Parading

These are issues that every budget since time immemorial has been criticised for, and it's worth mentioning that those in government know better why defence needs a much larger allocation than health, no matter how dire the consequences with regard to public health imperatives.

Leaving such run of the mill take-downs aside, one searches in vain for the key points in the article that warrants statements such as 'playing ostrich to fool themselves,' - whatever that means - and, 'emperor parading himself in his new clothes to fool himself and others.'

She makes a sweeping statement that, according to her the priorities for the budget would have been to address pandemic-related health and welfare crisis, and a looming economic and debt crisis.

That really won't need a genius, espe-



THESE ARE ISSUES THAT EVERY BUDGET SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL HAS BEEN CRITICISED FOR, AND IT'S WORTH MENTIONING THAT THOSE IN GOVERNMENT KNOW BETTER WHY DEFENCE NEEDS A MUCH LARGER ALLOCATION THAN HEALTH, NO MATTER HOW DIRE THE CONSEQUENCES WITH REGARD TO PUBLIC HEALTH IMPERATIVES

major industries to become internationally competitive, eventually without Government help. Free enterprise remained the central engine of economic progress, but all economic decision-making had to operate under the umbrella of strong direct or indirect Government influence," wrote J.W. Wheeler, of the Hudson Institute.

Priorities

There are several ways to skin a cat, and there are several ways to kick start a modern production economy, and controlled import substitution is just one of them.

Notice that the above Korea researcher/analyst says that import substitution was not eliminated and was augmented in that country i.e: there was controlled economic substitution, which is what the current Sri Lankan policy is all about. To say that this is a return to failed Bandaranaike policies is farcical because these are not failed policies. If controlled import substitution is a failure, South Korea would have been a failed State and not one of the top tier economies of the world.

Anila Bandaranaike writes: Sri Lanka's long-term priorities should be to reverse: 1) People/skills drain of 200-300,000 per year, searching for greener pastures abroad; (2) Environmental drain, with rainforests, sanctuaries, mangroves, coasts destroyed for short-term monetary gains; and (3) Investment drain, with investment below 30 % of GDP and declining. End quote.

She, like the other detractors, essentially has no recipe as can be seen from the preceding references, except to bite the bullet. She says address the investment drain, but that's easier said than done when the global economy is in a slump due to Covid-19, and investors are scarce.

Rather than bite the bullet, the Government wants to produce and export, so we could grow our way out of the crisis. For one thing, that would obviate the misery of the people if they are left to face neo-liberal austerity policies that the detractors at least by default seem to advocate. For another, a production economy was long overdue if we are to progress as a country - crisis, or no crisis.

Anyone refusing to see the sanguine, practical and clear-headed nature of the Government's budget in this regard, is a sand loving, head-burying ostrich on steroids.

cially the part about addressing the economic crisis and the pandemic! Shorn of all the frills the main grouse she has about the budget seems to be that public sector expenditure had not been trimmed, and that the budget attempts unrealistic economic strategies proposed for import substitution and export and investment promotion, "That were tried and had failed in the Bandaranaike Government of '70-77 and the Jayewardene Government of '77-'90."

What had failed in the Sirimavo Bandaranaike era is irrelevant, for the simple reason that this Government doesn't try to mimic the Bandaranaike era strategy, period. At best she is misled to believe that 'Bandaranaike era strategies,' are being replicated, and at worst on that score, she is willfully misleading the readership.

The Governor of the Central Bank last week in his retort to the doomsayers such as Anila Bandaranaike, stated that the Sirimavo Bandaranaike era strategies were seen by the people with extreme disgust. Nobody denies that. Though some foreigners who were out of the country may romanticise the 70s policies, those who knew these strategies as a lived experience would tell us how horrible they were.

This Government is not hell bent on import substitution even though that's the term the critics would like to use. This Government wants production, self-sufficiency as best obtainable, and export.

The critics, including those such as the one referred to above and other former Central Bank pundits among others are not interested in local production - lest they would have mentioned it. They don't even mention it.

Their recipe - though they may deny it now that it's pointed out - is essentially the neo-liberal formula, which is to impose austerity though they don't use the word. But they say, raise taxes. The lady referred to above, may not have said it but other Central Bankers who support her said it more than once. They, includ-

ing the lady, say trim public expenditure.

Then they say import substitution does not work which means they are not interested in production - which in turn means in this time of Covid-19, we don't really have any means of raising revenue because our usual sources of foreign currency earnings in particular are all almost non-existent at the moment - tourism, worker remittances from abroad, etc.

If you don't suggest any alternate means of earning revenue, it follows that the only solution you are advocating is to tax the people, cut public expenditure - and drastically impose the neo-liberal austerity recipe.

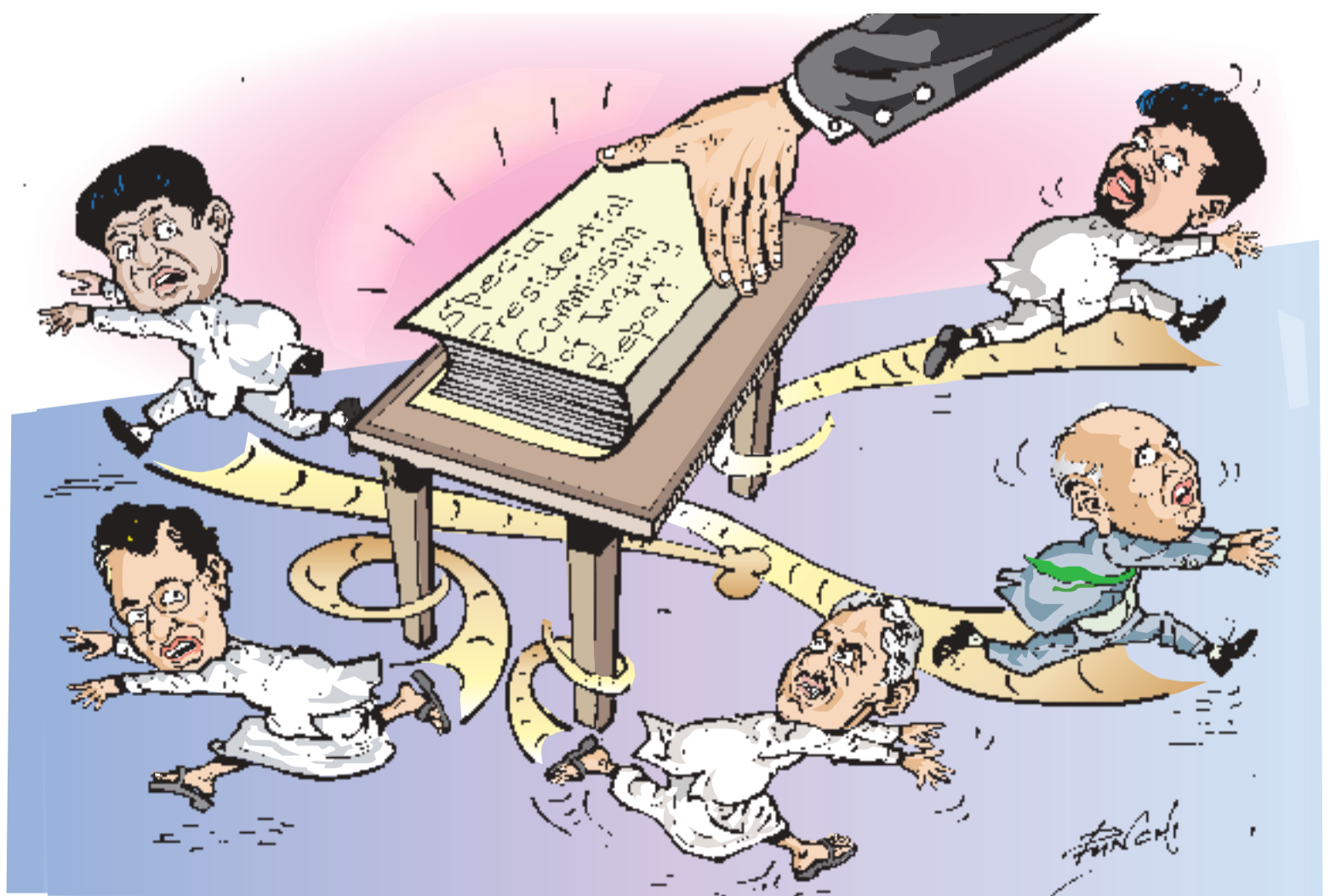
Titans

They talk about attracting investment - as if they are blissfully unaware that nobody is investing these days because the Covid-19 economic downturn hit everybody, and it takes a brave man to bring any investment to any foreign country in this adverse economic climate.

The Government sees an alternative to the drastic austerity recipe and that's production. To start producing locally cannot be dismissed as trying to "reenact the failure of the Bandaranaike era."

South Korea whose economy was languishing behind that of the Philippines relied on controlled economic substitution in the 60s, to foster the growth spurt known as the Miracle on the Han River which made the country a rich nation, now classed among the world economic titans.

"With the ascent to power of Park Chung Hee in 1961, outward-focused industrialisation became the central economic strategy. Import substitution policies were not eliminated. They were modified and augmented with policies to make Korean exports competitive in world markets. President Park and his advisors made the strategic decision that successful economic progress required



UNHRC must look beyond the prism of fabricated lies

– Prof. Sudharshan Seneviratne

BY MANJULA FERNANDO

“Member States of the UN must recognise and appreciate the legitimate right we hold to defend ourselves as a sovereign and independent state,” Sri Lanka’s Ambassador to Bangladesh Prof. Sudharshan Seneviratne said in an interview with the *Sunday Observer*, emphasising that Sri Lanka must not let the LTTE’s widely known barbaric behaviour for 30 long years become a lost narrative in the eyes of the international community.

Q: The TNA is in the forefront of the call to set up an international mechanism to investigate war crime allegations against the Government. How ethical is this call, when considering the group’s deafening silence when the LTTE recruited child soldiers for decades and used a human shield to protect its leaders during the final battle?

A: For a greater understanding of the personality of the TNA, one needs to study its evolution as a collective pre-2001. Its leadership, psyche and metamorphosis evolved from pre-TNA days especially, with the rise of the LTTE. The leadership had a bizarre survival strategy.

They were hunted down by the LTTE at one point in time and went underground to be protected by the Sri Lanka Government and finally survived as the proxy agents of the LTTE. During the LTTE hegemony, there was a deafening silence from the elite Tamil-speaking leadership when the Tamil-speaking people were brutalised by the LTTE; when other Tamil political parties were physically liquidated; when children were forcibly kidnapped to join the suicide child brigade; when the Muslims of Jaffna were forcibly evicted; when people fleeing were massacred at the Mulaithivu coast; the assassinations of Tamil-speaking intellectuals, poets, and other politicians, such as Lakshman Kadirgamar, Neelan Thiruchelvam, and Rajini Tiranagama.

These are only a few among other ‘achievements’ notched on their track record. The socially marginalised Tamil speaking people in the North, who yet remain voiceless in the mainstream society, was and is never a concern of the elite upper caste-based TNA.

Looking at the bloody record of the LTTE, the TNA has no moral and ethical right to speak of an international mechanism investigating war crimes. In fact, such an investigation is needed to expose the pro LTTE diaspora front and their servile mouthpiece represented by the Tamil leadership, recently joined by C. V. Wigneshwaran’s TMTK as well.

The pre TNA leadership was essentially silent collaborators by default to the disenfranchisement of Tamil and Muslim civilians in the North and East under a fascist rule. The UNHRC needs to question the TNA on such counts. The fragmentation of the Tamil parties is essentially a reflection of challenges posed against the imagined hegemony of the TNA.

Q: The TNA MPs joined a walk from the East to the North to protest against abuses on Tamils. Such politically motivated actions are organised every year on the eve of Human Rights Council sessions, by groups either backed by the LTTE or driven by ulterior motives. Can Sri Lanka ever shake off these allegations and if so how?

A: The publicity stunts by the TNA in Sri Lanka and in the global circuit were and are an attempt to legitimise and sustain their existence and survival.

Actions organised by the TNA and other dissenting Tamil-speaking groups in Sri Lanka do not function in a vacuum. Sumanthiran’s words (reported in the *Island* 13/2) “India should surely support the resolution sponsored by several Western nations at the 46th sessions of the UNHRC”, indicates where their support base is and where the buck stops! India I am sure with its wisdom will recognise subterranean politics of the TNA.

It is a concerted action orchestrated by several interested groups. Their controllers in the postwar period largely rest with Western and regional powers that use the TNA as a leverage attempting to pressure the GOSL. Hence, the TNA is a dependent political entity thriving on handouts from

the West, the regional powers, and diaspora feeders.

The multiple arms of several puppeteers represent: the trans world Tamil diaspora which is the primary organ as the pro LTTE front; deferent states that have varying economic and geo-political needs from Sri Lanka and the Indian Ocean; certain opposition political parties who have an ax to grind with the Government; INGOs funded by agencies supported by different governments for political and economic expediency maintaining pressure tactics to wrest concessions from Sri Lanka; global media organisations that ideologically stand in line mainly with Western governments represent this conglomeration.

Q: How can we face this challenge effectively?

A: Sri Lanka should have its own counter-strategy to offset any negative impacts nurturing an anti-Sri Lankan mindset. A well planned and consistent media dissemination; concerted strategic diplomatic engagements; action plans via Sri Lanka-friendly overseas sympathisers with respective governments and at the public domain; support mobilised by overseas Sri Lanka organisations; publicity drives through audio-visual coverage are some of the pro-active engagements we need to initiate as a cross border exercise.

Our media blitz also needs to be a well-orchestrated, articulated, and a skillfully presented exercise. In doing so, the lost narratives of the 30-year battle on the barbaric behaviour of the LTTE (attacks on World Heritage sites, massacre of village folk, carnage through bomb attacks in metropolitan centres and other areas, butchering Bhikkhus, pilgrims’ massacre at Anuradhapura, case studies of LTTE abductions of children and cyanide-vial carrying LTTE cadre trumped up false cases of individuals who allegedly disappeared or tortured and miraculously reappearing in Western countries et al) need to be presented through graphic images and well-worded commentaries via different international languages.

These need to be targeted and articulated at forums, especially, at Human Rights Councils. Unless this is constantly and consistently done, the prevalence of false information at such Councils gradually surface as facts and as an anti-mindset against Sri Lanka.

The celebrated publication on Corrupted Journalism Channel 4 and Sri Lanka, systematically listed concocted false news by the international media, is a case in point. We also need to take a stand on such corrupted journalism done recently by Bangladesh which is taking Al Jazeera to task for publishing malicious news on its respected Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

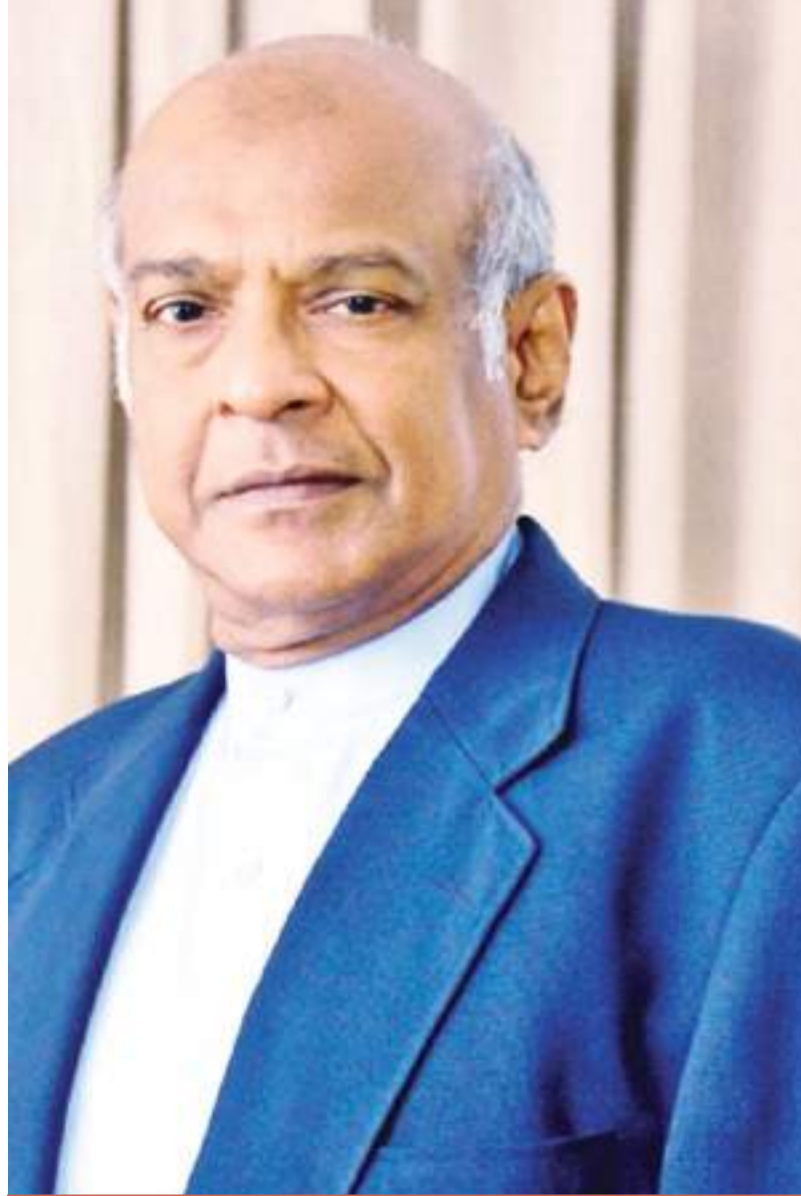
Foreign Minister Dr. Momen accused *Al Jazeera* of broadcasting false and fabricated report against Bangladesh. He also said many cannot accept the rapid development of Bangladesh and previously a smear campaign originated from London. Stories between our two countries run in close parallel.

If the TNA honestly wishes to reach out to the people and other communities, it is recommended that they at least join in the *Pada-yatra* pilgrimage carried out by all religious groups in the north and south commencing from Jaffna and converging at Kataragama in the far south.

Q: It is common knowledge that certain powerful countries are vilifying Sri Lanka at the Human Rights Council, due to pressure from the political leaders who depend on Tamil vote-banks in their countries. Although it is a fact it seems to have been overlooked at the HRC. How could Sri Lanka address this issue?

A: Sri Lanka needs to counter this situation with an information system and fine-tune factual presentations. Mere highlighting of the LTTE carnage is insufficient to reach the mindset of the Western countries.

A factual narrative of positives should be presented. Internally, the rehabilitation of the former LTTE cadre with education facilities and employment opportunities; the pro-active services by the government in the North and the East (housing projects, support for irrigation, agriculture, fishing, education, craft, and professional training); prevention of drug addiction and PR acts of the forces among Tamil speaking and Muslim communi-



Prof. Sudharshan Seneviratne

A FACTUAL NARRATIVE OF POSITIVES SHOULD BE PRESENTED. INTERNALLY, THE REHABILITATION OF THE FORMER LTTE CADRE WITH EDUCATION FACILITIES AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES; THE PRO-ACTIVE SERVICES BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTH AND THE EAST (HOUSING PROJECTS, SUPPORT FOR IRRIGATION, AGRICULTURE, FISHING, EDUCATION, CRAFT, AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING); PREVENTION OF DRUG ADDICTION AND PR ACTS OF THE FORCES AMONG TAMIL-SPEAKING AND MUSLIM COMMUNITIES; THE BROADBASED INCLUSIVE MULTI-CULTURAL/RELIGIOUS INITIATIVES CARRIED OUT AT HERITAGE SITES (GOOD EXAMPLES ARE FOUND AT THE KATARAGAMA MULTI-RELIGIOUS MUSEUM, GALLE HERITAGE SITE, POLONNARUWA MUSEUM ETC.) ARE AMONG A LONG LIST OF ACTIVITIES THE GOVERNMENT HAD INITIATED AS OUT-REACH PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES.

ties; the broad-based inclusive multi-cultural/religious initiatives carried out at heritage sites (good examples are found at the Kataragama multi-religious museum, Galle heritage site, Polonnaruwa museum etc.) are among a long list of activities the government had initiated as out-reach programs and initiatives.

These have not been properly documented, illustrated, and presented to the Western media or their decision-making people. Parallel to this, negatives of the LTTE and TNA need to be highlighted to undermine their information hegemony, for which we need to have precise target groups, organisations and individuals to focus such information and engagements.

Secondly, the international dimension of LTTE terrorism and its continuation, especially, in the West should be continuously highlighted.

There is only a sparse highlighting the world web of terrorism sustained by the LTTE which operates now at a more sophisticated level within political organisations, academia and corporate sector run by a second and third generation of Tamil speaking expatriates in the West and Australasia, their adopted countries.

Thirdly, it is necessary to look at the histories of countries that nurture the LTTE support base and anti-Sri Lankan fronts where regimes are mobilising the support of diaspora minorities as their vote banks.

It is not a negative to highlight the history of colonialism, imperialism, and neo-colonial strategies of hegemonising Latin American, African, and select Asian regions.

It is imperative to identify how many of such countries and their transnational conglomerations and military-industrial complex contra-

vene UN prescribed environmental strictures, unpunished war crimes, and crimes against humanity perpetrated by such regimes; dislodging democratically elected governments leading to regime change and anarchy (most recently Libya and Iraq), subversion of rights of indigenous people while screaming from rooftops on the discrimination and violation of human rights of Tamil-speaking people. None of these regimes, especially in the West have been questioned or brought to book. We need to consistently undermine the legitimacy of such countries by revisiting their own past and contemporary hypocrisy shedding crocodile tears.

Selective amnesia of almost all diaspora connected Sri Lankan and overseas clientele including the international media is so banal. The TNA supported General Fonseka during his run for the Presidential election; forgave and supported the UNP – the same party that unleashed a reign of terror in 1981 that has created this ugly mess.

The Welikada prison massacre and the burning down of the Jaffna Public library – the heart of Jaffna culture; the banishing or killing of some of the Jaffna based intellectuals by the LTTE are only a small but impressive track record of terror.

World organisations and international bodies only need to read past international news characterising Velupillai Prabhakaran and the LTTE, so lionised subsequently by the same media and regimes. May 28, 1995 *The New York Times* identified Prabhakaran as Asia’s master of terror – a Sri Lankan evoked Pol Pot. The silence along corridors of international organisations is indeed deafening or they must have some other agenda.

A whole decade of media listed under *The Washington Post*, *London Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal* in the 1990s decade ran back to back articles on LTTE sponsored terror in Sri Lanka, India, and on a global scale. *The Mackenzie Briefing Notes* (Toronto, December 1995) had a whole research on “Funding Terror: the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and their Criminal activities in Canada and the Western World”. Such activities on a global scale are very much alive and kicking but transformed into more respectable and acceptable identity embraced by western regimes as props to their own domestic political agenda.

We are not uncertain whether all submissions made by the GOSL are falling on deaf ears due to preconceived notions. It is indeed a pity that the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR) March 2021 may not have seriously studied the lengthy 10 page response to the communication received from that Office presented by the GOSL.

It has recapped issues relating to LTTE terrorism, diaspora activities and all engagements of the GOSL reaching out to the communities in the North and East.

Q: It has been 12 years since Sri Lanka eliminated the separatist LTTE that terrorised a nation, including Tamil civilians who were the most affected due to their suppression in the north and the east (and also targeted elimination of Tamil intellectuals). Why do you think the Tamil diaspora is still supporting the LTTE activities overseas, come UNHRC sessions and other such events around the year there are protests in western cities with seemingly whole families participating in these events?

A: It is about sustaining a power strategy shared by the pro LTTE groups and Western and regional powers using this as a cat’s paw for their own hegemonic interest to control Sri Lanka and our oceanic-escape. Having listed all the negatives perpetrated by the LTTE, the diaspora dogmatically accepts only the ideology that nurtures its identity. From a liberation ethos, it had transformed into an incorporated conglomeration of the business outfit.

Selling the misery of the Sri Lankan Tamils is the ‘beggar’s wound’ that is exploited without any moral scruples. While the LTTE was in operation the Tamil-speaking people were used as cannon fodder and they continue to be so even in the post-war period.

The ‘victimised Tamil-speaking people’ need to be displayed and paraded in the eyes of the international community and Western regimes. It is therefore, not surprising that blind faith or buying of people or even intimidation successfully mobilises a vociferous overseas Tamil-speaking community on the streets in Western capitals. Conversely, it is useful to quantify how many diaspora investments are pumped into the metropolitan South, especially the coastline of Colombo as against the number of investments that move to the North and East.

Also one wishes to know what proportion of diaspora capital has been invested on education, medical facilities (especially improving hospitals), vocational centres for professional training, and any other people-centric investments on their suffering brothers and sisters in the North and the East? Arun Siddharthan, a civil activist in Jaffna, claims that the Tamil parties have not even constructed a bus stand for the common people of Jaffna. The TNA and diaspora myth is so transparent.

Q: Do you think the international community understands the ground realities in Sri Lanka?

I am not quite sure whether the international community really understands the ground realities. Often there is bizarre goodness of the bleeding heart that conditions a bias towards communities recognised popularly as underdogs. Firstly, misinformation and partisan international media (the watershed was the Iraq war that brought out the worst in the Western media) and also propaganda news disseminated by the pro-LTTE agencies has shrouded the ground reality in Sri Lanka.

Secondly, there is an inherent negative mindset that had been cultivated by the pro-LTTE information machinery, research institutes and individuals who are funded by external

agencies either contracted to produce negative research on Sri Lanka or those who produce substandard research often read in the West and are prescribed readings for academic courses.

Research is very prejudiced against Sri Lanka and such sources are often consulted and quoted by policy planners and politicians in the West as gospel truth without testing the validity or authenticity of their sources. One only needs to read the illuminating account of Lord Michael Naseby to unveil the myth and fabrications he exposed in his magnum opus *Sri Lanka: Paradise Lost Paradise Regained* (London, *Unicorn* 2020). I personally think the UNHRC needs to read this book to educate themselves and look beyond the prism of fabricated lies.

The West should understand the imperatives of Sri Lanka: rising from a 30-year battle against terrorism and tsunami destruction, the island society withstood and literally rose out of the ashes after 2009. By 2014 the emerald isle was named as one of the ten best tourist destinations to be visited (*Lonely Planet*; *National Geography*). Struggling to rise from the ashes, we hardly had any sympathy or assistance to stand on our own feet.

The pro-LTTE was doing its number and the West decides to punish us for drawing on Chinese capital when no one else extended us a hand. The island had to rebuild infrastructure, education, soothe deranged minds from the ravages of the battle against terrorism and rehabilitate displaced communities and almost every public and private sector who had to rise again.

Urban Revitalisation unfolded under former Defence Secretary and incumbent President, Gotabaya Rajapaksa and showcased the resilience of this island to rise above the carnage and defeatist mindset.

Many from the diaspora and the West enjoy the revitalised Sri Lanka as a must-visit vacation destination but are quick to denounce the island and its people with hidden venom. To say that the West does not understand the ground realities is an understatement.

They do understand Sri Lanka, its ground realities, enjoy the hospitality it offers and continues to keep Sri Lanka down for different reasons – out of their bleeding heart delusions, for hegemonic reasons, and/or keeping us as a dependent nation! No global organisation or country has the moral right to categorise another country as a ‘failed democracy’ or ‘flawed democracy’ and inject dubious identities as hybrid democracy’ without first looking at themselves in the mirror.

Q: How much can we rely on our friends at the UNHRC to support Sri Lanka’s case at the upcoming sessions?

A: We need to go in with an open and positive mind having done our homework. We have friends (‘natural allies’ as Prof Tissa Vitharana recently said) who suffered the same fate as we under Colonialism and Neo Imperialism even now experiencing disadvantages under re-casted global power along a new realignment and neo liberalism. The previous global map cannot be revisited.

Yet, old friendships, shared aspirations, common fates are strong bindings. Yet we have dependable friends in the SAARC, IORA, NAM and others who respect and trust us. Even under duress and pressure, we have stood by our traditional friends. Even now it is important to tackle the ground situation to cultivate and convincingly bring up solid facts to the Council members. As such, our friends need to be properly informed and share strategising with them.

Epilogue

We are a nation that stood for over 3,000 years unfolding a story of an island that came to evolve its unique personality due to the convergence of multiple streams of people, cultures, languages, religions, ethnicities and present itself as one people with a Sri Lankan identity under a single banner. We take pride of a people that strives “to create a progressive national economy and a pluralistic society, a secure prosperous and beautiful Sri Lanka” (Gotabaya Rajapaksa. *Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour*).

Prof Sudharshan Seneviratne is Emeritus Prof, University of Peradeniya, Former High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India, Present High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Bangladesh and Former Director General UNESCO-Sri Lanka Central Cultural Fund

Opinion



WANTED:

Truth and justice at UNHRC now

By
H. L. D. Mahindapala



The increasing interventionist role of the UN and its agencies, mainly the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), in the domestic affairs of Sri Lanka, seen especially in the unwarranted excesses listed in the latest Michelle Bachelet's report, threatening, for instance, to report Sri Lanka to ICJ, should come under unrelenting scrutiny to expose its (1) disproportionate scrutiny and intervention of UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in the domestic affairs particularly when M. A. Sumanthiran says that progress has been made though not to their satisfaction; (2) partisan selectivity manipulated by pro-Tamil/LTTE agents abroad, including TNA, NGOs, INGOs.

All these players have been complicit in one form or another, by word or by deed, in the crimes against humanity committed by the LTTE and (3) politicisation to appease the Big Brothers who are engaged in twisting the arm of Sri Lanka to serve the urgent interests in combatting and containing China.

So, when Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, pretend to be the moral high priestess supervising all that is not to her liking on earth, she must be told in no uncertain terms that in burying the UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR), the immediate predecessor to UNHRC, Kofi Annan, the former Secretary-General, quite rightly pinpointed that it was put six feet under because meddling interlopers such as Bachelet overstepped their mark and violated the three evils mentioned above.

She must also be reminded that the new UNHRC was established not for the likes of Bachelets to go back to the rotten old ways of the buried UNCHR but to hold the balance and steer human rights justly, even-handedly and proportionately to achieve the long-term interests of the human rights of all and not just those who are vindictively waging a war in Geneva to get even with the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) for crushing Tamil terrorists banned by the world.

Take the case of M.A. Sumanthiran, the current holy cow of Tamil politics, manipulating with the American Ambassador, Alaina B. Teplitz, to fix Sri Lanka in the coming session of UNHRC on human rights principles. Not so long ago he was on the other side, going on his bended knee to Velupillai Prabhakaran. During that time, he had no qualms in pledging loyalty to him as the supreme leader of the Tamils when he knew that he had killed more Tamils than any other.

To this day he has not apologised to the Tamil people for collaborating with the Tamil Pol Pot and willingly being a part of his killing machine.

At least Adolf Eichmann had a rather tenuous excuse for being a part of Hitler's killing machine. He claimed that he was only a cog in the wheel of the Nazi system and he had no choice. He said he was merely carrying out orders. But Sumanthiran had a choice. There was no compulsion for him to be an integral part of Prabhakaran's killing machine. He did it on his own, voluntarily, agreeing to be a partner in crimes against humanity, particularly the crimes against his fellow Tamils.

For instance, did he once go with a Tamil parent to Tamil Chelvam, to plead for the life of an abducted schoolgirl or schoolboy? He is a lawyer. Did he ever file a case in Prabhakaran's court complaining about the violation of the fundamental rights of Tamils in his quasi-state? Did he go to the American Ambassador and put pressure on him/her to protect the dignity, justice, equality and peace of the Tamils denied by his 'sole representative of the Tamils'?

Today, he says that truth will set him free, quoting the Bible. True. So when will he liberate himself from the web of lies in which he is trapped and walk as a free man? Also, will the American Ambassador hold the hand of Prabhakaran's partner in crimes against humanity and escort him to Geneva for him to pose as champion of human rights?

Both of them will find themselves quite at home because UNHRC is built on lies, biases and frauds. John Bolton, the arch conservative, was right when he said that "US did not have sufficient confidence to be able to say that HRC would be better than its predecessor" (p.56) the United Nations Human Rights Council, Rosa Freedman, Routledge). He added: "If the UN Secretariat building in New York lost ten storeys, it wouldn't make a little bit of difference." (ibid - p. 156). In any case, the UN and its agencies have been taken over from time to time by war criminals, liars, frauds, sex maniacs, morally blind hypocrites that one more going from Jaffna will not make much of a difference to UN's moral failure to be a universal instrument for peace, justice and the security of imperilled man.

A quick glance at some facts will reveal why humanity cannot depend on the UN as an instrument for the overall good of man:

Fact 1:

Between 1972 and 1981 the UN - the highest instrumentality set up to protect human rights - was run by a war criminal: Kurt Waldheim. As lieutenant in the Nazi killing machine he operated in Greece where more than 60,000 were deported to Jewish death camps. He had no qualms. Waldheim served as Secretary - General for two terms. Is this the institution that is now pointing a finger at Sri Lanka?

Fact 2:

On February 5, 2005 Colin Powell, Secretary of State for Bush, deliber-

ately lied to the Security Council, saying that Iraq was hiding weapons of mass destruction from inspectors and refusing to disarm. The unpardonable immorality of the UN-sanctioned lies diminishes the credibility of the UN making accusations against other countries. In the case of Sri Lanka it's worse. A case is constructed against Sri Lanka by the three hand-picked characters sitting in New York and collecting the evidence of accusers whose names will not be revealed for the next thirty years. What credibility or justice will there be in a case built out of anonymous accusers whose identity will not be revealed for the next thirty years?

Fact 3:

UN-sanctioned naval cordon thrown around Iraq killed 600,000 children and when Madeleine Albright, America's State Secretary, was asked whether the price was worth for achieving the aims of the West in Iraq she replied that the price was worth it. This figure of 600,000 amounts to more than all the children killed in Hiroshima. UNHRC is crying its heart out, wringing its hands, on an unverified figure of 40,000 dead between September 2008 and May 2009. Leaving all other factors out, at least on the principle of proportionality will Bachelet report Albright to the ICJ? She can do it because there is no statute of limitation for crimes against humanity. Will she do it?

Fact 4:

Derek Halliday, former Assistant Secretary General of UN in charge of Humanitarian Operation in Iraq said that the West is waging a war through UN on the people of Iraq, with results that you do not expect to see in a war fought under Geneva Conventions.

"We are targeting civilians... it's monstrous situation for UN, for the Western world, for all who are part of some democratic system and the implementation of economic sanctions".

Halliday calls it genocide and believes when history books are written the Security Council, the UN, Washington and London will be 'slaughtered' for their actions (British Medical Journal - March 11, 2000. John Pilger's documentary Paying the Price

- the killing of the children of Iraq.)

Fact 5:

Under UN Security Council Resolution 819 Srebrenica enclave was declared a safe area by UN. The safety status was extended to Sarajevo, Zepa Gorazde, Tuzla Bihac. All cities were placed under UN peacekeeping units UNPROFOR. Member states who voted for it were for political reasons not willing to take necessary steps to ensure the security of the safe areas. When the Muslims of Srebrenica were panicking fearing the imminent attacks from Serbs the overall UN Commander rushed and assured the Muslims that they are safe because they are under the protection of UN forces.

The next day under the very eyes of the of UN forces commanded by a Dutch unit 8,000 Muslim men and boys were massacred in a pre-planned genocidal attack. The Dutch state was found liable in the Dutch supreme court and the Hague district court of failing to do enough to prevent more than 300 deaths. (Wikipedia)

In the Darusman Report the GOSL is accused of firing into zones declared as No Fire Zones. This is denied by the GOSL. But let's assume that it did happen. Unwittingly the Darusman report provides the answer. It says that the LTTE placed military equipment where civilians were to provoke fire from GOSL forces.

GOSL forces did not rush into the No Fire Zone to launch a genocidal attack under the blind eyes of the UN. It was reacting to provocative fire from the LTTE. This is different from UN forces turning a blind eye to the genocidal attack on Muslims who were in the UN protected Safe Zone. If anything near to what happened in Srebrenica happened in the No Fire Zone in the last days of the 33-year-old battle against terrorism Ms. Bachelet would have danced by now.

The overall pattern emerging from her irate report indicates that she is in cahoots with the NGOs, anti-Sri Lankan Western powers who overlook - and even defend - the violations of human rights of their allies, the Tamil diaspora, India with its pinch-the-baby-and-rock-the-cradle policy - all of which is taking UNHRC down the very same path that led to the burial of UNCHR.

To understand the inexcusable im-

morality on which the whole attack on Sri Lanka is based one has to look at the framework on which it stands. Organised Tamil violence against the democratically elected began officially when the Vellala elite declared war in the Vadukodai Resolution on May 14, 1976 urging the Tamil youth to take up arms and never rest until they achieve Eelam.

Since then they have financed it, mobilised cadres for it, internationalised it, lobbied and raised funds for Tamil terrorism in every available corner of earth for it, manufactured theories and excuses for violations of human rights and crimes against humanity, glorified war crimes, triumphantly hailed every killing and/or massacre that led to territorial gains, demonised or eliminated any potential rivals including the cream of Tamil elite, justified the suppression of all liberties that denied the dignity, justice, liberty and peace etc.

This ran for 33-years with the backing of the Diaspora, local elite and even at time with the support of India who never fails to profess eternal friendship with Sri Lanka. It ended on May 19, 2009. Now here comes the irony of ironies. In its infinite wisdom UN pundits pick only eight months out of 33 years to accuse Sri Lanka in the main of violating human rights and subjecting Sri Lanka only to the severe strictures and judgment of the UNHRC and UN.

The unanswered - and even the unasked - question why limit the judgment on a battle against terrorism of 33 years to the last eight months only? On what logic? On what rationale? And who was it who drew up the dates? For what reasons?

The dates were arbitrarily determined by the three UN zombies sitting in New York for their convenience. They were not after serving justice or peace, or human rights, or the truth. They were out to pick bits and pieces from wherever they could, stitch them together as 'credible evidence' and hang Sri Lanka at the end of their rope.

Apart from their personal convenience there is a grand design behind it. It was the only way they could eliminate all the other responsible actors in originating, causing, promoting, financing, and directing a needless battle and pin it exclusively on Sri Lanka. It provided the rationale for the whole world to gang up against Sri Lanka as the only culprit responsible for the 40,000 (a figure picked out of the skies) that died in the last days of the battle against terrorism.

This arbitrary dating avoids (1) the key issue of crimes against peace committed by the Tamil leadership under the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal principle where they planned and conspired and made preparations for waging a war of aggression - the principle under which the Nazi war criminals were tried and sentenced - in passing the Vadukodai Resolution on May 14, 1976 declaring war against the democratically elected government of Sri Lanka; (2) the interventionist role of India which engaged in deliber-

ately pursuing a policy of aggression in recruiting, training, financing and directing Tamil terrorists to destabilise a friendly neighbour violating universally accepted international law ; (3) the guilt of Western nations which provided safe havens for agents of Tamil terrorists to raise funds and propagandise terrorism violating Resolution 1373 of the UN; (d) war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the IPKF in massacring patients, doctors, nurses in the Jaffna Hospital etc., (e) the issue of safe havens given in Western countries to LTTE agents who had directly aided and abetted the violations of human rights and been an active part of the killing machine of Tamil terrorists (f) the refusal to give information on LTTE agents hiding in Western havens as refugees fleeing from the GOSL, thereby hampering the overall attempt to bring justice and reconciliation based finding the truth, etc.

It is the responsibility of Ms. Bachelet, if her office is genuinely concerned about dealing with human rights issues to help the GOSL with these issues instead of passing the buck to GOSL on every minor issue. For instance, it is immoral for her to limit her investigations arbitrarily only to the last eight months of a 33-year-old battle against terrorism.

If truth finding is vital for reconciliation and peace then revisiting the past - the entire length and breadth - is imperative to arrive at a fair and reasonable judgment. If she sits in Geneva like the Darusman zombies in New York and continues to pass judgment impulsively, with eyes wide shut, she will be doing a disservice to the reputation and viability of UNHRC. Even at this stage she has to take a holistic view of the crisis and be fair by all parties.

UNHRC has been battered by all sides. It has been used mainly by the US to wipe its feet whenever it decides to get out or come in. Her task is to lift the UNHRC to a new level of respectability and acceptability. Can she do it? Can she make a difference? Her latest report indicates that she has the capacity to act only like the monkey dancing to the organ grinders behind her. There is no great achievement in becoming a Ditto head to the paymasters. Any mug could do it. It is Ms. Michelle Bachelet's turn to write a new chapter to the UNHRC. She should, for instance, go back to the beginning and start from the Declaration of War by the Tamils against the democratically elected state and see how it went all the way to Nandikadal. The Declaration of War took place in Vadukodai and though it's a short distance as the crow flies to Nandikadal where it ended it took 33 years.

How fair is it, Madam, to judge a journey of 33 years with the events of only last eight months, eh? Can it serve truth and justice? Doesn't it all come back to the original sins of selectivity and politicisation? You didn't break through the glass ceiling just to follow in the footsteps of the male chauvinists, did you Madam?

IT WAS THE ONLY WAY THEY COULD ELIMINATE ALL THE OTHER RESPONSIBLE ACTORS IN ORIGINATING, CAUSING, PROMOTING, FINANCING AND DIRECTING A NEEDLESS BATTLE AND PIN IT EXCLUSIVELY ON SRI LANKA. IT PROVIDED THE RATIONALE FOR THE WHOLE WORLD TO GANG UP AGAINST SRI LANKA AS THE ONLY CULPRIT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 40,000 (A FIGURE PICKED OUT OF THE SKIES) THAT DIED IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE BATTLE AGAINST TERRORISM

NAWALOKA INTERMEDIATE CARE CENTER AT MOUNT LAVINIA HOTEL



The pioneer private hospital in Sri Lanka has partnered with Mount Lavinia Hotel to provide world class medical treatments for Covid 19 positive patients

Starting from **Rs. 17,000** onwards
(on full board basis)

*Terms & Conditions Apply

- 24x7 Care by medical officer
- 24x7 Care by nursing staff
- 24x7 Supervision by expert panel of consultants
- ICU facility for emergency care



Mount Lavinia Hotel



0771 181 856
0777 256 555
0777 385 321

USHA 60m³/min AIR DELIVERY

PENTA COOL™
Smart Pro



THE POWER OF 5 BLADES

AIR DELIVERY GETS SMOOTH AND SILENT
PEDESTAL FAN WITH TIMER AND REMOTE

PENTA COOL SMART PRO FEATURES

- 5 Blades For Smooth Air Flow
- Silent Performance
- 3 Wind Modes
- 100% Copper Motor
- 7.5 Hour Timer & LED Display



Authorized Importer & Distributor
NELSONS
Available at USHA Dealers Island Wide

FOR MORE DETAILS
LOG ONTO
WWW.USHA.LK

USHA care
corporate@usha.lk
011 - 5533 - 111

THE HUGE CASH PRIZE OF **Rs. 520 MILLION** WAS PRESENTED TO **9** SUPER PRIZE WINNERS OF LAST **3 MONTHS** BY HON. PRIME MINISTER MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA



Rs. 32,927,280.00 Prize
Winner of Mahajana Sampatha 4336th Draw



Mrs. S.P. Heenatigala
Heiyanthuduwa

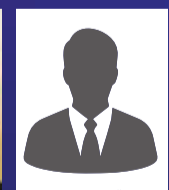


Agent
Mrs. A.B. S. De Silva Makola

Rs. 69,917,370.80 Prize
Winner of Govisetha 2650th Draw



Mr. Hapugaha Welagedara Thilakarathna
Polgahawela



Agent
Mr. H.G. Thilakarathne Polgahawela

Rs. 14,385,608.00 Prize
Winner of Mega Power 664th Draw



Mr. H.M.C.T. Herath Galenbindunuwewa



Agent
Mr. H.M.U. Jayasingh Mahiyanganayaa

Rs. 21,800,075.48 Prize
Winner of Supiri Vasana 1564th Draw



Mrs. P.S.S. Jayasekara Yatiyanthota



Agent
Mr. K.G.S. Jayathilake Yatiyanthota

Rs. 135,576,667.92 Prize
Winner of Dhana Nidhanaya 425th Draw



Mr. W.A. Nihal Wickala



Sales Network
Puttalam District

Rs. 76,378,435.20 Prize
Winner of Govisetha 2619th Draw



Mr. H.W.N. Piyarathna Gilimale



Agent
Mr. G.M.T.S. Manawadu Dela

Rs. 70,597,617.92 Prize
Winner of Govisetha 2680th Draw



Mr. M.A. Steephan Raj Kandapola



Agent
Mr. P.G.T. Jayarathne Kandapola

Rs. 39,995,570.00 Prize
Winner of Mahajana Sampatha 4389th Draw



Mr. T.M.K.S. Kumara Kadawatha



Agent
Mr. E.Susil Premalal Ganemulla

Rs. 60,590,559.20 Prize
Winner of Govisetha 2683rd Draw



Mr. E.W.G.A. Premathilaka Ampara



Agent
Mr. P. Jayasingha Ampara



NEW VARIANT OF COVID-19 IN 82 COUNTRIES

No scientific basis to lock down country

- Dr. Sudarshini Fernandopulle

By
Uditha
Kumarasinghe

State Minister of Primary Health Care, Epidemiology and Covid-19 Disease Control Dr. Sudarshini Fernandopulle said that there is no scientific basis for a lock down of the country as the variant of Covid-19 has been detected in 82 countries and not only in the United Kingdom (UK). The State Minister in an interview with the *Sunday Observer* said, just because a new variant was identified, it doesn't mean that you have to lock down the country and it also depends on the number of cases reported.

If we observe a rapid spread of the infection, we may have to do it in the future but not right now. She said as a Government, we have been able to control the pandemic while maintaining normal life. This is a global pandemic and we should not take political advantage from it. We have to give clear and uniform messages irrespective of politics. Any criticism made should be constructive and not politically biased.

Q As speculated by the media will the country be locked down due to the spread of new strain of Covid-19?

A: Of course not. There is no rapid spreading of the new strain of Covid-19. They have detected only 16 cases where 13 are from those who had returned from overseas.

They have already been quarantined for 14 days. There are three cases that are being monitored and the investigations are carried out by the Epidemiology Department. There is no need for a lock down of the country. Of course, whenever there are new clusters, the movement in those clusters will be restricted. Right now, there is no necessity for a lock down.

Q Will any travel restrictions be implemented in the areas where a large number of people are infected with the new strain of the virus?

A: As I mentioned earlier, only 16 cases have been detected. Of them 13 have already completed the 14 days quarantine. Only three persons who were tested positive were sent to the intermediate care centres. So, they have already been distanced from so-

ciety. Therefore, there is no risk of others getting infected.

Q Has any decision been taken to halt weddings, parties and other functions attended by a large number of persons?

A: Yes. Because it was noted that the significant number of new clusters have been linked to weddings and parties where there had been gatherings. So, the Ministry of Health has taken a decision to revert back to the old instructions.

When the cases were reduced, they gradually relaxed the numbers that would be invited for weddings and other functions based on the need of the people. During the past one month, we have sorted around 700 to 800 cases.

After observing that the majority of these clusters were attributed to some weddings and other functions, a decision was taken by the Health Ministry to reduce the maximum number of persons attending a wedding to 50 while instructions have been given to complete funeral arrangements within 24 hours.

Q Any research being done to find out how this new strain of Covid-19 entered the country and the methods to control the spread of it expeditiously?

A: The Epidemiology Unit is looking into this. Of the 16 detected cases, 13 were from quarantine centres who have already completed 14 days quarantine period. So, there is no risk of the community getting infected from this. There are three cases in which the Epidemiology Unit is still conducting investigations.

Q The President of the Public Health Inspectors Union of Sri Lanka (PHIUSL) Upul Rohana had said that if the country is not locked down even for a few days, owing to the new strain of Covid-19 that has entered the country, then it will be closed down automatically. Would you like to comment on this?

A: There is no scientific basis for a lock down because this variant has been detected in 82 countries and not only in the UK. So, this variant may come from overseas or even from the new patients.

That warning was given even earlier. This virus keeps on changing. Even the media had reported that another new strain had been identified in the UK. This can happen. Just because a

FACT-FILE
Dr. Sudarshini
Fernandopulle

► **1960:** Born in Negombo. Wife of late Jeyaraj Fernandopulle, former Minister of Highways and Road Development and SLFP Organiser for Katana. Educated at Ave Maria Convent, Negombo. Higher education at faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo and La Trobe University, Victoria, Australia. Obtained MMBS, MSc (Com Med), and MD (Com Med) degree from Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo

► **2009:** Entered active politics after assassination of her husband. Became SLFP Chief Organiser, Katana

► **2010:** Contested the General Election under United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) and elected to Parliament from Gampaha district. Appointed Chairperson of Women Parliamentarians' Caucus.

► **Mar 2015:** Deputy Minister of Research and Higher Education

► **Sept 2015:** State Minister of City Planning and Water supply

► **2020:** Re-elected to Parliament from Gampaha district under Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP)

► **Aug 2020:** State Minister of Prison Reforms and Rehabilitation

► **Nov 2020:** State Minister of Primary Health Services, Pandemics and COVID Prevention

Source: Internet, Graphic: Mahil Wijesinghe

new variant was identified, it doesn't mean that you have to lock down the country. It depends on the number of cases reported. If we observe a rapid spread of the infection, we may have to do it in the future but not right now.

Q Some Samagi Jana Balaya (SJB) parliamentarians have slammed the

Government's move to give priority to administer Covid-19 vaccines to Parliamentarians disregarding workers in other essential sectors. Your comments?

A: Parliamentarians also meet a lot of people. We saw some parliamentarians tested positive for Covid-19 as they had attended a large number of meetings. As a result, a large number of people had to be quarantined and the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR tests) had to be done.

Even Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi became a victim. Very often, it is difficult to isolate Parliamentarians as they have to attend so many events.

Therefore, it has been decided to give the Covid-19 vaccine to the 225 Members of Parliament as well. It is considered they are at a high risk as they associate with a large number of people. If one is infected then there is a risk of spreading it to others.

Q The President of the College of Medical Laboratory Science, Sri Lanka (CMLSSL) Ravi Kumudesh has raised concerns that dumping the remaining Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine liquid found in the vial after the final dose is drawn out was a waste since it is adequate to administer another dose. Is there any truth in this?

A: Actually, this multi-dose vials contains 6.2 ml and the guideline was that it can be given to 10 people since during the withdrawal process there is some sort of wastage.

For taking into account all these procedures only, the general guideline was issued that it could be given to 10 people. The experts said an extra dose could be given if there was remaining liquid in the vial after the initial 10 doses were drawn out. This was iden-

tified and now it has been advised to administer 11 doses. This is a practical procedure done by humans and not machines.

Once you get to that 0.5 ml it gets locked automatically. So, the wastage is very minimal. From the vials which was meant for 10 people, it was observed that it could be given for 11, and now it is being done.

Q How would you respond to Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa and some other Opposition lawmakers claiming that the Government has failed to control the second wave of Covid-19?

A: I categorically reject that. It is a baseless allegation as the Government has been able to control it while opening up the country. Like the first wave of Covid-19, the entire country was not locked down. While continuing the normal functions, the Government has been able to control it.

Of course, in most countries, they are still trying to control the second wave as there are new variants. Most of these countries are now focusing on vaccination. Likewise, Sri Lanka is also focusing vaccination.

There was an allegation that we are not ready for vaccination but we started it ahead of schedule. We are now in the process of purchasing the Covid-19 vaccine. In addition, under the World Health Organisation's (WHO's) COVAX facility, Sri Lanka will receive a consignment of Covid-19 vaccine by the end of this month or during first week of March.

As a Government, we have been able to control the pandemic while maintaining the normal life. I must also say this is a global pandemic and we should not take political advantage from such a situation. The Government needs the support of the people

as their behaviour also matters in the control of this disease. The Government can't control the people's behaviour.

The people will have to be very cooperative such as wearing facemasks, maintaining the social distance, following the proper health guidelines and avoiding crowded places. The most important three factors are to avoid crowded places, closed places and close contacts.

These three guidelines have to be strictly adhered to. This is very important. I think irrespective of politics, we have to give clear and uniform messages. The criticism should be constructive and not politically biased.

Q Is there any issue pertaining to the Muslim burial issue as the health authorities say no permission has been granted so far for Muslims who die of Covid-19 to be buried?

A: The burial issue is not targeting a particular religious or ethnic group. The technical committee has decided that all deaths due to Covid-19 should be cremated based on scientific grounds. Some scientists and geologists say there is a risk of burying the Covid-19 dead bodies.

I think the present law only permits for cremation. It is not targeting any ethnic or religious group. In all religions, they practice burial. Only the deaths that occurred due to Covid-19 are cremated. I think we should not be fighting about dead bodies.

It is very important to prevent deaths due to Covid-19. We should talk about saving the people and try to prevent them dying because of this pandemic. Those who are arguing about the dead, have never spoken a word about the importance of preventing deaths.

Continued on page 13

Cross-generational problem solving

By
Dr. Thilan U.
Hewage

"We cannot solve problems being in the same frame of mind that created them" - Albert Einstein

Life in general is a continuous exercise in creative problem solving. The success of an individual, an organisation or a country can be attributed basically to the success of the solutions each entity brings to the problem it faces. One can easily see that in the ways different countries are trying to solve the Covid-19 problem at present. Irrespective of one's nationality, age, gender, race, religion, educational qualifications and/or career choices one will always have to find solutions to one's own sequence of challenges.

Biologists and naturalists have said that plants, animals and humans all have innate abilities to solve problems they have to face in a natural habitat. We all come to this world equipped with those abilities which are sometimes referred to as survival instincts.

In addition to the challenges and problems thrown at us by our natural habitat, we humans usually have to face problems created by ourselves. Of course, no individual, organisation or country would intentionally try to create problems for themselves unless they expect some kind of benefit that is worthy of enduring the outcome of such a problem. Controlled or prescribed burns of certain sections of forests are examples of such creations

that will help prevent possible large-scale destructions of the forest due to random bush fires during the dry weather.

Man-made problems

Man-made problems can mainly be divided into two categories, intentional and unintentional. In both categories the creators don't think that the problems would have any negative effect on them or the negatives outweigh the positives for them. The creators of the problems usually have no concern about the difficulties others have to face due to those problems.

Intentionally created problems can range from individual actions such as backstabbing a competitor for a promotion at the workplace, framing someone for a crime he/she didn't commit, stealing trade secrets from rival companies to organised group activities such as human and/or drug trafficking and insider trading all the way to terrorism, instigating wars and regime changes.

The human-elephant conflict, illnesses caused by polluted air and water, pollution of the environment due to overuse of chemicals and non-biodegradable materials, global warming, nuclear disasters and even collateral damages during wars can be considered as some of the examples of problems created by man unintentionally. Irrespective of the nature of the problem and its creation we are faced with the challenges of finding satisfactory solutions to minimise the physical and mental stress of the affected people.

Understanding the problem clearly is perhaps the most important part of the process of solving it. A problem



well defined and well stated is a problem half solved. Therefore, it is very important to use all the information and resources at first to understand the problem and the contributing factors of creating it, if at all possible.

Solution

There is a possibility of a solution to a particular problem creating a different problem, sometimes even in a completely different part of the world. Therefore, following up with the aftermath of a particular solution is also important in preventing further complications.

Another aspect of solving problems is finding the best out of all different solutions provided by different stakeholders.

Certain problems tend to disap-

pear while some others tend to get even more complicated with passing time. Time can be a crucial factor, especially in health problems where the knowledge of the causation of the problem would certainly help prevent it.

Even though the saying 'prevention is better than cure' is often used only in connection with human health problems, it can also be a sensible strategy in the process of solving any type of problem as 'preventing a problem is better than struggling to solve it'.

There are some conditions that are seen as problems within a space of limited knowledge and therefore, improving the knowledge in that particular field and seeing the connection of that with the other aspects of life will easily solve the problem.

Another important aspect of prob-

lem solving is having a well-defined frame of reference within which the solution is expected. Human society can be defined as: 'a large group of people who live together in an organised way making decisions about how to do things and sharing the works that need to be done'.

Etymological details show the origin from the Latin word *Socius* which means 'companion' giving the basic meaning to the word 'society' as the 'companionship'.

Plato's Republic described that individual human beings found it difficult to be self-sufficient, and therefore, they formed communities and societies to achieve their common goals through mutual assistance.

Community

Each need of such a society, such as growing vegetables, animal farming, carpentry or producing garments, is taken care of by an individual or a small group of individuals so that everyone in the community has his/her needs fulfilled while contributing their services, knowledge and labour, to sustain and improve that cycle of production and consumption.

This eventually resulted in a community organised into distinct classes according to the importance and the value of their role in providing a particular component for the common good.

Therefore, a solution to a human problem arrived at as an individual detached from the rest of the society, as a village disconnected from other villages or a country disconnected from other countries, will not be the best and lasting solution.

With the development of information technology and all other improvements in sciences people are becoming more and more impatient and expect quick solutions to their problems. Capitalising on such a collective mentality the professionals and governments responsible for providing solutions to the problems of the common man have also started providing the quickest and the most popular solutions but not the best and the sustainable ones.

Most democratically elected governments around the world are appointed for limited periods such as five or six years.

Therefore, they usually focus on that and/or the re-election process at the end of that period as the time frame within which they have to provide solutions to the problems while packaging them as the best solutions for the future of the children of the voters.

Such short-term solutions have created subsequent problems such as, killer diseases, human-animal conflicts, poisonous air, contaminated water and global warming.

As a nation with a proud history, going back hundreds of generations, which is even being marketed to earn a buck in the present context of tourism, Sri Lankans would certainly be better off if they try to find solutions to their problems within a timeframe that includes at least a couple more generations ahead.

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

SLPP remains united and as strong as ever - Prime Minister

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government has taken every possible measure to provide all facilities notwithstanding the health-related restrictions imposed to ensure the safety of the public.

As the tourism sector is a vital component of the national economy, President Rajapaksa called on entrepreneurs in the field to get ready to embark on a new journey by overcoming challenges.

At a discussion with the representatives of the tourism sector at the Presidential Secretariat on Wednesday, February 17, the President said attention was being paid to give priority to personnel such as hotel employees, tour guides and drivers under the ongoing Covid-19 vaccination program. It was stated that there is no need for quarantine service providers when tourists are not tested positive. The President advised officials to take measures to improve facilities for tourists and to take into account the comments made by them when they leave the island.

Pakistan PM's visit

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan is due to make an official visit to Sri Lanka from February 23-24 on the invitation of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. During his visit, Pakistan Premier will attend bilateral meetings with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and the Prime Minister, while several other high-level engagements are planned, including a business and investment forum, and a sports diplomacy initiative.

The Sri Lanka and Pakistan Prime Ministers will preside over an event to sign several mutually beneficial bilateral Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on February 23 following official talks at Temple Trees.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan, in his maiden official visit this year outside the country, will be accompanied by a high-powered business and investment delegation that will consist of business leaders in Pakistan, mainly from the sectors of textile and apparel, pharmaceuticals, agro-food commodities, sports goods, gems and jewellery, auto parts, ICT, construction material and surgical equipment. Arrangements have been made to hold a special program to welcome the Pakistani Prime Minister at the Bandaranaike International Airport at Katunayake.

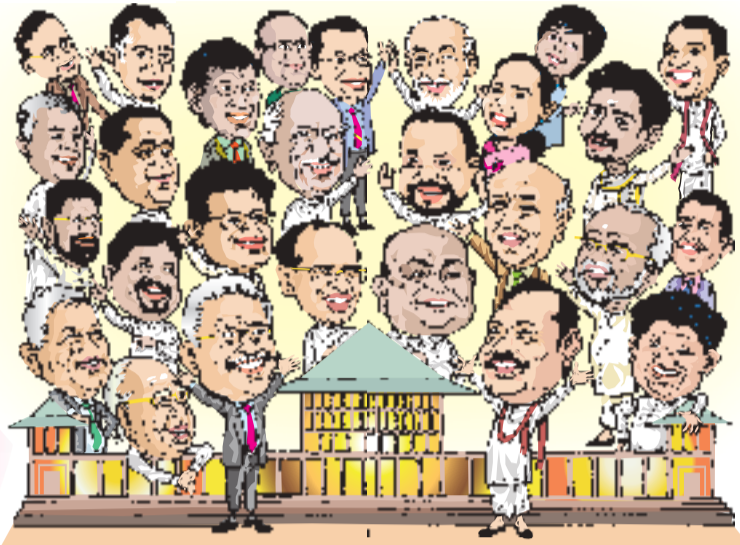
Media speculation

Deputy Mayor of the Galle Municipal Council Fowz Niyaz, at the UNP District Bala Mandala meeting held in Galle a couple of days ago, had submitted a resolution that Ranil Wickremesinghe should continue to lead the Party and he should definitely represent the Party in Parliament.

A group of former UNP Parliamentarians and a group of members of the Galle Municipal Council and Pradeshiya Sabhas including UNP Chairman Vajira Abeywardena, Deputy Leader Ruwan Wijewardene and General Secretary Palitha Range Bandara had also participated.

However, there was media speculation that UNP Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe has not accepted his Party members' repeated requests to fill the UNP's solitary Parliamentary National List seat vacancy. UNP General Secretary Palitha Range Bandara had told the media, "We will see. He might accept the seat when the time comes."

Wickremesinghe earlier declined the request made to him by a group of Party seniors to take up the party's solitary National List seat that had been of-



University of Politics
By Prof. Backbencher

set up a party in this country, the country's patriots will never let that happen.

However, the Minister refuting reports, said they have not received any official statement regarding the setting up of any party in Sri Lanka.

He said, "What we got to know unofficially was that Amit Shah has made this statement while having a feast with his fellow members and that statement had then been announced at a rally by a third party. As a responsible Government, we are not ready to react to the statements made by third parties."

"Take criticism without bias"

The Buddhist Advisory Council has told President Gotabaya Rajapaksa that spending time to respond to all opinions expressed by each person is a waste of valuable time that can be utilised to work and what is needed at present is to take criticisms without bias, and lead the country with his own intellect.

The Maha Sangha at the eighth session of the Buddhist Advisory Council held at the Presidential Secretariat said that whatever the comments made by certain sections of the society, the Maha Sangha and the people of this country have placed great faith in the President.

The Maha Sangha said the people are annoyed by the hateful comments made by some disgruntled elements, who are unhappy because of not receiving privileges and the Government should not get discouraged by the baseless allegations and insults levelled against it by various parties. They requested the President to rule the country in a righteous manner for the remaining three and a half years.

Dream world

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said the coalition partners of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) have every right to express their views freely and fearlessly. Premier Rajapaksa had said that the expression of a standpoint doesn't boil down to disunity within the rainbow coalition as they are entitled to their views.

He said some opposition members are elated as they seem to believe that cracks are appearing in the SLPP just because a partner in the ruling coalition gave expression to his thoughts.

The Premier had told the media "They are living in a dream world as the SLPP remains united, committed and as strong as ever." Premier Rajapaksa said without lending support to ongoing efforts to curb the Covid-19 threat, they are anxiously waiting for the downfall of the Government.

When a coalition partner expresses his views, they are elated that a collapse is imminent as there's disunity within Government ranks. However, this is far from the truth, he said.

PEOPLE WILL BE DISGUSTED WITH POLITICIANS IF THEY USE THEIR PRIVILEGES TO GET THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS VACCINATED - HESHAN VITHANAGE



Will not leave Government

Minister Wimal Weerawansa said that he will never leave the Government, however, he added that he cannot say whether the Government will leave him. He said this in response to questions from journalists, following an event in Colombo on Friday, February 19, as to whether he would be able to remain in the Government.

Asked whether any major changes are to be expected in the Government, Weerawansa said that there is absolutely no need for anyone to panic and come to any conclusions. He said, "What we want is for this Government led by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa to move forward in good health."

He said that voicing his opinions to safeguard the country's national resources is something that he has been doing since joining politics up to now. Asked whether he will be able to remain in the Government with certain groups, Weerawansa said, "I will not leave the Government but I don't know whether the Government will leave me."

Woman DIG

The Women Parliamentarians' Caucus told the media that they will stand for the rights and job security of Sri Lanka's first female DIG Bimshani Jasin Arachchi, setting aside political differences and that they will fight for her rights until justice is done.

The Chairperson of the Caucus, State Minister Dr. Sudarshini Fernandopulle addressing a media briefing in Parliament on Thursday, February 18, condemned the challenge to the appointment of Bimshani Jasin Arachchi, who was the Director of the Police Children's and Women's Bureau. State Minister Fernandopulle, State Minister Dr. Seetha Arambepola, SJB Parliamentarian Rohini Kumari Wijeratne and the Deputy Secretary General and Chief of the Staff of Parliament Kushani Rohanadheera were present at the press conference.

State Minister Fernandopulle said that her Caucus was very pleased with the appointment of the female Deputy Inspector General of Police and that it considers the appointment of a woman to a higher post in an institution such as the Sri Lanka Police, where the majority is male, as a contribution to gender equality.

While expressing her displeasure over the situation against the DIG of Police, she said if Sri Lankan women were to be recruited into the Police, they should have the right to receive their promotions regularly. The women MPs pointed out that being a woman, it is very unfair to try to lose the opportunity to get higher positions in a certain field.

Deputy Chairperson of the Caucus, State Minister Dr. Seetha Arambepola said, that all women Parliamentarians, setting aside political differences, condemned the involvement of certain groups in legal action challenging the post of DIG Bimshani Jasin Arachchi, and urged all women in this country as well as all parents who wish their daughters success, to unite.

Despite the arrangements made by the National COVID Task Force for Parliamentarians to get vaccinated starting from February 16, some Government and Opposition lawmakers have deferred getting the Covid-19 vaccine as they felt that the opportunity should be given to more vulnerable people.

Opposition MPs Heshan Withanage, Chaminda Wijesiri, Harin Fernando, Manusha Nanayakkara and Agriculture Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage are among those who have not been vaccinated.

SJB Parliamentarian Heshan Withanage told reporters that he took the decision to refrain from taking the Covid-19 vaccine as the

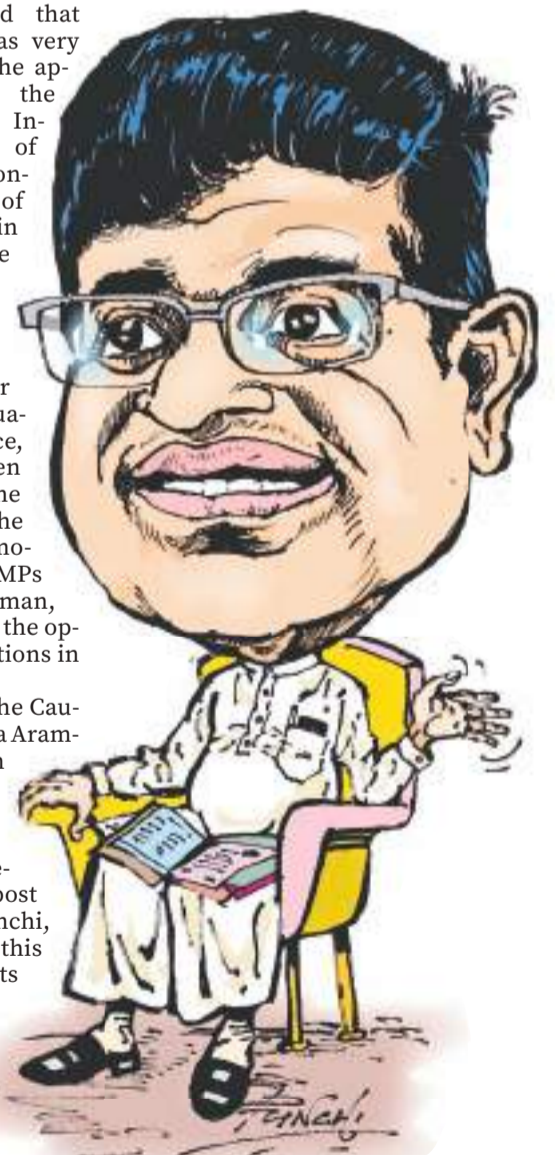


PREMIER RAJAPAKSA SAID THAT THE EXPRESSION OF A STANDPOINT DOESN'T BOIL DOWN TO DISUNITY WITHIN THE RAINBOW COALITION AS THEY ARE ENTITLED TO THEIR VIEWS

people will be disgusted with politicians if they use their privileges to get themselves and their family members vaccinated.

MP Harin Fernando via a Twitter message had said that he will not receive the vaccine until a million people from among the public have been vaccinated.

Minister Aluthgamage had told the media he had taken a personal decision to refrain from receiving the vaccine, to provide an opportunity for a person from the vulnerable groups identified from among the public to be vaccinated.



THAT STATEMENT HAD THEN BEEN ANNOUNCED AT A RALLY BY A THIRD PARTY. AS A RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT, WE ARE NOT READY TO REACT TO THE STATEMENTS BY THIRD PARTIES - UDAYA GAMMANPILA

Appeal to lift LTTE ban in the UK declined

Proscription of terror group to remain

BY MANJULA FERNANDO

An attempt by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fronts to lift the United Kingdom's (UK's) ban on the terror group was thwarted last week with the Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission (POAC) accepting an undertaking by the Home Secretary to review its decision instead of an order to refer it to parliament where a delisting could have been approved.

Following the order, the Home Office announced that the proscription of the LTTE remains pending a review by it in the coming days.

In their 'Judgment on Relief', the Appeals Commission acknowledged the Parliament is the ultimate body where such a ban could have been rolled back but it declined to accept that this case merited such an action.

The five unnamed appellant members representing the Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE), an alleged front of the LTTE which is banned in Sri Lanka, is expected to appeal the decision of the POAC in the coming days. The TGTE is not a banned entity in the UK. The POAC in October last year ruled that a decision by the Home Secretary in 2019 to continue the LTTE proscription was 'flawed'. But on Thursday it declined to issue an order to quash the Home Secretary's decision to continue the LTTE under the proscribed organisations list which would involve an order under section 5(4) of the UK's Terrorism Act. The order done in exceptional cases would have set in motion a process to remove the ban.

In its judgment, of which a copy has



been seen by the *Sunday Observer*, the Commission has stated, 'We consider that the SOS's (Secretary of State) account of the flaws which we found in the decision is essentially correct. We did not find evidence to support the decision, or that it was unreasonable. This is not, therefore, a case in which

we consider that it would be appropriate to make an order under section 5(4)'. The LTTE remnants globally are trying to revive the transnational terror outfit which has remained defunct since May 2009. After 12 years since the end of the ruthless LTTE war in May 2009, the organisation is still banned in 32 countries,

due to the threat it poses.

Many Sri Lankans domiciled in the UK lament that the remnants of the terror group have taken many faces since its decimation in 2009 and the most vociferous is the human rights fronts active in Geneva. "Their latest trend is to indoctrinate the third generation of dias-

pora members in the West," a Sri Lankan academic said cautioning that the government must take up this issue with host governments immediately.

A similar move in the European Union (EU) to remove LTTE's terrorist label became unsuccessful with the European Council early this month renewing the ban on the group. The EU terrorist list which sets out persons, groups and entities subject to restrictive measures within its territory is renewed every six months.

The Ontario Centre for Policy Research (OCPR) a Canadian think tank researching the global activities of the LTTE says the terror group is one of the most ruthless and wealthiest terrorist groups in the world. The group's annual income is an estimated US\$ 300 million. However, funds in countries where the organisation is banned has been frozen.

The latest case unfolded in 2018 when the UK's home office was submit-

ted with an application by the TGTE to de-proscribe the LTTE. The Home Secretary in a letter dated March 8, 2019 refused to de-proscribe the group concluding that there was 'sufficient evidence to form a reasonable belief that LTTE continued to harbour terrorism'.

The TGTE later appealed to the POAC which returned that the decision of the Home Secretary was 'flawed'. This opened a path for the LTTE remnants to seek a de-proscription from the UK's Parliament. The case was heard by the POAC on July 29 and 31 last year. The 'judgment on relief' for the appellants was delivered last Thursday. Despite the earlier ruling in favour of the appellants, the Commission comprising Lady Justice Elisabeth Laing, Richard Whittam QC and Philip Nelson CMG last Thursday declined to order Home Secretary Priti Patel to lay an order in parliament to remove the LTTE from the list of proscribed organisations.

According to the judgment, the Commission had accepted an undertaking from the Home Secretary that her office will reconsider the 2018 application made by the TGTE to de-proscribe the LTTE, within 90 days.

"If the proscription is to be continued, the process leading to the decision needs to be flawless and based on evidence," a member of the Sri Lankan professional community in the UK that fights against the LTTE's negative influence on the Tamil youth said adding that a de-proscription of LTTE in the UK is unlikely at this point.

The appellants of the case have sought to appeal the judgment, foreign media reported.

The case which sought judicial review of the decision to ban the LTTE was between 'Arumugam and others' and 'Secretary of State for the Home Department' which has been cited as the respondent. Ms. M. Lester QC and Mr. M. Birdling instructed by Bindmans LLP appeared on behalf of the appellants.

Sir J. Eadie QC, Mr. B. Watson and Ms. E. Wilsdon instructed by the Government Legal Department appeared on behalf of the Secretary of State. Mr. A. McCullough QC, and Ms. R. Toney instructed by Special Advocates' Support Office appeared as special advocates in the case.

Sri Lanka's Foreign Ministry, issued a statement on October 22, when the POAC ruled that the process to proscribe the LTTE as a designated group was flawed.

The Sri Lankan Government has been made aware of the judgment by the Proscribed Organizations Appeals Commission (POAC) of the United Kingdom on October, 21, 2020. The decision of the POAC arises from an appeal filed in May 2019 by an LTTE front organisation

challenging the decision of the UK Secretary of State for Home Affairs on eight March 2019, which refused the application by the group to de-proscribe the LTTE from the list of Proscribed Organizations under the UK Terrorism Act of 2000.

While the Sri Lankan Government was not a party to these proceedings at the POAC and could not make direct representations, it however assisted the UK Government by providing relevant infor-

mation with regard to continued terrorist activities.

The open judgment of the POAC while allowing the appeal, provides for further hearings, and the Sri Lankan Government will continue to closely monitor the progress of the case in the UK.

The Government has sufficient evidence to prove that the remnants of the LTTE and groups aligned with its terrorist ideology are active in foreign countries,

working to incite violence and destabilise the country.

Sri Lanka remains vigilant of threats to its national security as well as that of the region, and will always support members of the international community in the global fight against terrorism. New Delhi has also "shared information" with the UK as to why the terror group should not be removed from the banned list, Indian media reported earlier.

SLT-MOBITEL facilitates TRCSL's Gamata Sanniwedanaya project



SLT-Mobitel officials inaugurate the project

As the national ICT and Telecommunications Service Provider, SLT-MOBITEL recorded yet another historic milestone by facilitating the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka's (TRCSL) *Gamata Sanniwedanaya* Project which aims to empower rural areas with supreme connectivity solutions.

The ground-breaking ceremony of the project took place at the hill-top village of Ihalagalagama in Ratnapura. The ceremony was graced by a number of dignitaries from the TRCSL, SLT-Mobitel and other relevant government authorities such as the Central Environment Authority, Urban Development Authority, the Imbulpe Divisional Secretariat, the National Building Research Organization (NBRO) - Ratnapura District Office and the Ceylon Electricity Board, Ratnapura.

The *Gamata Sanniwedanaya* initiative champions the TRCSL's prime objective of powering Sri Lanka with 100% 4G/Broadband coverage. Understanding this national vision, SLT-MOBITEL as the National Telecommunication Service Provider came forward to facilitate this project as it also falls in line with the company's commitment to bridging the digital divide and leading the nation towards an info com and knowledge rich society.

Adding his comments about their stance with TRCSL, SLT-Mo-



bitel Group CEO Lalith Seneviratne said, "SLT-Mobitel strives to maintain a strong commitment towards integrating our expertise in the info com and technology sphere and enable the development of the nation's progress when it comes to telecom infrastructure and connectivity. As the National ICT and Telecommunication Service Provider, we commend the efforts taken by the Director General Oshada Senanayake and will continue to support TRCSL to lead Sri Lanka towards the next

phase of digital revolution."

TRCSL Director General, Oshada Senanayake acknowledged, "In line with our vision to digitally transform Sri Lanka with sustainable and cutting-edge connectivity infrastructure through the *Gamata Sanniwedanaya* project, we would like to extend our gratitude for the support we have had from telecom operators and all other stakeholders who are working in close collaboration to facilitate this national project.

The initiative to establish island wide connectivity would define the success of Sri Lanka's digital road map of envisioning a digital economy and a smart society."

The ceremony included a number of segments where a token of appreciation was presented to TRCSL Director General, Oshada Senanayake by the SLT-Mobitel Senior Management for his tireless efforts and relentless dedication in guiding the telecommunication sector to transform Sri Lanka with digitalisation.

Atrocities by LTTE terrorists

February



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

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

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

► **February 2, 1986:** Armed with small arms and swords LTTE cadres raided the village of Kantalai killing 19 civilians.

► **February 4, 1987:** The village of Manthottam, which consisted majority the Sinhala, was attacked by a group of 50 armed LTTE cadres, who murdered eight villagers torturing them to death. The death toll was reduced as most of the villagers had hid in the surrounding jungles who expected an attack.

► **February 7, 1987:** A house-to-house raid by LTTE cadres armed with swords, machetes, clubs and small-arms killed over 20 civilians including children and women. Pregnant mothers were found hacked to death and with their necks slashed in Arantalawa in Ampara area.

► **February 2, 1988:** LTTE blasted a bomb on a passenger bus in Dambulla, killing 20 persons and injuring over 50 people



► **February 10, 1997:** A group of LTTE cadres attacked the Muslim village of Oddaimavadi, Batticaloa and shot 5 civilians to death and wounded 3 others.

► **February 7, 2007:** Kurukkal, Selliah Parameswaran the head Priest of the Santhiveli Pilleyar Kovil and a father of three, who blessed President Mahinda Rajapaksa during President's visit to Vakara four days before, was forcibly dragged out of his residence and shot dead by the LTTE gunmen. The gunmen had said that they were from the LTTE and they needed to question the Pooari in connection with the garlanding of the President. He had been targeted because he had co-operated with the security forces to help civilians to flee the fighting area around Vakara.



► **February 3, 2008:** LTTE female suicide bomber blew herself up at Colombo Fort Railway Station. This bomb killed 12 and injured over 100. Killed in the attack were eight school children of D.S.Senanayake College's baseball team and their coach

► **February 23, 2008:** A bomb planted by LTTE went off in a bus in the suburban of Mount Lavinia, wounding 18 people including seven women and an 8-month-old infant

► **February 25, 2008:** A LTTE suicide bomber blew himself up in Batticaloa killing two members of a regional political party.



► **February 29, 2008:** When Police was conducting a search and cordon operation in Colombo aimed at flushing out Tamil Tiger rebels seeking to mount attacks in the capital. A suspected suicide bomber who appeared from a house exploded the bomb wounding seven policemen. The injured were three Policemen and four Civilians.

► **February 20, 2009:** The LTTE's 2009 'kamikaze-style' suicidal air attack on Colombo's Military targets became an unsuccessful one. This failed attack by the LTTE is planned in style with the attack on America's World Trade Center on September, 11. It was the first occasion LTTE tried to attack their military targets in Colombo using aircrafts packed with explosives.

The attacks were foiled by the vigilant Sri Lanka Air Force which detected the two explosive packed aircraft, one crashed onto a government building in Colombo killing two people

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

Source: Lake House Archives, Internet. Graphic: Mahil Wijesinghe



LONG LIVE PAKISTAN - SRI LANKA FRIENDSHIP!

Welcome H.E. Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan to Sri Lanka!



His Excellency President of Sri Lanka
Gotabaya Rajapaksa



His Excellency Prime Minister of Pakistan
Imran Khan



Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka
Mahinda Rajapaksa

H.E. Prime Minister Imran Khan is the 22nd and current Prime Minister of Pakistan and graduated from Keble College, Oxford in 1975. Before entering politics, Khan was an international cricketer and captain of the Pakistan national cricket team, which he led to victory in the 1992 Cricket World Cup.



The relationship between Pakistan and Sri Lanka is based on well-recognized principles of international diplomacy. Both countries value this broad-based relationship due to its mutual benefit and hopefully, it will continue to strengthen in the coming years. Both countries are located in South Asia region. The earliest proper diplomatic and trade ties between Pakistan and Sri Lanka date back as early as 1948. In the past, Pakistan assisted the Government of Sri Lanka in supplying High-Tech military equipment to the Sri Lankan army in the civil war against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The relationship also fosters

on strong mutual Sino-Pakistan and Sino-Sri Lankan relationship. Both Pakistan and Sri Lanka are also members of SAARC. Relations which were generally warm have become into stronger recently. The relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka date back to the formative years of the two countries. The two countries laid the foundation of their friendship in 1948 when Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka D.S. Senanayake visited Pakistan.

Recently, Virtual business forum in collaboration with Sri Lanka Export Development Board (SLEDB) took place to enhance awareness regarding trade and investment

opportunities between the two friendly countries on 18th September, 2020. Pakistan deeply values its first Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which was signed with Sri Lanka in 2005. He expressed the High Commission's complete support and facilitation in developing deeper economic cooperation with Sri Lanka through optimal utilization of the Pakistan - Sri Lanka FTA, which is the major tool for trade promotion between the two countries. Pakistan has improved its ranking from 136th to 108th place on the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business index 2020, thereby being ranked as the 6th biggest reformer in the world, to improve the business environment.



Pakistan and Sri Lanka enjoy very cordial and friendly relations. Despite Sri Lanka's geographical position, Sri Lanka has had good bilateral cooperation with Pakistan.

Pakistani military has assisted Sri Lankan government during the Sri Lankan civil war, after that, Pakistan's military assistance and cooperation has always increased and is still increasing.

There are also good economic and trade relations. Both countries have a free trade agreement. Pakistan is the second-largest trading partner of Sri Lanka in South Asia. Sri Lanka was the first country to sign a Free Trade Agreement with Pakistan, which became operational from June 12, 2005. 4,000 items can be imported to Pakistan from Sri Lanka

Cricket is also one of the factors that brings the two countries closer. Both countries have played many important and memorable games with each other, and the sport is popular in both countries. Many Pakistanis know about Sri Lanka as a country just through cricket!



ATTOCK CEMENT PAKISTAN LIMITED



Attock Cement Pakistan Limited (ACPL) is exporting cement and clinker to different countries such as Kenya, Comoros, Seychelles, Madagascar, Yemen, Qatar, Bangladesh and China.

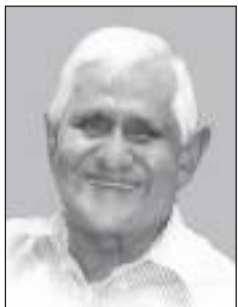
Sri Lanka, while consuming around 45% of the total exports of the company, makes ACPL as the largest exporter of bagged cement and clinker from Pakistan.

Head Office: D-70, Block-4, Kehkashan-5, Clifton, Karachi-75600, Pakistan.
UAN: (9221) 111-17-17PABX: (9221) 35309773-74, Fax: (9221) 35309775
Email: acpl@attockcement.com

Local Agent: No. 6B 1/1, Kassapa Road, Colombo 05, Sri Lanka
Tel: (9411) 2553620 Cell: (947) 77932748, Email: dashtlanka@gmail.com

News/Obituaries

DEATH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



DAVID J BRAINERD

10.02.1924 - 04.02.2021

The family of late Mr David Brainerd wishes to express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks to all clergy, past and present Bishops, relations, friends, neighbours and helpers who paid their respects and those who attended the funeral, sent messages of condolence, floral tributes and helped in numerous ways during our period of grief. Our special thanks to Ramesh, Bonny and their team who enabled family members and friends from around the world to participate in the funeral and pay their last tributes to Dad on Zoom. We also thank the Vicar of Christ Church Kotte and the wardens for their support and cooperation that enabled us to give our beloved Dad a fitting farewell in the church where he was an active member for most of his life.

We regret that we are unable to thank everyone individually. Please accept this acknowledgment as an expression of our heartfelt gratitude.

Christine, Sherine, Christobel, Hepzibah and Adolphus

Govt spends Rs. 60m a day on PCR tests - DG Health Services

H.L. SUNIL SHANTHA, KALUTARA CENTRAL SPECIAL COR.

An increase in the number of Covid-infected people was reported from many places in the country in December, because many people in the country did not heed or work in accordance with health guidelines, Director General of Health Services, Dr. Asela Gunawardena said.

Dr. Gunawardena was speaking at the installation of two PCR machines and the opening of a laboratory, built at a cost of nearly Rs. 2 million at the National Institute of Health Sciences, in Kalutara.

The Kalutara Journalists' Co-operative Society donated Rs. 52 lakhs from its Suwa Sarana Fund and Managing Director of Wasana Bake House, Horana, Dayananda Bombuwela donated Rs. 160 lakhs for the two PCR machines and the laboratory.

"People do not care much about the health guidelines we give, as responsible health authorities. The Government has increased the number of PCR tests done at provincial level and the Government usually performs around 15,000 and 20,000



The new PCR machines

PCR tests daily which costs nearly Rs. 60 million. People should understand that the Health Department spends such a large amount of money for the benefit of the people. So why can't they follow the simple and easy health guidelines such as wearing a face mask, keeping social distancing and limiting or decreasing unnecessary travelling?" he said.

"I never went anywhere outside from March last year up to date, because I cannot take the risk of getting infected. The private sector too carries out around 4,000-5,000 PCR tests, and each one costs nearly Rs.7,000. But the Health Dept carries out all these tests free. We provide the public with free healthcare service but many people do not un-

derstand its value, Dr Gunawardena said.

"Many people question us as to why we do not lockdown the country, which we once did, but at the same time, we received requests from many people not to lock down because, they will find it extremely difficult to earn their daily bread under a lockdown, so citizens should thoroughly keep that in mind.

It is with much difficulty and many challenges, that the government keeps the country open, without a lockdown, for the people to carry out their usual activities. So why can't they follow the easy health rules?"

"I, as the responsible officer in the Health Dept, will have to again turn the country backwards, if the citizens are not going to strictly adhere to the health guidelines, resulting in strict limitations on travelling, gathering and may be curfews which people will have to tolerate," the Director General warned.

Don't attend wedding parties and funeral houses, where people from various places gather. It is extremely risky and dangerous, you should tell your loved ones and other relatives,

Dr. Gunawardena said.

"If one person is tested positive, a big cluster of infected people could be generated, that's why we warn the public not to attend social events, such as parties, weddings, funerals or meetings.

We have limited the number of participants at a wedding, which is the one and only occasion in one's life, to only fifty, but unfortunately it didn't happen. We kept the country open, thinking and hoping that citizens would follow the health department guidelines and rules, but it was unfortunately unsuccessful resulting in the pandemic spreading throughout the country," he said.

Dr. Gunawardena said that another new British variant of the virus has invaded 83 countries including India, our neighbouring country and that it has a faster spreading speed, much more serious than the Covid-19 virus.

Jayawardena University Medical Faculty Head Prof. Aloka Pathirana, Kalutara Regional Health Services DG Dr. Udaya Kumara, NIHS and Kalutara General Hospital Director Dr. Thamara Kalubowila, PHIs, and Health Dept Heads were present.

If public adapt LankaQR, Rs. 3 b could be saved annually - Chandima Weerakkody

TEXT AND PIC: PRIYAN DE SILVA

The country could save Rs. 3 billion spent annually to print currency notes if the public adapt to the e-payment system, said MP Chandima Weerakkody, the guest of honour at a ceremony in Galle on Saturday to promote the Central Bank's Mulu Rataatama LankaQR initiative in the Southern Province.

With that money we can develop the East Container Terminal and the West Container Terminal, he said.

Weerakkody said that the IT literacy rates in Sri Lanka were high and over 190,000 businesses registering with LankaQR within six months was proof in itself. "We are seeing what we preached on political platforms becoming a reality," he said.

Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka Prof. W D Lakshman, Chairman and CEO of Hatton National Bank PLC Jonathan Alles, Chairman and CEO of the SDB Bank, Thilak Piyadigama and many top officials in the government and financial sectors attended the promotion.



MP Chandima Weerakkody at the LankaQR promotion in Galle



A group of students of the Student Guide Language Centre at Homagama, facilitated a Sri Pada pilgrimage for differently-abled people last week. Here several students carry a differently-abled child on a wheelchair at one of the most difficult stretches of the climb. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the pilgrim site remains less crowded. Pic: Sulochana Gamage

Japanese Emperor's birthday



The birthday of the Emperor of Japan, His Majesty Naruhito and the National Day of Japan will be celebrated on February 23. Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena visited the official residence of Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka, Akira Sugiyama on Thursday and placed a commemorative note on the Royal Guest Book. The Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka and officials of the Embassy were also present.

Dr. C. G. Urugoda oration

The Dr. C. G. Urugoda oration on "History of Forensic Medicine" will be delivered at 6.30 pm on Friday, February 26 by Prof. Ravindra Fernando at the Lionel Memorial auditorium of the SLMA.

As there is a restriction on the number of people who could be accommodated in the auditorium, kindly indicate if you would be attending the event by zoom link by registering in advance. SLMA office - 2693324

Covid variants: What are they and will vaccines work?

New variants of coronavirus are emerging that are more infectious than the one that started the pandemic.

One of these, first found in Kent, could become the world's dominant strain, the head of the UK's genetic surveillance programme has predicted.

There are concerns vaccines may not work quite so well against some variants.

What are these new variants?

There are many thousands of different versions, or variants, of Covid circulating.

Experts' concerns focus on a few:

- A UK or Kent variant (also known as B.1.1.7) now dominant in much of Britain, which has spread to more than 50 countries and

appears to be mutating yet again. The UK is stepping up testing to find and stop cases spreading

- A South Africa variant (B.1.351) found in at least 20 other countries, including the UK

- A variant from Brazil (P1)

It's not unexpected that new variants have developed - all viruses mutate as they make copies of themselves to spread and thrive.

Most of these differences are inconsequential. A few can even be harmful to the virus's survival. But some can make it more infectious or threatening.

- Coronavirus variants: The science explained
- Are the new ones more dangerous?
- There is no evidence

that any of them cause much more serious illness for the vast majority of people who become infected.

As with the original version, the risk is highest for people who are elderly or have significant underlying health conditions.

For the UK variant there is some research suggesting it may be associated with a 30 percent higher risk of death. The evidence is not strong and the data is still uncertain though.

Measures such as washing your hands, keeping your distance from other people and wearing a face covering will still help prevent infections. Because the new variants appear to spread more easily it is important to be extra vigilant.

- Source: BBC

Advertisement

A Vibrant Personality: Manel Nanayakkara

As I take a short break from time, to be on my footsteps backwards, I reach a period many decades ago, when I met Manel Fernando, lithe and suave. We contributed our expertise and experience, as voluntary social workers, to the welfare of those unfortunates whom the Ex-Prisoners Welfare Association was supporting. Manel was of platinum value and an asset, without peer. Sometime later I met Aelian, her brother, who joined the staff of Wesley College where I was entrenched. Then again, ties grew stronger when my pal Timothy, so Christian-oriented, met Manel and both readily yielded to the hands of the Divine Potter to be moulded as one. Tim was her much adored mentor and Manel's hopes and aspirations reached a new high.



any project that she undertook, pursuing it with tenacity and dogged grit to the ultimate finishing line. Another praiseworthy feature of hers was that she never donned a halo on the endeavours of others. Her success with her work teams centered round her unselfish virtue of crediting them and lauding them in open appreciation for the achievements they had notched. They in turn, held her dear for her honest credibility and sheer transparency, in whatever venture she was involved in. Manel always opted to be inconspicuous, avoiding any move to focus light on her achievements.

Manel's aim and goal in life, may well be summed up in the words of Alma BazelAndrozzo: "If I can help someone as I pass along, if I can cheer someone with a word or a song, if I can show someone's travelling wrong, then I have not lived in vain."

by late H. Shelton A. T. Pieris

OBITUARY NOTICE



EDITH FERNANDO
BORN - 17.04.1938
DIED - 19.02.2021

With profound grief we inform the sad demise of our beloved Edith Fernando who left us on the 19.02.2021

Loving Sister of: Late Basil Fernandez, Late Irine Corera, Late Lourdes Fernando, Helen Marambe & Joe Fernandez (Australia)
Loving Mother of Rowena Fernando, Mother in Law of Leo Fernando & Grand Mother of Minel & Keshi

Remains will leave A F Raymonds Parlour on Sunday, 21st February, 2021, At 10.00am, for Burial at Borella Cemetery

No 95 5/4, Wasala Road, Kotahena
077 298 3810

Horror of FB on Valentine's Day

KANTALAI: She was a young girl of 20 and hopelessly in love with a face book contact even though she had not met the man.

The FB romance lasted for six months before the pair decided to elope on Valentine's Day, February 14.

The young girl from a village in Kantalai was instructed by her lover to arrive at a bus halt from where he would pick her up on his motor-cycle.

And on time he arrived wearing a full face crash helmet and masked to the teeth and the two of them roared off to his home.

On arriving at his home the man pulled off his mask and took off the crash helmet and the girl was left trembling in shock and a horrible fear crept inside her.

For the mask stood a 52-year-old father of two who had successfully hoodwinked the girl saying that he was 24 years.

The photographs passed on to the girl on FB were that of a good looking youngster and the girl took the bait.

It was later learnt that the man had lost his wife and two children in a landslide several years earlier.

Subsequently, the police were alerted and the girl was rescued and returned to her home while the man was taken into custody.

Woman in triple suicide bid jailed

DAMBULLA: A woman was thrown into jail after she allegedly attempted to murder her two toddlers with poison before consuming the same substance herself in a botched triple suicide attempt.

The incident took place at Kandalama in the Dambulla Police Division.

A troubled marriage and fes-



tering domestic chaos drove the woman to suicidal thoughts but this failed to convince the police and so she was produced before a local Magistrate and remanded.

Investigations revealed that her husband was a taxi driver stationed near the Dambulla Economic Centre (DEC) and he was subsequently questioned and released.

Estate bosses assaulted, get dung water bath

MASKELIYA: A group of eight people including seven women were arrested after they stormed an official bungalow and ducked the estate bosses with dung water before assaulting the two men.

The bizarre incident took place in the Oltan Yaya Estate in Maskeliya on Thursday (18) following a festering dispute between the company management and the workers.

It was revealed that the Superintendent and his deputy had insisted that the workers complete the work that had been ignored the previous day owing to a strike, before they are paid.

This led to a heated confrontation between the two parties and the rest is now known.

The workers were ar-

rested and remanded while the two estate bosses sought treatment at the Dickoya Base Hospital.

SI, PS member, among five held in botched extortion bid

BALAPITIYA: A Police Sub Inspector (SI), a Pradeshiya Sabha Member and five others were arrested while allegedly trying to extort Rs. one million from the chief incumbent of a Buddhist temple at Pathagama in Balapitiya.

The suspects had accused the clergy man of dealing in narcotics adding that he would be arrested unless he came up with the cash.

An alert temple hand who had overheard the goings-on quickly informed the nearest police station on what was taking place in the temple.

A mobile patrol from the Balapitiya Police Station had rushed to the scene but after the suspects had made their getaway.

A hunt was launched for the group and they were subsequently found hiding in a safe house.

Investigations later revealed that the SI was serving as the Actg. Officer in Charge (AOIC) of the Traffic Division at the Norwood Police Station.

Long haired tourist guide and the doctor's ATM card

GALLE: A doctor withdrew cash from a bank and left in an apparent hurry leaving his ATM card in the machine.

A long-haired tourist guide who was the next to use the machine quickly retrieved the card and made a bolt.

Having convinced himself that he would not be traced the guide made hasty purchases of liquor and food items in the area.

The doctor was alerted on the missing ATM card following a text message confirming that it was being used for purchases of goods from a fancy supermarket outlet.

The police were quickly alerted and the guide was clearly identified on the bank's CCTV footage.

Armed with a download from the footage investigators strolled along the beaches at Unawatuna, Galle and before long the man was spotted and taken into custody.

Tattoo search on students leads to uproar

JAFFNA: A group of parents in Jaffna were seething in anger last week after 72 male Grade 11 students were forcibly stripped to the waist by the school authorities who were looking for tattoos concealed on their bodies.

The incident took place at a school in the Valikamam Educational Zone, and the furious parents have taken the matter up with the local police and the Human Rights Commission.

The school authorities had launched a sudden inspection after receiving information that certain students had tattoos on their bodies.

At the end of the search the authorities could not find any tattoos but instead they must face the ire of the seething parents.

No scientific basis...

Continued from page 8

Q The Opposition political parties have expressed opposition to the recommendations of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry that probed allegations of political victimisation which the Cabinet of Ministers has given the green light to implement its recommendations. Your views?

A: That was a Presidential Commission which looked into the allegations of political victimisation. The people were politically victimised during the tenure of the Yahapalana Government.

They also formed a new wing in the Police and they were targeting their political opponents. Actually, it is the Opposition which makes this allegation and not individuals or independent people. So, it is a baseless allegation.

Q Is there any crisis within the Government as claimed by the Opposition that says Minister Wimal Weerawansa's issue is a clear reflection of it?

A: There is no crisis whatsoever within the Government. When you are in the Government, there are different opinions and views which are expressed by its coalition partners. However, there is no crisis as such.

Of course, there are different political parties as the Sri Lanka Podujana Perumana (SLPP) led Government is a broad political alliance.

So, there are different views, opinions and the policies of some parties are different but there is no issue. All are together and we all have a responsibility on behalf of the people who elected us.

Q Will there be any political engagement regarding India's ruling party BJP's statement of forming a branch in Sri Lanka?

A: I see it as an infringement on our sovereignty. How can a political party in one country form a branch here? We are not a part of India.



Q Archbishop of Colombo Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith told the media recently that he may have to seek the intervention of the International Criminal Court (ICC) if the law is not properly enforced against those who were responsible for the Easter Sunday terror attacks in 2019. Do you think the Government will be able to bring the culprits to book without delay?

A: I think the Presidential Commission of Inquiry that probed the Easter Sunday attacks has handed over its final report to the President.

The Government will take action based on its recommendations. It is the responsibility of the Government to punish the culprits who are responsible for this disaster and to prevent the occurrence of such terrorist acts of extremist religious groups. I am confident the Government will fulfill that task.

'Harmattan-3' FTX concludes with debriefing at Minneriya



Debriefing at Minneriya

The five-day UN Mission Orientation Field Training Exercise (FTX) 'Harmattan-3' for Combat Convoy Company (CCC) duties in UN Peace-keeping missions covering 457.2 km distance ended recently at the Minneriya Infantry Training Centre (ITC) after an extensive debriefing to assess its gains and identify lapses or shortcomings.

The full-scale rehearsal of military manoeuvres as practice for fairly realistic scenarios and situations with a vehicle convoy of 47 vehicles and 20 officers and 223 Other Ranks, belonging to the Gajaba Regiment, Armoured Corps, Engineers, Signal Corps, Mechanised Infantry Regiment, Corps of Engineer Service, Army Service Corps, Army Medical Corps, Army Ordnance Corps, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Corps of Military Police and Army General Service Corps began February 12 from Mailady, Jaffna under five phases.

Major General Champaka Ranasinghe, General Officer Commanding (GOC), 58 Division who functioned as the Exercise Director 'FTX - 'Harmattan - 3' as well as Major General Deepal Pussella, GOC, 62 Division who worked as the Deputy Exercise Director led the de-briefing sessions at Minneriya after participating Officers gathered with their submissions.

The FTX was proved a success in terms of its overall gains theoretically and practically.

The FTX traversed from Mailady to Kuweni Junction (Phase 1), Kuweni Junction to Nayaru (Phase 2) Nayaru to Thawulwewa (Phase 3), Thawulwewa to Kandakadu (Phase 4) and Kandakadu to Minneriya ITC (Phase 5) within five days where 'Drone' technology tactics of 15th Drone Regiment of Sri Lanka Artillery (SLA), for surveillance, practical simulated war conditions, Tactical Exercises, map model practices, simulated attack scenarios making situations more unpredictable and realistic in more difficult or more far-fetched settings of actual battles were rehearsed to suit ground realities in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission (MINUS-MA) in Mali and Goa.

Some 47 vehicles, including six Armoured vehicles, six unibuffels and 19 administrative vehicles contributed to the success of the mock expedition.



The FTX was devised guided by Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army, General Shavendra Silva and was

spearheaded under the supervision of the Director General, General Staff Branch Major General Priyanka Fernando.



Major General Champaka Ranasinghe

BANK OF CEYLON
PRIME PROPERTY FOR SALE

Prop No.	Town	Location of the Property	Type of Property	Extent
404	Karandeniya	Kurundugahahetekmewela, Karandeniya	Land	A0:R1:P0

Offers are invited from interested parties (only from principals) for the abovementioned property. Application forms are issued up to 12.03.2021, on non-refundable payment of Rs. 2,000/= and refundable payment of Rs. 50,000.00 which can be deposited at any Branch of Bank of Ceylon. Duly completed application forms in sealed envelope marked "PROP/02/2021" with the relevant property number, should be addressed to reach the undermentioned before 10.00 a.m. on 17.03.2021 and the bidders are invited to be present at the bids opening which will be held at this office at 10.00 a.m. on 17.03.2021. The Bank reserves the right to accept or decline the Bids made by the Bidders.

For further details please contact during weekdays :

Bank of Ceylon, Foreclosed Properties Unit
3rd Floor, Head Office, "BOC Square",
No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01.
Tel : Assistant General Manager
(Recovery Corporate) - 011-2386080 / 011-2203410
Chief Manager - 011-2395640 / 011-2203404 / 071 7755501
Senior Manager - 011- 2321170 / 011-2203429 / 076 9627068
Assistant Manager - 011 2203470 / 0718418898
E-mail : mgrforeclosed@boc.lk
Fax : 011-2446816/2389130

Please log in to www.boc.lk and visit Properties For Sale

BANK OF CEYLON
BOC
Bankers to the Nation

01 PER MONTH

The Planets Move

ON WEDNESDAY THE 25TH OF FEBRUARY TO SHOWER WEALTH ON THE NATION

TWICE THE CHANCE TO WIN MILLIONS IN CASH PRIZES ALONG WITH A LUXURY CAR

PRIZES FROM BEGINNING TO END
PRIZES FROM END TO BEGINNING
YOU GET A PRIZES FOR THE ENGLISH LETTER
PRIZES EVEN FOR THE ZODIAC SIGN

NLB
NATIONAL LOTTERIES

Features

Food (In)security: A national action plan needed

by
Hemantha Kulatunga



Food security is defined by the United Nations Committee on World Food Security as “the means that all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preference and dietary needs for an active and healthy life”. Despite the lengthy description, a vast majority of the countries, irrespective of whether developed, developing, or underdeveloped, confront food security issues at different levels.

For example, according to Wikipedia, while Afghanistan with a nominal per capita income of US\$ 601 undergoes 35 percent household food insecurity, the United States with a per capita of US\$ 63,051 also experiences 11 percent food insecurity. Perhaps, except for a very few countries, most others are subjected to food security issues in varying degrees.

Sucker punch

Despite the unprecedented recent economic growth in Asian countries such as China, India, and the region as a whole, the Covid-19 pandemic has delivered a sucker punch that has significantly affected household food consumption. In Sri Lanka, as a result of job losses, reduced food productions, disruptions to the food supply chain, soaring prices, and the severe health crisis, the people were compelled to take stringent measures to face the food shortage.

Even though food scarcity has been a pressing global issue in the past, the impact created by the treacherous Covid-19 pandemic has reinvented the topic of ‘food security’ in almost every country. The supply chain disruptions brought the food security issue into focus with

warnings from organisations such as the United Nations World Food Program and Food and Agriculture Organization.

The Global Food Security Index (GFSI) places Sri Lanka at 66th place among 113 countries with an overall score of 60.8 points. In comparison, Singapore at the top has a score of 87.4 points with sixteen strengths and zero challenges. The GFSI ranking is made considering the core issues of affordability, availability, and quality. The indicator is a globally accepted quantitative and qualitative benchmark that measures the drivers of food security.

Food security

The population of Sri Lanka is projected to rise by over 600,000 by 2030. With this sharp spike, the requirement for food supplies also will increase. Hence, the need to address the challenge of food security is extremely urgent. The subject of food security is not addressed by the authorities adequately, nor is it a popular topic among politicians. Even the usually powerful and effective electronic, print, and social media in Sri Lanka have not properly focused on this pressing issue. The country currently does not seem to have a clear policy or comprehensive strategy to combat the prolonged food insecurity.

Food security is dependent on the efficiency and productivity of the agricultural sector. Historically, Sri Lanka was known as an agricultural country. Even though the country's soil fertility and other relevant climatic conditions are largely suitable for agriculture, at present only 23.7 percent of the population is employed in the farming sector as against 30.6 percent in the industrial sector and 45 percent in the service sector. The interest in agriculture is low due to a variety of factors such as high cost of production, adverse climatic conditions, price fluctuations, high cost and wastage in transit, and several other reasons. The Government's recent ban and import restrictions on non-essential food



products were welcoming news for farmers. Food imports not only hamper the enthusiasm of the farmers but also create heavy price volatility for consumers. Unwanted food products discriminately imported by traders are a threat to local farmers to obtain a reasonable price in the market. There seem to be no proper study on the disparity between food imports and local production.

In keeping with the election manifesto, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, visibly displays his interest in providing maximum assistance to the agriculture sector. However, it is still unclear whether his directives are properly carried out by government officials.

The President has paid utmost attention to the development of agriculture. His vision and the action plan

proposed in Chapter-5 of his manifesto is the best guideline for the crucially important agriculture sector at this time.

Inequality

Over the past few years, the prices of almost all food items have risen sharply due to the inequality between supply and demand. In the supply segment, production shortages due to various natural phenomena such as droughts or heavy rainfall have caused the soaring of prices.

The demand naturally increases whenever there is a shortage. In addition, poor functioning of the local agriculture market, artificial scarcity created by dubious traders, and inadequacy of government control over pricing also lead to price spikes.

Home gardening is one of the most productive concepts to meet food security in Sri Lanka. For centuries, Sri Lankans successfully engaged in home gardening for food supplies with the naturally fertile soil. Home gardening contributes to household food consumption by increasing availability, accessibility, utilisation, and stability of food, the four factors that form the pillars of food security.

Senior citizens may recollect that several decades ago, food crops were cultivated by most Sri Lankan families in home gardens for personal consumption. This offered social, economical, and environmental benefits to both growers and the country. However, with the emergence of the liberal economic environment, these traditional habits shrunk to a great extent. During the early stage of Covid-19,

amid the long lockdowns, the Department of Agriculture, with the patronage of the Government launched a program to popularise home gardening. Under this plan, they distributed two million seed packs throughout the country and provided technical advice to participants. Unlike the previous attempts, *Saubhagya* (prosperity) has gathered momentum.

Self-sufficiency

Even families that were not directly involved in this program contributed towards it by purchasing seeds on their own. The country as a whole has realised the importance of individual food self-sufficiency.

Food security is a global issue for the majority of countries including the developed or rich nations. The magnitude of the issue has been clearly evident during the prevailing pandemic which showed that the world is not completely ready for a comfortable supply of food in a crisis. The development of sustainable agriculture is the key to ensuring food security. The diverse climatic conditions enable year-round cultivation. To secure food for the next generation, the authorities should act swiftly and prepare long term national plans to confront food security issues. At present, only the agriculture sector discusses this pressing issue.

Good proposals put forward by experts seem to have been swept under the carpet due to inter-agency frictions, political involvement, and bureaucracy. The effort must be national and the whole country must contribute. The prevailing high food prices will keep rising until the agriculture sector becomes secure and strong. The agriculture sector will continue to be crucial for food security in the years to come. The prohibitive challenges such as irrigation restrictions, lands, water supply, fertiliser shortage, and other related issues must be addressed holistically by the Government.

Intangible too sharpens knowledge - Dr. K.S. Dahanayake

By
Frances Bulathsinghala



This is the second part of the interview with Dr. K.S. Dahanayake (MBBS, DLM, MD) on the topic of health and its link with diet as well as the mental and spiritual condition of a person. The first part appeared last week.

Dr. Dahanayake is trained in Clinical Forensic Medicine and Forensic Pathology, a discipline of Modern Allopathy.

He is promoting holistic Lankan traditional medical knowledge combined with the use of Buddhist meditation practices, as was done traditionally in the country, for the wellbeing of the body and mind.

Dr. Dahanayake cited as a case study, a yet ill-understood and untreatable ailment in Western medicine called *Craniosynostosis* which had occurred in a child of a close relative of his in 2009 and cured in one and a half years through the *Hela Nila Wedakama* (HNW) medical tradition. He said that the disease was characterised by gross congenital deformity of skull, affecting brain development, resulting in a permanently handicapped child in the course of the disease and that the only treatment through Western medicine was the difficult reconstructive skull surgery which comes with a questionable outcome owing to a high risk of life threatening post-operative complication or permanent disability.

Dr. Dahanayake explained the landmark event of the child being cured in 18 months with the use of HNW which made him learn this medical tradition, in addition to his Western medical expertise.

Q: Many early 19th century Western medical specialists who researched into ancient Ayurvedic medical expertise had extolled their preciseness. The Ancient medical scientists were sages and their lab was the mind. Your views?

A: This is a universal phenomenon. Traditional Medical Practice (TMP) of a country is based on nature healing practices linked with dietetic measures and herbal-based knowledge. Ayurveda and Allopathy had also been traditional disciplines belonging to their regions, ancient Northern India and ancient Greece.

During the 19th century and even before and after, the historical travel movements by means of colonisation or trade since millennia have influenced medical knowledge.

The result was a loss of the deep-rooted philosophy understood by the forefathers of their TMPs. It is basically owing to the degrading of knowledge originally acquired intangibly by the deep meditating mind power that



Pliny the Elder

“THE EUROPEAN GREED FOR KNOWLEDGE MONOPOLY AND RESOURCES WAS THE INVASIVE CANCER WE CALL COLONISATION; THIS CANCER COMPELLED EUROPEANS TO INVADE THE OTHER REGIONS WHERE PROSPERITY AND LONGEVITY WERE SUPERIOR. THIS IS THE CASE OF SRI LANKA. SRI LANKA WAS HISTORICALLY KNOWN FOR ITS SUPERIOR QUALITY KNOWLEDGE ON MAINTAINING HUMAN WELLBEING”

the founders of medicine originally used. This was lost upon the influence of colonisation and industrialisation which saw business tycoons in powerful Western nations investing in the medical industry, especially after the First and the Second World War, making it the medical ‘industry’ as we know it now.

Q: What is the impact Western colonisation had on Deshiya Chikitsa medical tradition and Ayurveda?

A: The Traditional Medical Practices (TMPs) of their countries of origin which had been subjected to western colonisation were replaced with residual bits and pieces of colonial European knowledge pertaining to Allopathy.

We need to understand the historical contexts and focus on Allopathy to comprehend this phenomenon. The golden age of Greece belonging to the

40th century BC tailing off up to 3rd century BC had been terminated by ‘religious wars’.

The rebellions or dictators caused sages who were responsible for establishing heritage knowledge to become extinct by demolishing the holy places they lived in. From that era, the religion-centred holistic-ethical based Hippocrates linked medical system started breaking down to bits and pieces. Now, we can hardly find Hippocrates in Western medicine which does not even seem to acknowledge their founder, having stopped the classical Hippocrates oath.

Q: Could you speak of the evolution of traditional medical sciences to the point we are at now where the industrialised business version of Western science is the dominant player?

A: Owing to degrading human ethics and spirituality along with the knowledge, such as that of the natural healing power, the Europe, including Greece was darkened with ill-health from the 5th century to the 14th century.

The most serious pandemic in the history: the Plague or Black Death started in the early 14th century and claimed 200 million lives - over 50 percent of the European population. The average lifespan of a European had come down to 35 years. This was not the case earlier. Ancient people had long lives irrespective of curable diseases.

In Europe, the period from the 14th century was named the ‘renaissance’ and considered the ‘golden age’ of Europe. Philosophers and theoreticians who came into prominence under the blessings of kings during the



Naturalis historia (Florenz)

medicine that worked with a deep understanding of the human body, developed over thousands of years was classified as ‘alternative’. The end of world war two led to a whole new set of world order. We can see that Western science played a big role in this.

Traditional agriculture was undermined and chemical agriculture introduced. This destroyed the soil as well as traditional seed varieties, much of it playing a dual role as food and medicine. This has made our country a home of invalids with even young children ill with diabetes which Western Allopathy cannot cure but ‘maintain’ by means of ‘management’.

Chemical induced food which makes people sick has become an ‘industry’. Medicine has become an ‘industry’ which thrives on having many sick people. Our traditional culture of the people resilient in mind, body and spirit, is now largely lost. Yet it is hard to eradicate this knowledge from the veins of a nation and some of it still exists, such as *Hela Nila Wedakama*.

It is our collective national duty for the sake of the people and the nation to protect, conserve and promote this knowledge and not give into cynicism. We should not adopt the mindset of the colonists and doubt our medical tradition which was deeply woven with the Buddhist concept of loving kindness.

Q: Advanced Western science does have its positive side, isn't it?

A: Of course. What I oppose is the developing of a science without spirituality.

Has Western science reinvented a knowledge system? They could only find what is remaining in the undermined ancient civilisation and reinvented it with modern technology. With all this, Western medicine does not have definitive treatments. What we see is unintentional unhealthy outcomes owing to the lack of appropriate dietary interventions.

Western medicine is about the management of non-communicable diseases and infections; not their total cure.

For example, severe *Craniosynostosis*. What Western medicine can do is to manage or control the disease creating a lifetime treatment i.e. drug, vaccine, antibiotic, supplement dependency leading to a life affected by undesired adverse outcomes via a vicious process leading to what is called ‘iatrogenic’ diseases which amount to the third leading cause of death.

The causality and diseases have not yet been established with so-called technological advancement.

Yet, traditional medicine was decried as ‘unscientific’. Superior humanistic qualities, such as loving kindness have been undermined by the greed, power and competition.



Dr. K.S. Dahanayake

time were of the view that they needed to be come out of ‘ignorance’ by means of acquiring the ‘knowledge’.

Instead of gaining knowledge via enlightening and regaining the mind power under their spiritual backgrounds, what emerged was the new obsession for excavating and searching for physical evidence of ancestral knowledge, such as those buried under the ruins of ancient monasteries of sacred cities.

They engaged in observing and giving opinion in the form of explaining, interpreting and predicting phenomena in nature, using physical evidence-based knowledge. Following the theoretical knowledge that was conceptualised during the renaissance, the next generations of theoreticians kept on building up and expressing theories on health and diseases, weather, agriculture, food, marking the origin of Western ‘science’.

The ancient sciences of regions such, as the East, became invalidated and food and herb based traditional

Q: Could you further elaborate?

A: The European greed for knowledge monopoly and resources was the invasive cancer we call colonisation; this cancer compelled Europeans to invade the other regions where prosperity and longevity were superior. This is the case of Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka was historically known for its superior quality knowledge on maintaining human wellbeing.

For example, Pliny the Elder, a Roman philosopher in the first century had highlighted the fact that the people of Taprobane had been spending a long life above 100 years in a background of rich natural resources. This has been written by him in the 24th chapter of *Naturalis historia*, the first encyclopaedia of the world.

We also know what Robert Knox had to say about the health practices of Sri Lankans in the 17th century. Upon invasion and colonisation by Europeans who inveigled these nations with their own concepts and theories pertaining to the ‘new science’, the traditional non-western world was injected with the feeling of inferiority about their heritage knowledge. They started doubting it.

Sri Lanka started losing the identity of its indigenous medical knowledge of one of the oldest civilisations. Today, we are witnessing the results of the loss.

Q: Western science is sitting in judgment of traditional sciences, isn't it?

A: Generations of hybrid scientists the world over and especially in countries which were former colonies were created under European influence. The new world order created after World War Two led to the West subtly and overtly and through strategic means, exercising control over the indigenous knowledge of countries, such as Sri Lanka.

They started creating rules on how traditional medicine should be promoted. The studying and even teaching of diagnostic and therapeutic principles of TMP were passed onto the people whose consciousness was not attuned to it.

Suppose someone needs to cut and study the cross-sectional view of a ripe tomato. He uses his blunt knife to ‘cut’ the tomato and studies it and explains it. But he doesn't realise the fact that he had crushed the tomato with a blunt-edged knife and had studied a distorted cross-sectional view. He educates the society with that knowledge.

‘Sharpness’ of knowledge depends not only on the tangible knowledge perceived by the five senses, but also on the intangible knowledge realised through a well trained mind as perfected through Buddhism and related spiritual meditation related expertise.

Covid-19 mass vaccination under way

More vaccine doses in the pipeline

By
Aanya Wipulasena



The State Pharmaceutical Corporation has signed an order with the Serum Institute of India (SII) for 10 million doses of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines, officials said on Friday.

The new development came after the agreement was approved by the Attorney General early last week. The agreement to procure the vaccines was signed between Sri Lanka's State Pharmaceuticals Corporation and India's Serum Institute, Ltd. Last month India, under its neighbourhood first policy, donated 500,000 doses of free vaccines that were given to frontline workers and the security forces. Oxford-AstraZeneca's Covishield is manufactured at the Pune-based Serum Institute that has collaborated with Oxford University and pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca for making the vaccine.

The World Health Organization (WHO), under its COVAX facility, will provide vaccines for 20 percent of the local population free, while China and Russia have also agreed to donate vaccines.

Secretary to the State Ministry of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and Covid-19 Disease Control Dr. Amal Harsha de Silva told the media that the Government is exploring at the possibility of manufacturing Russia's Sputnik V Covid vaccine.

"We will export vaccines, not import them soon," he said.

According to statistics of the Epi-

demology Unit at the Health Ministry, 263,779 people have been vaccinated by Friday since the launch of the program on January 29. The vaccination drive was launched at the National Institute of Infectious Diseases in the presence of State Minister of Primary Health Services, Pandemics and Covid Prevention, Dr Sudarshini Fernandopulle and Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay. Dr Ananda Wijewickrema of the hospital was the first recipient of the vaccine.

The Government also launched a website to collect public information to streamline the vaccination and primary healthcare delivery. It stated that the "personal information and the healthcare facility preferences will be used to improve the delivery and administration efficiency when the vaccines are available to the public".

There was resistance among some segments of the public against vaccination. In response, Primary Health Services, Pandemics and Covid Prevention Minister Dr. Sudharshani Fernandopulle called upon the public to assist the vaccine drive, adding that there was no need to fear the vaccine and be misled by false reports claiming adverse reactions to the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covishield vaccine.

She said no adverse effect had been reported from over 200,000 people who have been vaccinated.

Mass vaccination has begun in Colombo. An official said that vaccination of some public and private sector employees will be carried out during the weekend as they face issues regarding applying for leave from work.

"It is normal to catch fever or have body aches after receiving the vaccine. This means the body is reacting to it,"

she said. UNPer Sudath Jayasundera last week, questioned the Government on the alleged contradiction in numbers related to the doses of the Covid-19 vaccine which are being purchased by the

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO), UNDER ITS COVAX FACILITY, WILL PROVIDE VACCINES FOR 20 PERCENT OF THE LOCAL POPULATION FREE, WHILE CHINA AND RUSSIA HAVE ALSO AGREED TO DONATE VACCINES

authorities.

"According to the Army Commander, a consignment of 500,000 doses of the Covid-19 vaccine is expected to arrive in the country last week. However, there is no indication of the origin of these vaccines," the UNP stated in a press release, adding that, "there is a large shortfall of vaccine doses for the public."

As the Government identified Members of Parliament as a vulnerable group as several MPs and ministers were tested positive for Covid-19, they were given the first round of vaccines. Members of the Opposition have expressed their objection to the move. MP Heshu Withanage has said he would not get the vaccine, "until the last citizen who needs to be vaccinated is vaccinated".



Covid-19 vaccination in Sri Lanka

New Covid-19 variant

Health experts warned of a possible spike in cases of Covid-19 with the detection of a new coronavirus variant in the country.

Sequencing of 92 SARS-CoV2 viruses received from January to the first week of February was carried out by the Allergy Immunology and Cell Biology Unit, Department of Immunology and Molecular Medicine, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Sequencing was carried out from virus samples from Colombo, Avissawella, Ingiriya, Biyagama, Wattala, Mathugama, Mannar, Vavuniya and from several quarantine centres (returnees from overseas).

The virologists said, "While most virus lineages belonged to the previously circulating B.1.411 lineage (Sri Lankan lineage), a few viruses belong-

ing to the B.1.1.7 (UK lineage) were detected from Colombo, Avissawella, Biyagama and Vavuniya and from a few people in the quarantine centres."

"The B.1.1.7 is the rapidly transmissible variant circulating in the UK and many other countries. It is associated with a 50 percent higher transmissibility than the other SARS-CoV2 variants. This does not have any mutations that affect vaccine efficacy. Further analysis is under way.

"While it is possible that the B.1.1.7 was introduced from overseas, given the widespread detection of the virus in Sri Lanka, it is also possible that the circulating virus strain acquired these mutations de novo, as seen in many other countries, where there is intense transmission of the virus."

Prof. Neelika Malavige of the Department of Immunology and Molecular Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences - University of Sri Jayewardenepura, said during a media interview that the sequencing was carried out after the second wave still spreading.

WHO's chief scientist Dr Soumya Swaminathan said that scientists have found that the variants found in the UK and South Africa are much more infectious than other variants. "Scientists have studied this and have found that these variants tend to spread faster, they're more transmissible or more infectious. That's the worrying part. However, they do not seem to cause more severe illness or a higher death rate or any sort of different clinical manifestations," she said, adding the

new variants seem to behave much the same as the previous viruses.

"We know that testing, identifying those who are infectious, providing them supportive isolation, tracking and contact tracing, quarantining the contacts, making sure that people continue to comply with physical distancing, wearing a mask with avoiding crowded places, avoiding closed settings, washing hands and practising respiratory etiquette make a difference in bringing down transmission," she said.

Meanwhile, the Government lifted an entry ban on people with recent travel history in the UK on Wednesday. The ban was imposed in January due to concerns over the discovery of the UK variant.

US President Biden to declare major disaster



A man looks for information on his cell phone as he rests at the George R. Brown Convention Centre in Houston. AFP

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, (BBC) - US President Joe Biden is set to declare a major disaster for Texas, clearing the way for more federal funds to be spent on relief efforts.

Power is returning in the state and temperatures are set to rise but some 13 million people are still facing difficulties accessing clean water.

Mr Biden has said he will visit Texas as long as his presence is not a burden on relief efforts.

Nearly 60 deaths have been attributed to cold weather across the US.

White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki confirmed Mr Biden has asked his team to expedite Texas' request for a disaster declaration.

He has also been in touch with the mayors of some of Texas' biggest cities, such as Houston, Austin and Dallas, to ensure they have access to government resources, an administration official said.

Several other southern states hit by snow and ice storms this week have also reported water service outages.

Winter weather has also cut off water in the city of Jackson, Mississippi - home to around 150,000 people - as well as the largest county in Tennessee that includes the city of Memphis, with over 651,000 residents.

Across the US South, a region unaccustomed to such frigid temperatures, people whose pipes have frozen have taken to boiling snow to make water.

The Southwestern state's energy grid has been overwhelmed by a surge in demand for heat as temperatures plummeted to 30-year lows, hitting 0F (-18C) earlier this week. As of Friday, about 180,000

homes and businesses in Texas still had no electricity. Amid freezing temperatures earlier this week, as many as 3.3 million were without power.

Around 13 million people - close to half of the state's population - have faced some disruption of water services as hundreds of water systems have been damaged by the freeze.

Austin, the state's capital, lost 325m gallons (1.2bn litres) of water when pipes burst, the city's water director told reporters on Thursday.

Texas' largest city, Houston, is under a so-called "boil water notice", with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advising that all water planned for consumption - even if filtered - must be boiled as it may be contaminated.

Officials there say they are working to rapidly distribute bottled water, as well as power generators, to people in need. Breweries and other local businesses have also assisted with efforts to supply drinkable water.

On Friday, Texas Governor Greg Abbott said the state is providing "any and all resources to assist and to accelerate the response at the local level".

State officials could not offer a timeline for exactly when the water would come back on, saying it was a question for local water providers - and many have not yet fully assessed the damage to their systems.

Gov Abbott also said more plumbers are headed to the state. Water pipes have been bursting across Texas due to the freeze, and local plumbers have struggled to

meet demand.

Over 320 plumbers have renewed their licences, and the state agencies are working with plumbing companies out-of-state to secure additional help, he said.

As of Friday, storm warnings are still in place across much of Texas, but temperatures will rise in the coming days, according to the National Weather Service (NWS).

The forecaster has also warned of dangerous travel conditions and power outages in eastern parts of the US as another winter storm system is expected to bring heavy snow, freezing rain and ice.

As the state continues to grapple with the weather crisis, Texas Republican Senator Ted Cruz is facing a backlash after he left Houston on Wednesday for a vacation in Mexico with his family.

Mr Cruz apologised on Thursday and returned to the US after initially planning to stay through the weekend.

The recorded deaths in Texas include people who have died in traffic accidents, as well as some who suffered carbon monoxide poisoning from running cars and generators indoors to stay warm.

In Harris County, home to Houston, there were more than 300 suspected cases of carbon monoxide poisoning during the cold snap. A local doctor described it as "a mini mass casualty event" to the Houston Chronicle newspaper.

At least four people were killed following a house fire in Houston that officials said may have been sparked by candles.

Separately, police said two men found alongside a Houston highway were believed to have died due to the cold.

Putin critic loses appeal against jailing

MOSCOW, Feb 20 (BBC) - Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny has lost an appeal against his jailing for violating the terms of a suspended sentence.

Navalny was detained last month after returning to Russia from Germany, where he was being treated for a near-fatal nerve agent attack.

He has blamed Russian President Vladimir Putin for the attack and says the charges against him are fabricated.

The Kremlin denies any involvement in his poisoning. Navalny was accused of breaking the terms of a 2014 suspended sentence for embezzlement that required him to report regularly to Russian police.

In court, in a speech that referenced both the Bible and the Harry Potter series, he argued the charges were "absurd" as he was unable to report to the police while recovering from the nerve agent attack.

"The whole world knew where I was," he said. "Once I'd recovered, I bought a plane ticket and came home."

But the judge rejected his case and he will return to the penal colony where he is serving his time. The judge did, though, cut his six weeks off the nearly three-year sentence imposed.

Navalny faces another appearance in court in Saturday, on



It is the first of two scheduled appearances in court on Saturday for Navalny

charges of slandering a World War Two veteran who praised President Putin.

The European Court of Human Rights, of which Russia is a member, says Navalny should be released out of concern for his life. But Russia said the call was "unlawful". Navalny's supporters see the charges as an attempt to silence him and thwart his political ambitions.

He has been a persistent thorn in the side of President Putin, making allegations of corruption including a claim the president owns a lavish palace by the Black Sea. Navalny's allies are seeking

to challenge pro-Kremlin parties in parliamentary elections this year, and President Vladimir Putin warned on Thursday against foreign interference. European foreign ministers are set to meet on Monday to discuss imposing further sanctions on Russia over the case. There are divisions among EU members, with Germany going ahead with the Nord Stream 2 project which would transfer gas directly from Russia to Germany.

The project is opposed by Poland and the Baltic states. On Friday Lithuania said it should be paused until after September's parliamentary elections in Russia.

Princess Latifa 'being cared for at home' - Dubai Royal family

DUBAI, Feb. 20 (BBC) - Dubai's royal family says Princess Latifa is "being cared for at home" after the BBC obtained videos in which she accused them of holding her hostage since she tried to flee in 2018.

"She continues to improve and we are hopeful she will return to public life at the appropriate time," said a statement from the royal family.

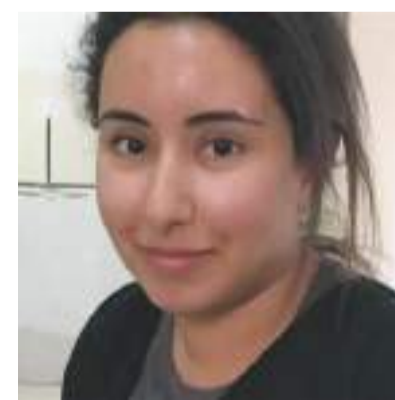
In the secretly recorded videos, the princess said she feared for her life.

The footage prompted global calls for a UN investigation.

The UN human rights agency has asked the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to provide proof that the princess is still alive.

But there was no video or photo released with the family's statement which could serve as proof of life, nor did it give any details about her condition.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told the BBC he would look into the case, adding: "We take human rights seriously, we will closely monitor the situation. Across the board, with adversar-



ies, competitors, with partners and allies alike... we take human rights seriously and the president has put it at the heart of our foreign policy and countries can expect us to follow through on that."

The head of Human Rights Watch, Kenneth Roth, described the family's statement as a "cover story" and said no-one would believe Dubai's royals until Latifa had "the freedom to speak for herself".

The FreeLatifa campaign said similar statements from the royal family had been given in the past

and could not be trusted. In a statement, campaigners said they feared the Dubai authorities may have subjected her to "torture and drugging".

"It is now critically urgent that an independent team from the United Nations travel to Dubai and be able to visit Latifa immediately, and that they insist that Latifa is brought to safety in a country of her choosing," the FreeLatifa campaign said. The royal family's response came via the UAE embassy in London. "In response to media reports regarding Sheikhha Latifa, we want to thank those who have expressed concern for her wellbeing, despite the coverage which certainly is not reflective of the actual position," it said in a statement.

"Her family has confirmed that Her Highness is being cared for at home, supported by her family and medical professionals." Princess Latifa's father, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, is one of the richest heads of state in the world, the ruler of Dubai and vice-president of the UAE.

SPORT

sports.sundayobserver.lk / Tel: +94 11 2 429 226, / +94 11 2 429 228, / Fax: / +94 11 2 429 227

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

Retiring cricketer Prasad has a telling message for holier-than-thou officials

BY CALLISTUS DAVY

Retiring Sri Lankan fast bowler Dhammika Prasad may not have been the most wanted cricketer in the team, but he was some kind of a character unlike any other to wear the Lion emblem shirt with honour and play his part to go home and tell his friends far more interesting stuff than

the media can relate.

Prasad, a humble product from De Mazenod College in Kandana who played 25 Tests and 24 ODIs, did not have a swashbuckling farewell but many reporters regretted they were not there to hear him say what will embarrass men who think they are infallible in their actions.

"Very early in my career I

realized the role of the media. I have never had any incident with any reporter throughout my playing career. I have always respected the media. They have praised me when I do well and criticised me when I fail, he told a small band of journalists at a farewell at his Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) on Thursday.

Nicknamed Tom Jones by some reporters because of his

hair and not singing, Prasad was one of the few Sri Lankan cricketers that a captain would have wanted for his "I'll kill for my team" attitude.

"Prasad was the kind of bowler who would come up and ask for the old ball with the batsman on 150 and a few overs left for the day", recalled his former captain Marvan Atapattu who graced Prasad's

farewell at age 38.

In person Prasad was one of the nicest human beings ever to grace the world's playing fields and few people knew about it.

Even during his high profile playing days he would step into a small shop and chat with anyone who recognized him or even go further and raise a glass with a commoner.

If that did not please him he

would go around like the most ordinary person in the world inquiring about the welfare of people and even organize their welfare.

The kids would be the first to recognize him.

He was their role model and Prasad proved he does not have to be a huge grandiose celebrity to touch the lives of people or make them turn their heads.



Dhammika Prasad

Sri Lanka's super elite appeal to save cricket

BY CALLISTUS DAVY

Hot on the heels of a public investigation into cricket, a steadfastly erudite group of intellectuals, distinguished former players, legal heavyweights, corporate superstars and high calibre exponents of proven administrative skills have lodged a Petition in the Appeal Court in a now-or-never push to salvage what is left of the country's greatest sporting passion.

They have in one loud voice petitioned the Judiciary and called for the total revamp of the governance of cricket while pleading that the country's interest was being compromised by shadowy club politics which they contend has sustained rampant corruption, dishonesty, power abuse, nepotism and cronyism.

"Sri Lanka's cricket is seriously ill and requires immediate surgery", the Petitioners said in a statement. "It (Constitution), is severely conflicted between clubs and country. This system encourages the office bearers to take decisions mostly to satisfy its voter base (clubs) causing the playing standards of Sri Lanka cricket to deteriorate".

Among the 12 Petitioners are the world's most celebrated wicket taker Muttiah Muralidaran, retired Supreme Court judge and former president of the Court of Appeal, Justice Saleem Marsoof, a most honoured ex-cricketer Secretary S. Skandakumar along with Sidath Wettimuny, Michael Tissera, Rienzie Wijetilleke and public welfare crusader Kushil Gunasekera who



The people have been the biggest losers, the Petitioners have pleaded

have all served in as many as eight government Interim Committees over the past 20 years from 1999 when club-elected office bearers of SLC proved a total failure.

The Petitioners have called for the installation of a responsible Board of Directors to run the affairs of cricket in a changed Constitution which should be the responsibility of the Sports Minister under the powers vested in him.

They have asked that the Board of Directors comprise the Director General of Sports, Auditor General or his nominee, Secretary to the Treasurer or his nominee, five former cricketers of international repute with no financial or commercial interest in Sri Lanka cricket

with an unblemished record, one retired Supreme or High Court judge, three members from the Private sector with the best credentials established in the corporate world and one member who is a professionally qualified accountant of high repute.

The Petition submitted by what some are calling the "12 Apostles" on a mission, is a painstakingly researched lengthy document that has listed many financial misdeeds at Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) running into millions of dollars as chronicled by an Audit Report as well as drawing comparison to how countries like England, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the West Indies have succeeded in govern-

nance without honorary office-bearers that come through an election process.

Also described in the Petition is "vote-buying in the form of hand-outs, foreign tours and funding under the guise of cricket development".

"The (present) Constitution is inundated with serious loopholes that effectively enable a select group of office-bearers to be appointed repeatedly, many of them not former cricketers attracted to the benefits of holding such office", the Petitioners have stated while adding that "SLC does not come under the Right to Information Act thereby creating revulsion and media criticism".

Trinity beat Dharmaraja in one-dayer

A one-day cricket match was played between Trinity College and Dharmaraja College at the Asgiriya stadium and the former won the match by 177 runs.

Trinity 334 for 6 in 50 (U Rizan 100, Pawan Pathiraja 85, R. Somaratne 50)

Dharmaraja 157 in 43.4 (Amitha Hapuarachchi 44, I Ranasinghe 25, K Abeysinghe 3 for 29) **HM**

Commander's Cup reawakens rugby

BY BERNARD PERERA

Rugby in Sri Lanka is to get off the ground after a lapse of one year with the Air Force organising the Commander's Cup Sevens on March 20 and 21 with the blessings of Sri Lanka Rugby at Ratmalana followed by the second leg on March 26 and 27 at the same venue.

"Our Rugby Committee decided not to let rugby die and came out with this decision to open the gates to conduct this tourney to give a restart to the game.

"Though we are making all arrangements to hold this event we will adhere to all guidelines stipu-

lated by the health authorities and Sports Ministry", commander of the Air Force, Air Marshal Pathirana said.

Air Vice Marshal Janaka Amerasinghe addressing the media said that the Committee decided to invite eight leading clubs playing in the 'A' Division but only five have confirmed their participation.

The teams participating are Army SC, Police SC, Navy SC, Air Force SC and Havelocks SC.

Kandy SC, CH & FC and CR & FC have turned down the invitation.

In the absence of these teams the Committee decided to request the participating clubs to enter two

teams each.

Air Vice Marshal Amerasinghe further added that all expenses for all teams will be borne by the Air Force from sponsor funds expected from the main sponsor Dialog.

All 15 players and five officials allowed for a team will have to undergo health guidelines inclusive of PCR tests for which the organizers bear all costs.

The tournament will be played minus spectators but the organizers have made arrangements to telecast the matches live on the channel Eye.

In addition to the Commander's Cup, one million rupees await the champions.

Osaka downs American Brady

Japan's Naomi Osaka cemented her place as the outstanding star of the women's game by beating American Jennifer Brady in the Australian Open tennis final to win her fourth Grand Slam title in Melbourne yesterday.

She won 6-4, 6-3.

Osaka has now won two Australian Open titles with her other Grand Slam successes coming at the US Open in 2018 and 2020.

Osaka's face lit up with a wide grin, raising her racquet above her head, when she clinched the title on her first match point after Brady pumped a return long. (BBC)



Naomi Osaka lifts the Melbourne Open Cup

Hasini and Hasara enter National badminton final

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Hasini Ambalangodage and Hasara Wijayarathne entered the women's Open singles final at the 68th National Badminton Championship at the Mercantile Badminton Indoor Stadium yesterday.

Ambalangodage the top seed defeated Ashini Fernando 21-9, 17-21, 21-19 while Wijayarathne the third seed won against experienced Nadeesha Gayanthi 21-5, 11-21, 21-17.

Meanwhile at the men's Open quarter finals Rasindu Hendahewa created a major upset defeating former cham-

pion and current bottom seed Dinuka Karunaratne to enter semi final.

Hendahewa who was away in Indonesia training played a fine game to beat Karunaratne 21-15, 21-16.

Ranthushka Karunatileka had a hard fought three-setter game 16-21, 21-17, 21-13 against Chamika Karunaratne to advance to the semi final.

Hendahewa was scheduled to confront Viren Nettasinghe while the most experienced Niluka Karunaratne who is heading for a 17th National title was to meet Ranthushka Karunatileka in the semi finals scheduled for late evening yesterday. The finals will be played today.



Hasini Ambalangodage

Nilaweera, Oneli annex titles

Chathurya Nilaweera and Oneli Perera clinched the boys' and girls' Under-18 singles crowns respectively at the 105th Colombo Open Tennis Tournament, that continued at the SLTA Courts at Sir Marcus Fernando Mawatha yesterday.

Nilaweera, the schoolboy from Stafford College, lived up to expectations as the favourite as he defeated Thehan Wijemanne 7-5, 6-3 in the final. In contrast, Oneli from Asian In-

ternational School, suffered an early setback losing the first set to Vishmi Serasinghe 4-6 but recovered well and went on to claim the next two sets 7-6 (4), 10-5 in the final.

Kiran Vairavanathan of the British School in Colombo and Hasali Gajaba of Visakha Vidyalaya won the boys' and girls' Under-16 singles titles respectively.

Results: (All finals):

U-18 singles (Boys): Chathurya

Nilaweera beat Thehan Wijemanne 7-5, 6-3.

(Girls): Oneli Perera beat Vishmi Serasinghe 4-6, 7-6 (4), 10-5.

U-16 singles: (Boys): Kiran Vairavanathan beat Zaidh Zihar 6-2, 6-3.

(Girls): Hasali Gajaba beat Saajida Razick 6-3, 3-6, 12-10.

U-16 doubles (Girls): Dinetha Dharmaratne and Saajida Razick beat Hasali Gajaba and Minuki Wanniarachchi 6-1, 6-4.



Chathurya Nilaweera (U-18 champ)



Kiran Vairavanathan (U-16 champ)



Oneli Perera (U-18 champ)



Hasali Gajaba (U-16 champ)

IMPACT

features.suo@lakehouse.lk / Tel: 011 2 429 429, 011 2 429 228 / Fax: 0112 429 227

FEBRUARY 21, 2021



Soldiers of the Indian Peace Keeping Force

Adverse impacts of early invasion and the Indo-Lanka relationship

BY W.A. DE SILVA

The Elam concept is a by-product of the expansion of Tamil communities through the passage of time in ancient and medieval history from South India, at present Tamil Nadu to Sri Lanka. Tamil communities such as the Cholas, Pandyas, Cheras and Pallavas played a major role in this process. It was difficult for these communities to expand towards North India due to geopolitical barriers. As a result they opted to encroach on Sri Lanka.

Initially, these communities encroached on Sri Lanka intermittently, having organised themselves as small groups of aggressors or traders with the objective of plundering the wealth of this country and capturing the ruling power had the situation been conducive for that purpose. At a subsequent stage, expansions were carried out in different forms such as invasions, friendly movements, military support and matrimonial relationships. Invasions were carried out mainly by Tamil States that emerged in South India under the Cholas, Cheras, Pandyas, Pallavas and Nayakkar dynasties.

Historical sources have corroborated the fact that Sena and Guttika, Elara, Pulahastha, Bahiya, Panayamara, Pilaimara, Datiya and Cholas from 237 BC up to 112 AD intermittently, and Pandu, Parinda, Kuddaparinda, Thirithera, Datiya, Pitiya from 435 AD up to 462AD encroached on Sri Lanka. They fall into the initial category of expansions referred to above. They have plundered wealth and other means of this country until they were expelled by the Sri Lankan leaders.

From the 7th century AD up to the end of 11th century AD the expansion of Tamil communities had been activated by way of invasions, caused by Tamil States that emerged in South India under the Cholas, Pandyas, Pallavas and Nayakkar dynasties.

The Pandiyans invaded twice during the reign of King Agbo IV in 674 AD and King Sena, the 1st in 840 AD, the Cholas during the reign of King Mahinda IV in 976 AD, King Mahinda V in 1029 AD, Wickrama Pandya 1044 AD and Parakrama Pandya 1049 AD.

The next stage of Tamil expansion could be identified in the period commencing from the end of the reign of Parakramabahu I in 1186 AD up to the end of the reign of Parakramabahu VI in 1467 AD. Political turmoil that prevailed during this period in this country had paved the way for the Pandiyans in 1212 AD, and Aryachakravarthi in Jaffna, to establish their power over some limited areas in the North and North Central provinces. They were defeated and expelled by Kings Parakramabahu II and Parakramabahu VI.

A perusal of historical sources and some publications of eminent historians such as Neelakanta Sastri, have revealed that the origin of the Elam

concept is directly connected with the expansion of the Chola Empire that flourished in Tamil Nadu during 9th century AD. Chola kings Rajaraja and Rajendra who established their power in Northern Sri Lanka named that part as the *Eelam Mandalum* of the Chola Empire. The royal emblem of the Chola Empire was the 'Tiger Head'.

The Cholas who ruled a substantial part of the Northern province, approximately for 41 years were expelled from this country by King Vijayabahu I who is considered as one of the great rulers who rescued Sri Lanka from Chola aggression. It has been observed that there is a close link between the Elam concept of the LTTE and the *Eelam Mandalum* of the Cholas, and the Tiger Head used by both as their emblems.

In that context it may be noted that expansionism from India seemed to be one of the perennial problems Sri Lanka had to face throughout history from time to time. Sri Lanka has so far responded to this challenge successfully.

The LTTE that vandalised this country for approximately 35 years, agitating for Eelam is another facet of the expansion of the Tamil community from Tamil Nadu throughout history, as far back as 3rd century B.C.

Tamil Nadu had become one of the Provincial States of the Central Government of India which was formed after Independence. As a result, the Eelam concept of expansion of power over Sri Lanka hitherto carried out by States in Tamil Nadu has been absorbed to the Foreign policy of the Union Government of India. This has caused a turning point in the Indo-Lanka relationship. It is a fact that the Foreign policy of India has been based on expansionism. Expansion of power in Sri Lanka is considered one of the prime objectives of the Indian Foreign policy.

The Eelam concept is based on

separatism and racism. It has focused on Tamil ethnicity, claiming an autonomous status for the Tamil community in the North.

The Government of India is compelled to satisfy Tamil Nadu on the issue of Eelam to prevent it breaking away from the Union Government on the one hand and also to prevent Sri Lanka from drifting into the hands of China that competes against India in the process of the power struggle in the Indo-Pacific region, on the other hand. The Government of India has adopted several strategies to tackle Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka simultaneously in that process.

Pressurising to materialise the Eelam concept on the pretext of devolution of power through a Federal structure in Sri Lanka is one of the strategies of the Indian Government on its relationship with Sri Lanka. Funding development projects in multi-disciplines, extending loan facilities, grants through bilateral agreements are considered another strategy of expansionism.

An aggressive approach and threats by mobilising military power abruptly; training facilities provided for the terrorist outfit of the LTTE in India are some of the tactics of the Indo-Lanka relationship in this process. Mobilising of the Indian Air Force and IPKF marginalising the sovereignty of Sri Lanka during the Rajiv Gandhi regime had caused irrecoverable damage to the Indo-Lanka relationship.

The 13th Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka as imposed by the Rajiv Gandhi regime is another step taken by the Indian Government in this process. The prime objective of the 13th Amendment is a unilateral attempt to give effect to the implementation of Eelam, initially in the Northern Province, on the pretext of devolution of power. The 13th Amendment had



A Chola king

been introduced by the Government of India to satisfy Tamil Nadu and its proxies in Sri Lanka. The Indian Government together with the pro-Eelam Tamil politicians has paved the way to take the Eelam struggle to the International Forum of Global Power politics (UNHRC).

In that context, Tamil Nadu and the TNA, its proxy has built up an Alliance against Sri Lanka.

The UNHRC with the concurrence of its membership India, the US and the Allied Forces in the West, the Yaha-

palana Government of Sri Lanka, the TNA and the Tamil Diaspora are the main stakeholders of this Alliance. Agitation for a Federal status on the pretext of devolution of power seems to be the strategy adopted by this Alliance, as an alternative to Eelam.

The Joint UNHRC Resolution 30/1 of year 2015 in which the Yaha-palana Government has assumed the role of co-sponsor on its own volition seems to be the principal agenda of the above Alliance. The stakeholders of the Alliance referred to above have empha-

sised repeatedly that devolution of power for the Tamil community in the North should be up to the standard acceptable to the UNHRC and the TNA. The standard of devolution they expect is autonomous status based on the Elam concept. In that context Resolution 30/1 seems to be a well-planned strategy to give effect to the Elam concept on the pretext of devolution of power.

Although the Government under the leadership of Gotabaya Rajapaksa has already disclosed its intention to withdraw the co-sponsorship by the Yaha-palana Government of Resolution 30/1, the threat triggered against Sri Lanka by the Alliance through Resolution 30/1 would remain from time to time by its stakeholders.

India is not prepared to give up the implementation of the Eelam concept in Sri Lanka on the pretext of devolution of power under a federal structure due to the fact that the Eelam concept has become one of the best strategies for the Indian Government to give effect to its Foreign policy in this country which is based on expansionism.

In view of the above, the integrity of the Government of India on the Indo-Lanka relationship seems to be questionable. Most of the development projects launched by the Indian Government in Sri Lanka in the process of the Indo-Lanka relationship have been focused on a particular selected ethnicity of this country. They were not focused on the Sri Lankan nation as a whole.

In that context the relationship with India seems to be extremely detrimental to the unity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka when compared to her relationship with China. China has no intention to promote a particular ethnicity within this country and divide the country by setting up a separate state for a particular community. China's intention seems to be to prevent the drifting of this country into the hands of superpowers including the US and India in the power struggle in the Indo-Pacific region.

Hence, it is necessary to re-structure the Foreign policy of Sri Lanka to respond to this challenge from India, effectively.

The writer is a former Executive Director of BOI, former HRM Consultant on Fiscal Reform Program -ADB, and Management Consultant since 2006 to date for Multinational Group of FDI Companies



The signing of the Indo-Lanka Peace Accord by President J.R. Jayewardene and Indian PM Rajiv Gandhi in Colombo.

THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONTENTS OF THE JOINT UNHRC RESOLUTION 30/1 BY THE YAHAPALANA GOVERNMENT BEING CO-SPONSOR THERETO FOR WHICH NO MANDATE HAD BEEN GIVEN BY THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY FOR SHEER SURVIVAL IN POWER POLITICS BY THE YAHAPALANA GOVERNMENT WITH RECIPROCAL SUPPORT EXPECTED FROM THE TNA, THE TAMIL DIASPORA, UNHRC, THE US AND ALLIED FORCES IN THE WEST

Protect the environment and nature

By
Sarath
Wijesinghe



Let us protect the earth and nature for our own good as all the living beings and materials, including air in the environment depend on mother earth and nature, for our existence. "The earth provides enough to every one's needs and not every one's greed," Mahathma Gandhi said.

Do we protect mother earth that has given birth to us and protection to us? The answer is no! Some are ungrateful to her! We are on the warpath on destruction knowingly or unknowingly destroying ourselves with our mother earth which provides us everything for our living.

Sri Lanka is one of the most beautiful islands in the world with excellent climatic conditions for living, which are gifts by nature we should protect and preserve. Instead we destroy nature which was protected by our forefathers who adored, venerated and protected the environment.

Our ancestors are so environment friendly that when they remove a tree, permission was sought from the invisible protectors (Deva's) to cut the tree, by worshipping it before cutting, which gives a deep meaning of the practice embodied in our customs and traditions on the environment.

Animals were treated as family members and killing them for consumption was prohibited. Currently, forests, rivers, waterfalls, sand and the earth are in danger of slow destruction by the actions of the human beings supposed to be educated and intellectually advanced. Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera recently said that he does not understand some politicians acting irresponsibly on matters dealing with the environment and warned his colleagues, that if sand grabbing, deforestation and destructions continue, he is compelled to name and shame the culprits close to 'politicos'.

Apparently, the environment business is so lucrative and tempting that they may be using all possible pressure and influence to earn maximum possible by illegal means at the cost of mother earth.

International concerns on the environment were effective and powerful when the world got together in 1972 in Stockholm.

Its Declaration stated (Art1) that the man has a right to freedom and equality and that the environment is a fundamental right for the wellbeing of the world citizen and the man has a solemn responsibility to protect the environment.

There are subsequent international conventions on the environment, which are good on print with no or little effect. The Indian Constitution expanded the jurisdiction to protect the environment. Drafters of the UN Charter regrets not incorporating the environment as a human right giving effective powers of implementation.

The environment is not a fundamental right in Sri Lanka, but there is a directive principle to be used in judicial review. The Judiciary acts favourably on judicial review on environmental issues.

Our jurisprudence is full of cases on the environment using the small windows. It is time to introduce the Indian and USA modelled public interest litigation and move to include a chapter on the environment in the new Constitution.

Country situation

People are concerned about air pollution, water pollution, mangrove degeneration, coral reef destruction, soil degradation, overfishing, industrialisation, unplanned developments, deforestation, clearance of jungles and other forms of environment disasters that have transformed the beautiful island into a danger zone leaving lot of work for the environmentalists and the Government to bring the country back to an environment friendly atmosphere.

Despite activism by groups, state intervention, media attention and the Environment Authority, the destruction continues under the patronage of invisible hands, may be due to the enormous funds generated by selling our mother nature.

Bhutan, which is a SAARC country with an 81 percent forest cover, 71 percent crowned trees and 51 percent under protected management systems, should be taken as an example for the countries to save the environment. We must develop the country, but it should not be at the cost of the environment. Save wetland, an international organisation has bonded with Sri Lanka as the country has the best mangroves in the world.



But what about our sanctuaries with rare breeds of animals and fish?

The main concern these days on environment destruction is the small and large scale deforestation with little attention by the Police, Wild Life Department and the law enforcement officials.

The inaction of the authorities shows some fear for action due to unforeseen fear or influence.

If destruction continues at this rate, the forest cover may reduce to the minimum level ever from 80 percent in 1820, 43 percent in 1948, 23 percent in 2000, 29 percent in 2010. The expected percentage in 2030, 32 percent, is most unlikely at this rate of reduction of the forest cover.

There are conflicting reports on deforestation, but the fact remains that it is alarmingly reduced at the rate of 1.4% (26,800 ha per year-ever increasing). In fairness, positive steps had been taken even in 1800 and 1873, especially by "Hacker" introducing the forest ordinance, fauna and flora ordinance, preventing clearance of forest above 5,000 feet.

The forest cover at the time the foreigners invaded the country was almost 100 percent except the sole owner of the land being the king and lands granted to the peasants.

It is during the period of the English that they forcibly bought the land belong to the peasants in the guise of development at few shillings per acre.

Real owners of the land trying to cultivate the crown land were illegal invaders who were prosecuted on criminal charges by penal code introduced in the 1800s by the British! Israel, a desert, 70 years ago, started life with desalination of sea water to be a world power and a leader in agriculture.

Wild animals are a part and a necessity for an ideal environment. The human-elephant conflict is costing Sri Lanka. The elephant population is fast dwindling.

Many other rare breeds, such as tiger, bear and wild animals endemic to Sri Lanka are disappearing fast. Bee keeping is a remedy to keep elephants away in addition to electric fences. Have they ever bothered to be innovative and make use of these novelties? We should manage ourselves to live and let others live in harmony sharing

SRI LANKA IS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ISLANDS IN THE WORLD WITH EXCELLENT CLIMATIC CONDITIONS FOR LIVING, WHICH ARE GIFTS BY NATURE WE SHOULD PROTECT AND PRESERVE. INSTEAD WE DESTROY NATURE WHICH WAS PROTECTED BY OUR FOREFATHERS WHO ADORED, VENERATED AND PROTECTED THE ENVIRONMENT



Are there sufficient laws to protect the environment and can laws alone protect the environment? There are ample and sufficient laws to protect the environment: forests, land and vegetation.

What mainly matters is the preservation of the environment through education, discipline and practice with civic duty of the citizen.

It is a good sign that in development and industries, the contractors are obliged to abide by environmental rules and regulations.

Green Sri Lanka

Around 25 percent fish and 17 percent coral are in danger with sea pollution.

"This earth and its vegetation is yours. But they should be protected not only for your benefit but also for the benefit of the future generation.

A ruler is only a temporary trustee and not the owner of your children's heritage," said Arahath Mahinda - the son of Emperor Asoka, who travelled to Sri Lanka as an emissary of his father representing the King, Kingdom of India and the Buddha Sasana.

It is time for us to rethink and educate people on the imminent danger we are bound to face in the near future.

There should be a separate chapter in the new Constitution on the environment. Local authorities have a major role in the implementation of the regulations with the law enforcement agencies.

People should be educated to convince them that everybody should work together for prosperity or ready to perish with environment destruction.

We should team with the Greens and other international organisations for solidarity to falsify the saying of the Red Indian Chief that, "Only when the last tree has died, the last river has been poisoned and the last fish has been caught that man will realise that he cannot eat money."

(The writer is President's Counsel, former Ambassador to UAE and Israel, former Chairman, Consumer Affairs Authority and President, Ambassadors' Forum)



the environment.

There is a myth that monkeys are overpopulated and destructive. It is bad management not using the wild as a resourceful tourist attraction and taking measure to protect agriculture products.

Most extracted material

At the rate the sand is extracted,



it may be out of reach soon being the most extracted material from mother earth due to the demand in construction trade ever growing worldwide.

With short supply and difficulty in meeting the demand, extraction is merciless due to callous disregard to the environment. Destructions to river banks, sand banks and sandy land extraction and washing away the mud have given rise



Pillars of the sky

By
Gwen Herat



The green giants sustain the world from the day our first parents, Adam and Eve lived among trees. Everything that existed before may have perished and stirred again but not the trees. From generation to generation, they flourished making the world what it is today. They certainly are the pillars of the sky that not even the wide oceans around the world could snatch away.

Every country has its own trees for identification and the trees make the difference. History records that the tree evolved over 370 million years ago, complete with a woody trunk, branches that attached themselves to the trunk in the same way that today it is called photosynthesis. The trunk and the branches are a part of the internal transport system.

It is a simple process where the trunk and branches bring water collected by the roots.

A tree's root system makes up around 20 percent of connecting the tree to the ground. It helps the tree to draw moisture and minerals from the ground. The first root that a tree grows is called the tap root, which later expands to side roots. As this process keeps extending, beneath the ground in a forest, therefore competition for root space between the trees is intense.

Around the world different tree species have evolved different types of roots to suit the environment in which they grow.

Certain trees have developed what is known as pillar roots which are fast growing roots that the tree sends down from its branches into the ground where they take root and form pillar like supports for the trees. The next time you visit the Vihara



Maha Devi Park or any similar park around the country, take a good look at the trees that are maintained by the State. Try to recognise those that you are familiar with and let the children join you as they would enjoy doing so.

Identifying the bark of a tree

This will guide you to identify the tree and help you to study it. It is a wonderful experience with added knowledge as you keep discovering more and more trees not only in Sri Lanka but around the world.

It was fascinating for me to pick some at random and the experience lasts forever.

- Giant Sequia
- Guava
- Peach
- Banyan
- Indian Bean

These wonderful trees are scattered around the world and maybe I saw some of them when I criss/

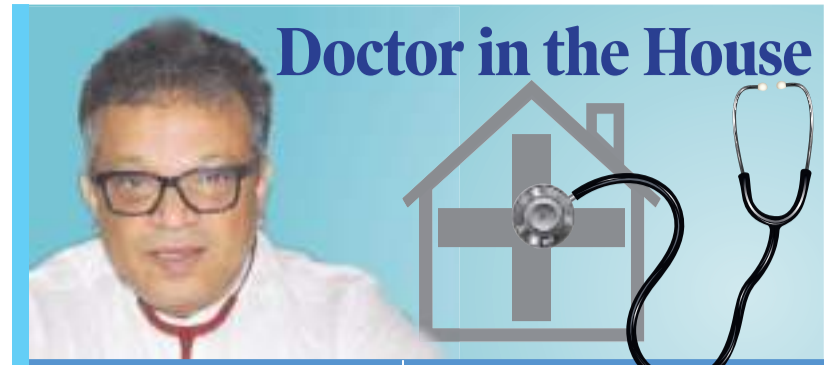
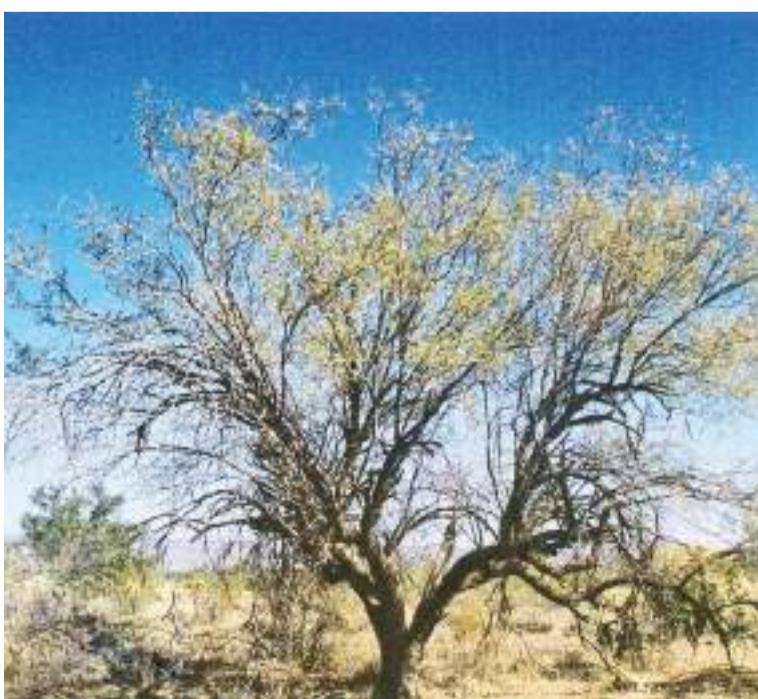
crossed in the last twenty years participating in various delegations for State work. There were many in Shakespeare properties as well as in the Knott Gardens.

The Green Sentinels

*They stand like sentinels
Reaching the sky
Their might and strength in roots
Hug the good earth's soil
And lush green burgeon
Spread forth their shading leaves
They link the sky and earth
A source of breath,
supplies the earth
As man and beast roam in
endless search
For the mysteries of life
As organism grows
Their wonders unfold
In the Summer's golden bronze
When million blooms unfurl
Their array of petals, soft
The fragrant scent in
wisps of spray*

*Fill the environment through
the days
And air, refresh.....
The nature in her naked wonder
keeping the distance clear
From the tempest and
the drought
And have of nature folly
Eternal wealth abound
For man to survive
The endearing beauty of burgeon
And products of life it holds
The charm of green forestry
No words can describe
The air we breathe, they impart
They cleanse the human tide...
Gentle through the
Summer's spell
Vibrant colours in splashing glow
Red and gold as Spring appears
Scattered 'neath the
heavenly tress
In their myriad hue the
spreading bough
Forestry's breath around*

(from Splendour of Trees
by the writer)



BY DR. NAMAL SENASINGHE CONSULTANT IN PAIN MEDICINE
MBBS, Dip in PAIN MED., FFARCS, FPMCA, CCST(UK)

Sports injury



IN THIS ARTICLE I WILL DISCUSS SPORTS INJURIES
IN A NUTSHELL.

Sports injuries are caused by overuse or direct impact during sports. An example of an overuse injury is back strain among fast bowlers in cricket. Direct impact injuries are common in sports such as rugby, football and motor sports.

The injuries can be acute or chronic. Acute injuries are, ankle sprain, knee injury. Chronic injuries are caused by repeated overuse of muscle groups or joints. Poor technique and structural abnormalities can also contribute to the development of chronic injuries.

Medical investigation of any sports injury is important, because you may be hurt more severely than you think. For example, what seems like an ankle sprain may actually be a bone fracture.

TYPES OF SPORTS INJURIES

Some of the more common sports injuries include:

- Ankle sprain** - symptoms are, pain, swelling, warmth.
- Bruises** - a blow can cause small bleeds into the skin (contusions).
- Concussion** - Due to an impact on the head a transient loss of consciousness can occur. Consciousness is regained. Symptoms include headache, dizziness and short term memory loss.
- Cuts and abrasions** - are usually caused by falls. The knees and hands are particularly prone. Common in rugby.
- Dehydration** - losing too much fluid can lead to heat exhaustion and heat stroke.
- Dental damage** - a blow to the jaw can crack, break or dislodge teeth.
- Groin strain** - symptoms include pain and swelling.
- Hamstring strain** - symptoms include pain, swelling and bruising.
- Knee joint injuries** - symptoms include pain, swelling and stiffness. The ligaments, tendons or cartilage can be affected, i.e. anterior cruciate ligament injury
- Nose injuries** - nose bleeding or broken nose, are caused by a direct blow.
- Stress fractures** - particularly, in the lower limbs. The impact of repeated jumping or running on hard surfaces can eventually stress and crack bone.

Specialist medical attention is needed in the following injuries. Immediate transfer to a nearby tertiary hospital is a priority. prolonged loss of consciousness neck or spine injuries broken bones injuries to the head or face eye injuries abdominal injuries. In head and neck injuries cervical spine has to be stabilised before moving the injured. Application of a hard collar around the neck and stabilising the spine is a priority.

TREATMENT FOR SPORTS INJURIES

Treatment depends on the type and severity of the injury. Always see your doctor if pain persists after a couple of days. What you think is a straightforward sprain may actually be a fractured bone. No one should suffer in pain. Pain can be controlled by interventional blocks and medications. This can be achieved by consulting a specialist in sports medicine or a specialist in pain medicine.

Physiotherapy can help to rehabilitate the injured site and, depending on the injury, may include exercises to promote strength and flexibility. Returning to sport after injury depends on your doctor's or physiotherapist's assessment.

Trying to play before the injury is properly healed would only cause further damage and delay recovery. The biggest single risk factor for soft tissue injury is a previous injury. While the injury heals, you can maintain your fitness by choosing forms of exercise that don't involve that part of your body, if possible.

PREVENTION OF SPORTS INJURIES

You can reduce your risk of sports injuries if you:

- Warm up thoroughly by gently going through the motions of your sport and performing slow, sustained stretches.
- Wear appropriate footwear.
- Tape or strap vulnerable joints, if necessary.
- Use the appropriate safety equipment, such as mouth guards, helmets and pads.
- Drink plenty of fluids before, during and after the game.
- Try to avoid exercising during the hottest part of the day, between 11 am and 3 pm.
- Maintain a good level of overall fitness, particularly, in the off season (in the months between playing seasons for a sport).
- Cross-train with other sports to ensure overall fitness and muscle strength.
- Ensure that training includes appropriate speed and impact work so muscles are capable of the demands of a game situation.
- Don't exert yourself beyond your level of fitness. Gradually increase intensity and duration of training.
- Use good form and technique.
- Cool down after sport with gentle, sustained stretches.
- Allow adequate recovery time between sessions.
- Have regular medical check-ups.

Dr Namal Senasinghe MBBS, Dip in Pain Med, FFARCS, FPMCA, CCST(U.K) is a Consultant in pain medicine at the London Pain Management Centre, No. 31, Horton Place, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka. Hotline 0767155716

Features

Crime that shocked the nation

Seventeen women were gang-raped, brutally murdered and dumped into shallow graves

BY LEON BERENGER

It was a cold and misty December morning in the hill station of Nuwara Eliya when the private security officer left his guard room and headed towards the washroom near the main entrance of the sprawling garage.

As he was about to enter the washroom the guard was forced to stop in his tracks when the piercing and frightening scream of a woman tore through the stillness of the morning.

Turning around almost instantly the man looked towards the location from where the screams had originated and from where he stood, the guard could vaguely notice some figures as clear visibility was poor owing to the prevailing misty conditions.

Security guard

The woman screamed again and then everything was silent and the guard noticed that the figures quickly vanished into a nearby wooded area.

The guard quickly ran up to the spot where the screams had started only to stumble on to a gory sight.

On the centre of the road a neatly clad woman lay in a pool of blood with a ghastly wound on her head and there was no one else to be seen.

Even at the same time he heard some hurried voices coming from the wooded area and he thought he had recognised the voice of one person, something that would be of much help later on.

The guard raised the alarm and cried out for help which brought two estate labourers to the scene and the group later took the unconscious woman to the nearby Nuwara Eliya Base Hospital where she was immediately wheeled into the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in a life-threatening condition. And then the police were called in to investigate.

Poor visibility

Investigators had very little clues to go on since there were no signs of robbery and had to rely on the statements provided by the security guard.

Here again the guard was not able to identify the attackers owing to the poor visibility on that morning but nonetheless he mentioned the name



of the voice he thought to have heard.

The police were not convinced and were forced to detain the security guard for further questioning until such time the victim would recover and provide more information.

And recover she did after three days and the security guard was produced before her for identification purposes.

The woman, a mother of two and serving as a Grama Sevaka in the Nuwara Eliya Division quickly told the police that the man before her was not among the group that had attacked her.

She added that one attacker was dark in complexion and had protruding teeth and that is all she could remember.

This was music to the ears of the security guard since the voice he heard on that day was that of a man with that description who he knew

and this was immediately conveyed to police.

The man who was identified only as Ganesh was a labourer attached to a sprawling state guest house close to the spot where the woman was attacked.

Police line-up

The suspect was also known to the security guard since their workplaces were in close proximity.

Shortly thereafter the man known as Ganesh was arrested and immediately identified by the woman at a police line-up.

After intense interrogation Ganesh would give the names of four

others involved in the same attack and provided more gory details in the crimes they had committed over one year and more.

The modus-operandi of the gang was evil and simple as investigators were to find out.

The gang would monitor the movements of their intended victim for several days before making their grab.

The victim is at first bashed on the head with a heavy garden scissor and then later the lifeless victim is dragged into the state estate and later bound and gagged and left in a cow shed.

The group, later systematically gang-raped the semi-conscious woman for over two days. The victim is later strangled to death and dumped in a

shallow grave in a wild lily patch sandwiched between the main Nuwara Eliya Colombo Road and the sprawling golf links.

The group was responsible for 17 such killings and all the victims were dumped in shallow graves in the same lily patch.

The suspects also robbed cash and whatever valuables from their victims prior to the funeral.

Armed militias

The killings took place at the height of the uprising of the Janatha Vimukthi Perumana (JVP) where there were a lot of movements of armed militias and insurgents and a lot of people went missing without a trace.

The women targeted by the gang had also been reported missing by their relatives and even employers but it grabbed limited interest of the police since such happenings were practically the order of the day during that dark era.

However, if the police had carefully scrutinised the list it would have been discovered that the 17 persons were all females something that should have needed more scrutiny but that was not the case and the rest is history.

The remains of the murdered women dug out from the graves were subsequently identified by national identity cards, handbags, hairpins, footwear, pieces of tattered clothing and so on.

It was also found out that the suspects were addicted to pornography movies which they would watch for a fee at a clandestine make-shift theatre close proximity to the Mayor's office in the heart of the town.

It was also revealed that the women were dragged to their graves mainly in the night since there were no movements during that time due to a dusk to dawn curfew that was in force during that time.

American millionaire

The state owned compound in which the suspects were employed also gave them the perfect cover since it was a high security zone and outsiders were strictly prohibited from entering the premises.

Interestingly it was around the same time that an American millionaire visited the country in search of his daughter who had gone missing without a trace.

Her name was Sandra Valentini and the local print media provided front page space to highlight the case.

The father had also offered a million rupees to anyone providing information that would lead to his missing daughter's whereabouts.

The suspects were not aware of all this but during interrogation they did say that the missing white woman that was published in many newspapers was included among their 17 victims. Then at the end of it all the suspects too went missing without a trace.....case closed!

'Readers' Voice'

Untold cruelty on the voiceless

Even though we celebrated 73 years of independence, the voiceless still have no freedom to live in peace as animal abuse is rampant in the country. The Kalutara district is in the spotlight as tragic incidents occur daily, making one wonder how compassion towards fellow creatures has disappeared. This is an eternal battle for the few organisations and animal activists who have dedicated their lives to this humane cause.

Listed below are incidents which will shock the nation.

Around four months ago a heinous crime took place around midnight at the riverside bordering Wettemaheda Junction- Cooray Road in close proximity to the Kani Lanka Hotel, when 15 community dogs with limbs tightly bound were drowned in the Kalu Ganga. Although there are many eyewitnesses to the incident fear prevents them from coming forward to testify publicly.

In another incident near a prominent girls' school in the area some parents displayed their hatred for the voiceless in the presence of two prominent animal lovers from Kalutara, Dharani Sivam and Jesmin Junkeer volunteered for the daily feeding, medication and overall well-being of street dogs in the vicinity. This is carried out with their personal funds and any random donations that flow in. One healthy male pup succumbed to his injuries as a result



Dharani Sivam

of repeated torment and abuse.

One shudders at the most recent incident which took place in Maggona where two pregnant animals were found poisoned. The team from 'Save a Paw' exhumed the carcasses and a vet in the area carried out the post mortem in the presence of Jesmin Junkeer. Now there are repeated threats from the residents to get rid of all litters.

Jesmin Junkeer has opened her home to over 25 strays that she feeds daily, apart from the street feeding program. Dharani Sivam while balancing a full time office job, manages the road feeding on her way to work and on weekends. Any accident victims and tragic cases are taken over by these courageous women, responsible for the medication and vet bills. After the healing process they try to find suitable homes for the injured.



Jesmin Junkeer

However, it hasn't always been easy and on many instances they are compelled to take over the animals to be adopted.

Sivam and Junkeer are now running low on funds, compelling them to plea for public support to continue their humane task.

They stress that sterilisation is the key to control the ever growing stray population. They appeal to all Animal Welfare Groups, Activists and supporters to unite to address this problem. Junkeer could be contacted on 0711460853 and Sivam on 0776297005. dharanishivam@gmail.com

The lack of Animal Protection laws in the country is the prime cause for all the abuse and suffering. Only when the Animal Welfare Bill is legally passed, could there be peace!

Chummy De Fonseka
Nawala



Losing Colombo Port deal should help India focus

The mandate of Vizhinham (upcoming port in Kerala) is to aggregate Indian exim cargo and, thus, provide a counter to Colombo. If we are serious about atmanirbharta (self reliant India) as a concept, we must ensure that such cargo is handled in India instead of in a foreign port.

BY MICHAEL PINTO

Finally, even the combined efforts of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and a high-level visit from India's external affairs minister could not swing the Colombo port terminal deal India's way. If the minister's advocacy was for a project that would only be awarded to the best offer among several competitive bidders, and India's was not the best, one could understand this failure. Instead, it was to comply with the terms of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) that Sri Lanka signed in 2019 with India and Japan, per which the three countries would develop the East Container Terminal (ECT) in the Colombo port as a major centre for handling containers.

Although details of ownership had not been spelt out in the MOC, it was expected that it would follow the 85:15 pattern followed when China was allotted the contract to develop the Colombo Cargo Container Terminal (CCCT). Following the 2020 elections in Sri Lanka, however, the new government went back to the drawing board and changed a number of things.

At first, the idea was that the project would be implemented by the three partners, in the ratio of 51% for the Sri Lanka Port Authority (SLPA) and India and Japan sharing the remaining 49%. This, even though Japan was expected to come up with a soft loan of \$500 million for 40 years at an interest rate of 0.1% and India was expected to implement the project.

A little later, even this changed and the project was now to be developed exclusively by Sri Lanka. The ostensible reason for reneging on the MOC was that the trade unions in Sri Lanka were adamantly opposed to allowing the ECT to be developed by foreigners. Instead, there were feelers that India and Japan could develop a new project called the West Container Terminal (WCT). There were even

statements that the Indian partner, the Adani Group, was favourably inclined to the WCT that had all the advantages of the ECT and could come with an enhanced equity share of 85:15.

Broadly, this is where the matter now stands. But the alternative offer is not quite on all fours with the ECT project. For one, the project cost is likely to be much higher since the site will have to be developed from scratch. For another, it will come up much after the ECT project is operational and there may not be enough business in Colombo port to fill the extra capacity created. In such cases, the last entrant invariably suffers.

India is justified in feeling that it has been let down by the Sri Lankan government. There was, after all, an MOC that committed the Sri Lankans to accepting India and Japan as partners in the project. The excuse of opposition from trade unions rings false. If such projects are to be reserved for local investment, a sort of Sri Lankan *atmanirbharta* vision, then the allotment of the entire CCCT to China should have seen even greater opposition since 85% of the project went to the foreign partner. Besides, how does Sri Lanka's willingness to accommodate India in the development of the WCT square with its opposition to their involvement in the ECT?

While some righteous indignation may seem inevitable, India must look at this development not as an injured party that has been badly let down, but from the perspective of what it can salvage from the whole episode. The official spokesman of the MEA stated that India's longstanding interest in participating in the ECT is because nearly 70% of the goods handled in Sri Lanka either come from India or are destined for it. India's domination of the traffic handled in Colombo is correct, but how does this lead to the conclusion that India must run one out of a host of other terminals in Sri Lanka?

The real problem that the official spokesman's statement does not highlight is that, instead of handling our own cargo inside the country, we are quite content to allow it to be handled outside. It is this that must be reversed. Why must our cargo be aggregated in Colombo? Why not at a port in India? The answer usually has been that our ports are far from the main

shipping lanes and, therefore, do not attract mother vessels. These vessels usually call only at ports that do not require them to deviate very far from the main shipping lanes. This, too, is true, but our response to this has been to set up a hub port in Vizhinham in Kerala that, as far as location is concerned, can give Colombo a run for its money.

The irony is that the port at Vizhinham is being developed by the Adani group and is expected to be commissioned before too long. Yet, it is the Adani group that was supposed to implement the ECT project. How can it do both things? The Vizhinham port is touted as India's answer to Colombo and will compete with it in attracting transshipment cargo. If the same person invests in both projects, how will he deal with the fact that the two are in competition with each other? To which one will he accord priority?

The mandate of Vizhinham is to aggregate Indian exim cargo and thus provide a counter to Colombo. If we are serious about *atmanirbharta* as a concept, we must ensure that such cargo is handled in India instead of in a foreign port. The message to Indian policymakers should be: Forget ECT and the Colombo Port, develop your own hub port that will attract Indian cargo as well as cargo from other countries and snap your dependence on foreign ports.

The entire episode has thrown up positions that are strikingly at odds with the avowed goals of the parties. India should be keen to develop its own hub port so that it no longer has to rely on Colombo to fulfill that role. Instead, it is trying desperately to invest in a port in another country where the bulk of its cargo goes. By doing so, it loses out on the chance to handle it in one of its own ports.

Sri Lanka, on the other hand, should be eager to see that India does not develop its own hub port, but will always have to rely on Colombo for transshipment. The best way to achieve this is to offer attractive terms for India to invest in the ECT so that the preeminence of the Port of Colombo in the area remains unchallenged. The odd thing is that each country is doing exactly the opposite.

The author is the former Secretary (Shipping), Government of India (Source: Financial Express)

Ginige and Madurangi win TT titles

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Sri Lanka women's top ranked table tennis player Ishara Madurangi came back strongly to win the recently concluded Western Province tournament played at the S. Thomas' Gymnasium Mt Lavinia.

Madurangi the most experienced player in the National team said paddlers faced major issues like not having to participate in local or international tournaments for many months and unable to maintain their skills. However, they are lucky to have participated in two tournaments during these two months.

"In the first tournament held in Kegalle for the Mahipala Herath Challenge Trophy I lost in the semi-final to Madumali Priyadarshani of the Navy. I focused on this tournament and practiced hard and was fortunate to win the title by defeating the previous champion Priyadarshani in the final," said Madurangi.

At 31 years Madurangi said that age is not a barrier to perform well. Her first coach was Anura Lal who began teaching the skills and now it is the former national champion Rohan Sirisena with whom she is working hard to go forward. She also noted that maintaining fitness is important.

"Paddlers from China, Japan, Malaysia and Indonesia are very talented and hold world rankings. Valuable experience can be gained by playing against them. My next aim is to win a medal at the 2022 Commonwealth Games," said Madurangi.



Chameera Ginige the men's winner (right) and Ishara Madurangi the women's champion pose with their trophies

Chameera Ginige from Sri Jayewardenepura University won the Open men's title defeating 14 year old Senura Silva in the final.

The doubles events were not conducted due to health regulations

and the Table Tennis Association of Sri Lanka (TTASL) plans to conduct ranking tournaments before the forthcoming International tournament to give local paddlers more experience.

RESULTS:

Women's open quarter finals, Ishara Madurangi (Ports Authority) beat Ayla Chitty (Ladies College, Colombo), Erandi Warusavithana (Raigam Marketing) beat Bimandi Bandara (Hillwood College, Kandy) 11/8, 4/11, 11/8, 11/7, Hansani Piyumala (Navy) beat Jithara Warnakulasuriya (Ladies College Colombo) 4/11, 11/7, 11/9, 11/2, Mudumali Priyadarshani (Navy) beat Thanushi Rodrigo 11/6, 11/7, 11/9.

(semi finals): Ishara Madurangi beat Erandi Warusavithana 11/1, 11/3, 11/4, and Mudumali Priyadarshani beat Hansani Piyumala 11/8, 11/13, 11/5, 11/5.

(final): Ishara Madurangi beat Mudumali Priyadarshani 11/6, 11/9, 11/7.

Men's open quarter finals: Krishan Wickramaratne (VOB-SC) beat Imantha Udanjaya (Army) 11/5, 11/7, 11/5, Chameera Ginige (Uni. Sri Jayewardenepura) beat Prasad de Silva (Road Dev) 5/11, 8/11, 11/9, 11/4, 11/9, Supun Warasuwithana (Uni. Moratuwa) beat Chanul Dulsen (Dharmasoka, Ambalangoda) 11/5, 11/6, 5/11, 12/10, Senura Silva (Ananda College) beat Milinda Lakshitha (OMBC) 10/12, 11/5, 11/8, 11/9.

Men's semi finals: Chameera Ginige beat Krishan Wickramaratne 11/8, 3/11, 11/7, 10/12, 11/7, Senura Silva beat Supun Warasuwithana. 11/7, 11/9, 10/12, 12/10.

Men's final: Chameera Ginige bt Senura Silva 7/11, 11/9, 11/5, 9/11, 11

Chamari Atapattu takes up 'Big Girls Can' crusade

Sri Lanka women's cricket captain Chamari Atapattu has taken up a campaign to boost the confidence, rights and dignity of young girls who face embarrassment after attaining age.

Atapattu contends that her Movement will help young girls overcome all social barriers and enable them to excel in their chosen fields like sports and other challenging activities.

Atapattu is also a Red Bull athlete and wants to break the stereotypical thinking to inspire millions of young girls prevail in society and follow their dreams through the BIG GIRLS CAN concept especially in sports.

Atapattu herself hails from a conservative village in Kurunegala.

However, her parents recognized both her dream and her talent and gave her the chance and the encouragement she needed to become a world-renowned name in cricket.

"The ultimate goal is to gather inspiring characters, opinion leaders and parents to support this movement and build awareness to guide the young girls to move forward continuously and drive them to become world champions," said Atapattu.



Chamari Atapattu



Dharmika Prasad

Dharmika Prasad brings down the curtain

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

There is speculation that several Sri Lankan cricketers will be announcing their retirement from the sport in order to migrate to the USA who have opened the doors for cricketers to come in.

However, 37-year-old right arm paceman Dharmika Prasad confirmed that he has no intention of moving out of Sri Lanka after his retirement from international cricket.

"I have no regrets as a cricketer. I thoroughly enjoyed my playing days alongside great gentlemen and I am retiring happily. This is the reality and have to face it. The only sadness or regret I have in my life is that I could not achieve something that I promised.

"After my injury my daughter told me to somehow play for Sri Lanka again. I promised her that I will, but unfortunately, I was not able to fulfill her wishers. Sorry Putha, Thatthi could not play again. I think I did not disappoint any of you.

"I tried hard to come back. It is not easy to represent the national team and it was a great privilege and an honour to represent Sri Lanka," said an emotional Prasad at his official retirement

press briefing at his club SSC on Thursday.

"I plan to play first class cricket for two more years. I started my cricketing career in 2001 and till today I have represented only the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC). As I retire from my international career, I also thought of retiring from SSC too with the main intention of giving the opportunity to a younger player," added Prasad a product of De Mazenod College Kandana.

Prasad's international career that spanned over 15 years had him play 25 Test matches and 25 ODIs.

His debut Test was in 2008 against India at the P. Sara Oval and ended his Test career in 2015 against West Indies at the same venue. He captained SSC in 2019 and guided the youngsters on the correct path.

Former Sri Lankan skipper and coach Marvan Atapattu is the person who invited Prasad to join SSC after having observed his bowling performances at school level.

"Prasad had the ability to bowl well with both the new and old ball. Usually fast bowlers prefer to bowl with the new ball to get opening batters dismissed soon," said Atapattu.

South Africa's Faf du Plessis calls it a day in Tests

Faf du Plessis, the last survivor of South African cricket's golden age in Test cricket, announced on Wednesday that he had retired from Test matches with immediate effect.

Du Plessis, 36, said in a statement on his Instagram account that he would continue to be available for one-day and Twenty20 internationals.

"The next two years are ICC T20 World Cup years. Because of this, my focus is shifting to this format and I want to play as much of it as possible around the world so that I can be the best player I can possibly be," he said.

"I strongly believe that I have a lot to offer to the Proteas in this format."

Du Plessis said he would be

having discussions about his future with Cricket South Africa in the next few months.

"My heart is clear and the time is right to walk into a new chapter," he said.

"It has been an honour to play for my country in all the formats of the game, but the time has come for me to retire from Test cricket."

He captained South Africa in 36 of his 69 Test matches, winning 18 and losing 15.

South Africa were already ranked as the number one team in Test cricket when Du Plessis made his debut in the second Test against Australia in Adelaide in 2012.

He was playing alongside some of South Africa's greatest players, including Graeme Smith, Hashim Amla, Jacques Kallis, AB de Villiers,

Dale Steyn and Morne Morkel.

But it was his man of the match performance that set up a second successive series win in Australia for the Proteas.

After making 78 in the first innings, Du Plessis batted for more than seven-and-a-half hours and faced 376 balls in the second innings, scoring 110 not out and enabling South Africa to escape with a draw.

He made another half-century as South Africa won the next Test in Perth to clinch the series.

Du Plessis went on to score 4,163 runs in Test matches at an average of 40.02.

He hit ten centuries and made his highest score of 199 against Sri Lanka on his home ground at Centurion Park last December. (AFP)



Faf du Plessis

Kalutara cricket umpire retires after 30 years



Chandranath Weerakkody of the Kalutara District Umpires Association who served for 30 years retired from umpiring.

Here the Kalutara District

Cricket Association organized a match to give him a grand farewell at the Kalutara Public Cricket Ground recently.

Prior to the commencement

of the match a guard of honour was held with the participation of the two teams and the Kalutara district umpires and other well wishers.

Chris Morris most expensive IPL player

South African Chris Morris became the most expensive player bought for the Indian Premier League when Rajasthan Royals paid \$2.25 million as part of a spending spree by the world's richest Twenty20 tournament.

A host of stars from top cricket nations picked up million dollar-plus contracts for the 10-week tournament that is expected to start in April.

"Serious money" was laid out, said England wicket keeper batsman Jonny Bairstow. The fee for the 33-year-old Morris smashed the record \$2.2 million paid for Yuvraj Singh by Delhi in 2015. Australian bowler Pat Cummins had previously been the most expensive foreign player, costing Kolkata Knight Riders \$2.17m in 2019.

The IPL clubs opened up their cheque books as they seek to rebound from the coronavirus pandemic which forced them to play behind closed doors last year. (AFP)

Trinity sign up two Lions ahead of revamp season

By Hafiz Marikar



Three former Trinity College ruggers Pradeep Basnayake, Kavinda Jayasena both Lion winners and Thusitha de Silva a Coloursman who were named by the Old Trinitians Rugby scrummage to handle coaching for another season at their AGM, have accepted to do the job.

Trinity College played its first inter-school game in 1906 against Kingswood College which game ended in a 6-all draw. Currently the players are in gym workouts and looking ahead to a new season.

At the last AGM Old Trinitians Rugby Scrummage named Rodney Soibola the former All Blacks as the Consultant head coach while Thusitha de Silva was named as the Backs coach while Basnayake was named as the Coach and Advisor.

He is a double International having represented the country in rugby and Basketball and is a world rugby level II course holder. He played for Kandy SC for ten years and many years for the country.

Jayasena was named as the manager cum forwards coach. He is an IRB rugby commissioner and the present overall rugby manager of Trinity College rugby. At national level he represented the Sri Lanka Youth team in 1999 and in 2001 played for the Sri Lanka team in the World Cup qualifying matches. He was team manager of Havelock Sports Club and was recently awarded the match day commissioner workshop certificate by Asia Rugby.

Tusutha de Silva is also an IRB Level I and 2 qualified coach.

Trinity College has been known as the cradle of Sri Lanka schools rugby for well over a century as the college from the hill capital produced many outstanding ruggers



Pradeep Basnayake



Kavinda Jayasena



Thusitha de Silva

and champion sides, including five unbeaten teams.

However, since the Lions' last all-conquering First XV side of 1987, under the inspiring captaincy of Tyrrell Rajapakse and legendary coach Alex Lazarus, there has not been another champion team.

That is a 29-year gap and was a case of so near yet so far for Trinity

on a few occasions since '87 and the Trinitians will have to pull up their socks to ensure their championship hiatus does not extend beyond three painful decades.

This is quite a startling and unenviable record for a proud institution that has a supreme legacy in rugby, having dominated the field from the 1920s through to the '80s.

SPORTS

BEIJING 2008 MOTTO, "ONE WORLD, ONE DREAM"

CALLED UPON THE WHOLE WORLD TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE

By
Rear Admiral
Dr. Shemal
Fernando, PhD



The 2008 Summer Olympic Games, officially known as the Games of the XXIX Olympiad was the most expansive ever, with 16 days of competition from August 8 to 24. China embraced the ideals of the Olympics with its official motto, "One World, One Dream" and called upon the whole world to join in the Olympic spirit to build a better future for humanity. The mascots of Beijing 2008 were five Fuwa, each of which represented both a colour of the Olympic rings and a symbol of Chinese culture.

The Games auspiciously began at 8:08 p. m. on the eighth day of the eighth month of 2008 in Beijing, capital of the world's most populous country. China widely promoted a green and high-tech Summer Olympics in Beijing 2008 and was determined to show the world, through an Olympics lens, that it had joined the ranks of the world's most modern and influential countries. According to Nielsen Media Research, 4.7 billion viewers worldwide tuned into some of the television coverage.

It was the Summer Olympic Games of records and superlatives. There were many memorable champions but it was Michael Phelps of the United States and Usain Bolt of Jamaica who stole the headlines. The metronomic record-breaking machine Michael Phelps bettered Mark Spitz's achievement at the Munich 1972 by claiming eight gold medals and the incredible showman and scene-stealer Usain Bolt broke both 100m and 200m world records and claimed a third gold and record with the Jamaican 4x100m relay team.

The organization was excellent and the venues breathtaking. The National Stadium, nick-named the "Bird's Nest", and the National Swimming Centre, known as the "Water Cube", were both stunning symbols of the new Beijing. In cycling, the road race followed the Great Wall and passed in front of the "Forbidden City" - two symbols of the thousand year old history of the city. This was the first time China hosted the Summer Olympic Games, and the third time the Games had been held in East Asia, following Tokyo 1964 and Seoul 1988.

The design of the 2008 Olympic Torch was based on traditional Chinese scrolls and used a traditional Chinese design known as the "Propitious Clouds." The torch was designed to remain lit in 65 km/h winds, and in rain of up to 50 mm per hour. The torch relay, with the theme "Journey of Harmony," lasted 130 days and carried 137,000 km - the longest distance of any Olympic torch relay since the tradition began in Berlin 1936. The flame was carried to the top of Mount Everest on a 108 km long highway scaling the Tibetan side of the mountain, built especially for the relay.

Opening and Closing Ceremonies

The Opening Ceremony declared open by the President Hu Jintao on August 8, 2008 was unforgettable. It was lauded by spectators and social media as spectacular, spellbinding and by many accounts, "the greatest ever in the history of Olympics." The official logo was titled, "Dancing Beijing." The theme song, "You and Me," was performed by Chinese singer Liu Huan and British singer Sarah Brightman. The ceremony was co-directed by Chinese filmmaker Zhang Yimou and Chinese choreographer Zhang Jigang and featured a cast of over 15,000 performers. The ceremony lasted over four hours.

A rich assembly of ancient Chinese art and culture dominated the ceremony. It opened with the beating of Fou drums for the countdown. Subsequently, a giant scroll was unveiled and became the show's centerpiece. The former Chinese gymnast Li Ning ignited the cauldron, after being suspended into the air by wires and completing a lap of the National Stadium at roof height. Hein Verbruggen, chairman of the IOC Coordination Commission for the XXIX Olympiad, called the ceremony "a grand, unprecedented success."

The Closing Ceremony on August 24, 2008 concluded the Beijing Games. It included handover of the

Games from Beijing to London with Guo Jinlong, the Mayor of Beijing handing over the Olympic flag to the Mayor of London Boris Johnson, followed by a spectacular performance by London Organizing Committee that featured Footballer David Beckham.

Sports and Medals

A total of 10,942 athletes - 4,637 women and 6,305 men, competed for medals in 302 events in 28 sports under 41 disciplines. Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Mauritius and Togo all experienced podium finishes for the first time. However, Mongolia and Panama managed to go one better with their athletes bringing home their country's first Olympic gold medals. Four members of the water polo team from Serbia won the first medal for their country under its new name.

Nine new events were held, including two from the new cycling discipline of BMX and 3,000m steeplechase for women. Open water swimming events for men and women, over the distance of 10 km, were added to swimming. Team events in table tennis replaced the doubles events. Three countries participated in the Olympic Games for their first time: the Marshall Islands, Montenegro and Tuvalu. An unprecedented 87 countries won at least one medal during the Games.

Athletes from China won the highest number of gold medals of any nation at these Games, with 48, thus making China the seventh nation to rank top in the medal table in the history of the modern Olympics, along with the United States (15 times), the Soviet Union (6 times), France (1900), Great Britain (1908), Germany (1936), and the Unified Team (1992). The United States placed second in the gold medal tally, but won the highest of 112 overall. The third place in the gold medal tally was achieved by Russia.

Phelps Rewrites Olympic Records

The 23-year Baltimore already had six gold medals under his belt after a dramatic Olympic debut in Athens 2004, and his sights were set on the record of most gold medals in a single Olympics. Phelps undoubtedly had the ability to win the individual events but so much can go wrong in the relays, their unpredictability being their main appeal and he would ultimately depend on his team-mates for three of his gold medals.

Phelps started with his first gold in 400m individual medley, when he shaved a second off his own world record. Golds and world records followed in 200m freestyle, 200m butterfly, 200m individual medley while he and his team mates clinched gold with some ease in 4x200m freestyle relay and 100m medley relay. As he took gold in 200m freestyle he joined athletes Carl Lewis and Paavo Nur-

mi, gymnast Larisa Latynina and Spitz on the record of nine Olympic golds.

He passed them with his win in 200m butterfly. It was not all plain sailing though. In two events Phelps' hopes of eight golds looked dead and buried - 4x100m freestyle relay and 100m butterfly. Phelps finished 2008 with eight gold medals to his name from Beijing, 14 overall - five more than any other Olympian in the history of the Games.

Usain Bolt Takes Sprint Double

When Usain Bolt flew in to Beijing, there was just a handful of camera crews waiting to receive him. By the time the Jamaican sprinter left Beijing, pretty much every camera in the city was turned on him. At the start of 2008, the talk was of a 100m showdown in Beijing between Asafa Powell and Tyson Gay. In September 2007 Powell had claimed the outright world record with a blistering run of 9.74secs in Italy. He and Gay were developing one of the classic sprint rivalries that make the event the most compelling of them all.

Bolt had long been perceived as a 200m specialist. But a little over two months before Beijing, Bolt felt the time was right for a concerted crack in the 100m and he proceeded to take two hundredths of a second off Powell's best mark. At Olympics, it was Bolt who was catching the eye and his 9.85secs in the semis, run in a relaxed fashion, marked him out as the favourite. The world was beginning to see what a showman Bolt was. As the cameras panned along the row of finalists, Bolt pointed to his 'serious' mouth to show how much he was focusing on the task.

As the eight athletes settled on the blocks, there was tense hush in the stadium, with the roar of the gas fuelling the Olympic flame just about the only sound audible to those in the stadium.

The following 9.69secs were to enter into Olympic folklore. After



Usain Bolt - Three Athletics Olympic Golds

establishing his smooth running stride at the halfway mark, Bolt flew clear of his rivals and slapped his chest in celebration at around the 80m marker, so complete was his dominance. It turned out, as replays indicated, that he even ran the race with one of his shoelaces undone. A star was born, and so was his trademark victory pose. The Games would hear a lot more from this 21-year from Kingston.

Key Achievers in a Nutshell

August 9: The first gold medal of Beijing 2008 was won by Czech marksman Katerina Emmons in the women's 10m air rifle event.

August 10: American swimmer Michael Phelps won his first gold in the 400m individual medley. Guo Jingjing, two-time gold medal winner at the Athens 2004, took home the third gold as a member of the victorious Chinese team in the 3m synchronized springboard diving event.

August 11: India's Abhinav Bindra won the first gold in his coun-

try's history by taking the men's 10m air rifle event. Phelps continued his historic quest for eight gold medals winning 4x100m freestyle relay.

August 12: Togo's Benjamin Boukpeti won his country's first medal - a bronze in the men's single kayak slalom event. China took home the gold in the men's team gymnastics event. American swimmer Natalie Coughlin repeated as gold medalist in the women's 100m backstroke event. The first two wrestling gold medals of the Beijing Games were awarded to Russia's Nazyr Mankiev and Islam-Beka Albiev for winning the Greco-Roman 55-kg and 60-kg weight classes, respectively.

August 13: American swimmer Michael Phelps won his 10th and 11th career Olympic gold medals - his fourth and fifth of the 2008 Games - to break the previous record of nine gold medals. China's women's gymnastics team won the country's first gold in the artistic team event. The cycling individual time trial gold were won by Fabian Cancellara of Italy and Kristin Armstrong of the United States. Chinese weightlifter Liu Chunhong defended her Athens 2004 gold by winning the women's 69-kg division of the weightlifting event. Liu broke world records in all three weightlifting categories - the snatch, the clean and jerk, and total weight.

August 14: Tuvshinbayar Naidan of Mongolia won the first gold for his country by taking the men's 100-kg judo event. Yang Wei of China won the men's individual all-around gymnastics gold. Japanese swimmer Kitajima Kosuke won the men's 200m breaststroke gold. The Ukrainian women's sabre team upset the top-seeded U.S. team and host China en route to winning the gold.

August 15: Michael Phelps won his sixth Olympic event as he captured the gold in the 200m individual medley. American gymnast Nastia Liukin won the gold in the women's individual all-around competition. Brothers Pavol Hochschorner and Peter Hochschorner of Slovakia won their third consecutive Olympic gold in the men's double canoeing slalom event. The two had previously won the event at Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004.

August 16: Jamaica's Usain Bolt broke his own world record in the men's 100m sprint final clocking 9.69 sec to earn his first Olympic gold. Michael Phelps of the United States won his seventh gold of the Beijing in the 100m butterfly event to tie Mark Spitz's Olympic record.

August 17: Michael Phelps broke the 36-year-old record of gold medals won in a single Olympic Games by winning his eighth gold of the Beijing Games as a member of the 4x100m medley relay team. Jamaica continued its domination of the



Michael Phelps - Eight Swimming Olympic Golds



The Olympic flame is lit by Li Ning at the Opening Ceremony of Beijing 2008

sprints as all three medalists in the women's 100m sprint final led by gold medal winner Shelly-Ann Fraser hailed from that country. China won the women's team table tennis event to break the country's record for gold medals in one Olympic Games with 33. Rafael Nadal of Spain won the gold in the men's tennis singles event, becoming the first player with a top-five ranking to do so. Russia's Elena Dementieva captured the gold in the women's tennis singles.

August 18: Russia's Yelena Isinbayeva broke her own women's pole vault world record by clearing 5.05 m and took her second consecutive Olympic gold in the event. American Stephanie Brown Trafton captured the gold in the women's discus throw. Emma Snowsill of Australia won the gold in the women's triathlon.

August 19: Cyclist Chris Hoy of Great Britain won the men's sprint, his third gold medal of the Beijing Games after wins in the men's keirin and team sprint events. Hoy is the first Briton in 100 years to take home three gold medals in one Olympic Games. Russia's Mavlet Batirov won the men's 60-kg freestyle wrestling gold. Li Xiaopeng of China won the men's parallel bars gymnastics event.

August 20: Usain Bolt of Jamaica won his second sprint gold medal of the Beijing Games by taking the 200m sprint in 19.30 sec, breaking Michael Johnson's 12-year world record in the process. Bouvassa Saitiev of Russia won his record-tying third career wrestling gold medal by taking the men's 55-kg freestyle event. Russia's Larisa Ilchenko won the gold in the women's 10-km marathon swim. South Africa's Natalie du Toit, the first female amputee to compete in an Olympics event, finished 16th. Rohullah Nikpai gave Afghanistan its first ever medal when he won the Taekwondo men's under 58kg bronze medal.

August 21: The Japanese softball team upset the favoured U.S. team to take the softball final. It was the United States' first Olympic softball loss in eight years. The American women's soccer team scored a goal in extra time to win the gold medal match over Brazil, 1-0. Americans Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh won the women's beach volleyball gold medal, duplicating their victory at the 2004 Athens Games. Jamaica's Veronica Campbell-Brown won the women's 200-metre sprint, giving her country a sweep of the men's and women's sprint events at the Beijing Games. Danielle de Brujin scored seven goals - including the game winner, with 26 seconds left in the Netherlands' upset victory over the top-seeded U.S. team in the women's water polo final.

August 22: American Bryan Clay won the men's decathlon gold four years after finishing with the silver at Athens 2004. France's Anne-Caroline Chausson and Latvia's Maris Strombergs won the women's and men's inaugural Olympic BMX cycling gold medals. Philip Dalhausser and Todd Rogers of the United States took the men's beach volleyball gold, making the United States the first country to sweep both Olympic beach volleyball gold medals since the discipline debuted in 1996. The women's and men's 4x100m sprint relays were won by the Russian and Jamaican teams, respectively.

August 23: American runners swept both the men's and women's 4x400m relays, with the men's team winning their race in Olympic record time. South Korea defeated Cuba 3-2 to win the baseball gold medal. The U.S. women's basketball team won its fourth consecutive Olympic gold, beating Australia 92-65. Brazil took the gold in women's volleyball, defeating the United States for the country's first Olympic win in the event.

August 24: The U.S. men's basketball team, featuring such National Basketball Association superstars as LeBron James, Kobe Bryant, and Carmelo Anthony defeated Spain 118-107 for the gold in the event. Kenya's Sammy Wanjiru won the men's marathon, the first Olympic gold in the event in the country's history. The American men's volleyball team won its first gold in 20 years. Zou Shiming won the light flyweight (48kg), the first boxing gold in China's history.

(The author highlights spectrum of sports extravaganza. He is the winner of Presidential Academic Award for Sports in 2017 and 2018 and recipient of National Accolades for Academic pursuits. He possesses a PhD, MPhil and double MSc)

Yupun Abeykoon finishes fourth at Polish indoor meet

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Sri Lanka's fastest man Yupun Abeykoon finished his Indoor athletic series with the Poland Orlan Cup Athletic Championship last week as he ended in fourth place in the final meet that gave him ample exposure in the event.

Abeykoon was fortunate to have run along with leading runners in the 60m event. There were Michael Rodgers from the USA and Jacob Marshall from Italy who are among the best in the world.

Abeykoon finished the race in 6.66 seconds which was equal to the third finisher while Rodgers finished in 6.52 seconds.

Abeykoon was also able to set a new Sri Lanka record in the event with 6.59 seconds. This shattered his own record of 6.78 seconds set in 2017.

The 26-year-old athlete Abeykoon came to the limelight

last year after setting a new National and South Asian record in the 100m at an International meet held in Dassau, Germany.

His time of 10.16 seconds bettered the previous record of 10.22 seconds held by Himasha Eshan in 2016.

Abeykoon who is based in Italy since 2015 is endeavouring to enhance his timing so that he can qualify for the Olympics and is currently training under Raparelli and Licciardello in Italy.

Abeykoon represented Sri Lanka at the South Asian Junior Championship in 2013 held in Ranchi and was in the 4x100m relay team at the World Military Games in 2015 that won a bronze medal.

His last appearance for Sri Lanka was in the South Asian Games when he anchored the 4x100m relay team that won the gold medal.



Yupun Abeykoon competes at the Poland championships

Eliyakanda Hill Climb to herald racing in Sri Lanka

BY BERNARD PERERA

The 25th edition of the Eliyakanda Hill Climb 2021 which is set to be flagged off on February 27 and 28 is to be named as the SLTMobil Speedup-Eliyakanda Hill Climb and was officially launched on Tuesday at the SLT Auditorium in Colombo.

SLT has been the main sponsor of the event for the last seven years and this is the eighth occasion they come as the main sponsor for this prestigious racing event which is considered the most looked forward to by all competitors in the country.

This year the Southern Motor Sports Club has decided to have the Hill Climb over two days for the first time due to the present Covid - 19 pandemic situation. On the first day only motor cycles will be held while the drivers are to run the Climb on day two.

All participants are to be present with a negative PCR report along with their two crew members. Due to the health restrictions only

participants and their two member crew is allowed to be around the 675 meter climbing stretch following regulated distance rule.

Dilan Seneviratne in a Mitsubishi Evo 9 who set a new course record clocking 32.422 seconds in 2019 said that Eliyakanda is a well organized event by SMSC which also had the best course for a hill Climb.

The Course with four tricky corners challenges drivers and riders to show their skills in handling the machines in the proper manner. It is one of the most difficult courses when it comes to challenging others to be winners here. I was lucky to be the winner in 2019 erasing the record held by my colleague Dinesh Jayawardene," said Seneviratne.

The one time Champion rider Maduranga Caldera who competed for nine consecutive years also commended the organizers and said that it will be an example to be followed by other racing clubs to continue with racing in Sri Lanka.



Chief Marketing Officer of SLTMobil Prabath Dahanayake presents the sponsorship to the president of the Southern Motor Sports Club Dr. Sanjaya Sedera Senarath. The other co-sponsors for the Hill Climb are Mobil, Wurth, Merchant Bank and Motor Sports Network as the Media Partner. (Pic by Saliya Rupasinghe)



The cricketing twins: Front row from left: RA Ajith Kumara and RA Pushpa Kumara, Ramesh Avishka and Sachin Kavishka, Thanusha Lakmal and Thanuja Lakshan, Amila Kulatunga and Thilina Kulatunga, Darren Ebert and Brendon Ebert. Back row from left: Sachin Bandara and Sandun Bandara, Shehan Kumara and Hashan Kumara, Lakshitha Suraj and Samuditha Viraj, coach Supun Kumarapperuma, co-founder Upuli Gamage, director Mahinda Hettiarachchi, Mayura Sri Dilshan and Mayura Sri Lakshan, Manoj Abeysekera and Suraj Abeysekera, Kethaka Hettiarachchi, Sanjaya Jayamal and Sajeewa Jayamal

Sri Lanka forms world's first ever twins cricket squad

Sri Lanka is a country with a proud heritage of more than 2500 years whose image on the world map was enhanced by a World Cup winning cricket team in 1996 and now comes the news that the Pearl of the Indian ocean is in the process of showcasing what might be the world's first twins cricket squad.

Focused on the concept, an entity called the Srilanka Twins Organization said they are proud to showcase the rarity by forming the first ever Twins Cricket Squad which they hope will revolutionize the spirit of cricket not only in Sri Lanka but across the world.

With the vision and the guidance of the co-founders of Srilanka Twins Organization, Upuli Gama-

and Chamli Gamage together with the immense support of Mahinda Hettiarachchi, the concept of twins cricket was initiated with a group of talented twin cricketers who have showcased their talents at school level, university level as well as at club level.

The sole intention of the co-founders is to pave the path for twin cricketers to be a part of the national cricket squad and reach out to the global arena of cricket. At present they are able to showcase a Junior as well as a Senior squad for the twin cricketers.

The talented twin cricketers were discovered from different areas in Sri Lanka and with utmost difficulties and hardships they arrived at the heart of Colombo to

render their fullest support in this venture with the sole intention of taking the name of Sri Lanka to a bigger audience.

The driving force behind this unique initiative is the head coach of the Srilanka Twins Cricket Squad Supun Kumarapperuma who is a past pupil of Ananda Shasthralaya in Kotte and has been playing cricket since his childhood.

He was one of the Premier level cricketers who have been playing for Bloomfield Cricket Club and Saracens Cricket Club and is a qualified cricket coach with International Cricket Council certification.

Kumarapperuma has been working as a coach under the guidance of former First Class cricketer

Hemantha Devapriya at the Devas Cricket Academy for nearly 10 years and is currently running an academy for over 50 budding players.

The official launch of the Srilanka Twins Cricket Squad will take place today (February 21) at the Wadduwa Fisherman Villa Hotel at 6 pm and together with it there will be an attempt for a new Guinness World Record for the world's first ever twins cricket team.

The promoters also welcome sponsors for the Srilanka Twins Cricket Squad who will have the privilege of displaying their logo during matches and have requested interested parties to call 0704644640 (Mahinda Hettiarachchi) for more details.



Commander of the Sri Lanka Air Force Air Marshal Sudharshana Pathirana (right) receiving the sponsorship cheque from head of Project Management Nalin D. Gamage at the press briefing held to announce the 'Guwan Hamuda Cycle Savariya' at the SLAF Auditorium in Colombo on Wednesday (Pic by Samantha Weerasiri)

Air Force cycle race on March 7

BY BERNARD PERERA

The 22nd edition of the 'Guwan Hamuda Papedi Savariya 2021' is set to flag off on March 7 from Colombo.

This cycling event was started way back in 1997 to mark the Air Force's anniversary celebrations which falls on March 2.

In the past years this event was run over three days, but this time it will be run on just one day.

"Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel has come forward to be the main sponsor of the event said Wing Commander Leelarathne, secretary of the Air Force Cycling section at a media briefing held at the Air Force headquarters on Wednesday.

Over 150 men and over 50 women riders will be flagged off on this day.

The men riders who will commence the race together will ride

up to Wattala as a peace parade and will commence the race proper from there. These riders will pass through Ja-Ela, Minuwangoda, Divulapitiya, Giriulla, Narammala, Kuliyaipitiya, Madampe, Wennappuwa, Kochchikade and Negombo to cross the finish line opposite the Air Base in Katunayake covering a distance of 179 kilo metres.

The women's race will be flagged off from Ja Ela and proceed through Ekala, Minuwangoda, Divulapitiya, Giriulla, Pannala, Dankotuwa, Kochchikade and Negombo to finish opposite the Air Base in Katunayake, a distance of 70 kilo metres according to Wing Commander Leelarathne.

The presentation ceremony will be held in the evening at the Eagles Lagoon View Reception Hall with Air Force Commander Air Marshal, Sudharshana Pathirana gracing the occasion as the chief guest.

Ex Kandy SC player Bisthamin recovers and back in the limelight

BY HAFIZ MARIKAR

Imran Bisthamin a brilliant rugby player produced by St. Anthony's College who later turned out for Kandy SC and was forced to retire after a career-ending fall, married Raheema Issadeen over here in Kandy.

Bisthamin suffered serious injury to the head and spinal cord when he fell from an upper floor of a restaurant at the George E de Silva Shopping Complex at Dalada Veediya Kandy in November 2008 at a young age of 23. His recovery was miraculous according to his close friends who feared otherwise.

He learnt his rugby at St. Anthony's College whose team he captained playing at Number 8 in his final year in 2004. That same year he turned out for Kandy Sports Club and played till what eventually became a career-ending fall in 2008.

Bisthamin played a major role for Kandy SC in winning many championship titles. He also played for the Sri Lanka youth team.

He was a hard working forward



Imran Bisthamin and his bride Raheema Issadeen

and a good carrier of the ball in addition to his aggressive play as he excelled in the line-outs using his height and build to the maximum.

Bisthamin's pet position was Number Eight and was regarded as the best in that position.

He also functioned as a flanker and a lock and graduated to rugby after giving up cricket that he played as a fast bowler with the Under-17 school team.

Shakib Al Hasan out of Sri Lanka Tests

Shakib Al Hasan will skip the forthcoming two-Test series versus Sri Lanka in April in order to make himself available for the entirety of the IPL 2021 season.

Bangladesh Cricket Board's cricket operation chairman Akram Khan confirmed the development to Cricbuzz on Thursday (February 18) adding that the board has granted him the leave. The star all-rounder is expected to be available

in the three-match ODI series that precedes the Test, subject to proving his fitness.

Shakib returned to the IPL after a one-year ban with Kolkata Knight Riders signing him for INR 3.2 crores at the auction. Shakib has previously played for the Knight Riders between 2011 and 2017 and was an integral member of their championship winning sides of 2012 and 2014.

Sri Lanka Cricket revamps Ambalangoda cricket ground



Sri Lanka cricketer Upul Tharanga demonstrates batting at the revamping of the cricket ground in Ambalangoda under the auspices of Sri Lanka Cricket

The cricketing community in Ambalangoda and the nearby towns will be able to develop their cricketing skills as they were presented with a revamped Urban Council ground last weekend.

With Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) going ahead with the 'Cricket Gamata' program they laid the entire ground with a new turf along with the construction of three centre turf pitches and one matting pitch. They also built five side turf practice pitches along with movable sight screens. In addition, SLC also handed over ground maintenance equipment such as drum rollers, pitch cutters,

outfield grass cutters and tractors.

Among those who were present at the handing over ceremony were Dr. Ramesh Pathirana (Minister of Plantation) and Shammie Silva (President-SLC), Aruna Pradeep, Chairman, Ambalangoda UC, Kamal Dharmasiri (Head of National Development Centre SLC) and former Sri Lanka cricketer Ajith de Silva and Upul Tharanga.

In the meantime, indoor nets of the Singha Sports Club of Ambalangoda, which was established by SLC in 2004, was renovated.

The refurbished nets were declared open by Minister of Youth

and Sports Namal Rajapaksa during the weekend.

Following the opening of the redeveloped ground a match was played between Singha Sports Club and Rio Sports Club.

SCORES:

Singha SC beat Rio CC
Singha SC: 167/5 (20) (Chalitha Helambage 46, Imesh Udayanga 34, Adeesha Thilanchana 32 n.o., Dinuka Dilshan 20, Upul Tharanga 17)
Rio SC: 65 (18.5) (Lakila Tehan 30, Anudha Jithwara 16 n.o., Dinuka Dilshan 3/5, Sasindu Malshan 2/3, Tharuka Gimhan 2/7) (YK)

SPORT

sports.sundayobserver@lakehouse.lk / Tel: +94 11 2 429 226 / +94 11 2 429 228 / Fax / +94 11 2 429 227

FEBRUARY 21, 2021



IMRAN the dashing leader Zindabad!

To cricket fans of Pakistan, IMRAN KHAN is the STAR that is cuddled by the moon crescent in their flag. No wonder they shouted themselves hoarse when they watched his batting and bowling and then as Captain 'IMRAN Zindabad' as they did later as he entered the political turf that he now walks on, and commands.

I recall how Sri Lankan cricket fans watched in awe as this stylish Oxford educated gentleman with a film star look rattled Sri Lanka with his bowling at that peak. He knocked the stuffings off the Sri Lankan batsmen with a wonderful spell of seam and swing bowling.

Imran has a penchant for creating history! History will be created when for the first time an illustrious sportsman and Prime Minister makes a three day visit to Sri Lanka beginning on Tuesday.

Imran will be here on the invitation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's government for bilateral talks. But rest assured that no 'talks' will be complete without reminiscences of the distinction with which he led Pakistan to their first World Cup victory in Australia against England in the final in 1992.

With this victory his popularity soared and he became a hero --and a legend--to all Pakistanis to whom cricket is a religion. During his stay in the game, he was a rare all rounder.

He had a lovely run up and a slight jump at the wicket and the ability to generate pace in the air and off the wicket. He troubled the best of batsmen with his biting swing and pace. And his deliveries were packed with stinging bouncers. He was also a hard hitting right hand batsman and many were the match winning innings he played. He was a thinking captain and was also a safe fielder.

When Sri Lanka attained Test status in 1982 the first tour was to Pakistan for a Three Test series. The writer was the first journalist to accompany the Lankans and cover the three Tests for the 'Times' and 'Daily Mirror'.

Oxford educated IMRAN did not play in the first Two Tests but came back with a vengeance to play the third Test at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. History records how he bowled Pakistan to a resounding victory.

When the writer was with Pakistani journalists Qamar Ahmed and Chisty Mujahid at the Hilton Hotel in Lahore, IMRAN came and spoke to Ahmed and Mujahid who introduced me to this cricketer hero who after a little chat gave us a lift in his vehicle to the Gaddafi Stadium.

He kept talking to me and was very happy that Sri Lanka had finally attained Test status and predicted that Sri Lanka would be worthy opponents and a cricketing power soon. He was very friendly and easy going. Even at the peak of in his career he never sported his plumes and behaved like the cock of the yard.

Being the only Sri Lanka journalist on tour, radio commentators Wasim Tariq and Ahmed invited me to give expert comments on the Test and it was memorable to be on the air when Imran was bowling and comment on his heroics where he rattled the batsmen to give Pakistan a resounding win.

IMRAN bowling at his peak knocked the stuffings off the Sri Lankan batsmen with a wonderful spell of seam and swing bowling to return figures of 8 for 58 and 6 for 58 and no batsmen could counter him.

IMRAN visited Sri Lanka as a promising all rounder and his talent was such that he soon became a cricketing super star much in demand and his country's captaincy cap did not take long in coming. And he crowned it all by leading Pakistan to win the World Cup in 1992 which has evaded them since. After that victory he was tagged the jewel in the Pakistan cricketing crown.

A Sri Lankan cricketer who will always remember IMRAN is former captain, dashing batsman and the first batsman to score a century in a World Cup final Aravinda de Silva. The reason being that Aravinda hooked a bouncer from IMRAN in a Test in Faisalabad to reach his century which was a rare achievement.

Another achievement to remember where IMRAN was concerned was Sri Lanka's second victory in Test cricket. It came at the CCC ground when IMRAN led Pakistan and he acknowledged that victory in his chats.

As the Sri Lankan government and cricketing fraternity await the arrival of one of the great legends of the game now turned politician and Prime Minister of Pakistan, there is much reason to felicitate with exceptional warmth.

Joe Root shows how

Joe Root the England captain put on show what could be described as a captain's knock in the two Tests against Sri Lanka and in the first Test against India he made a double hundred which helped England beat the high riding Indians by 227 runs.

In Sri Lanka he made 228 and 186 and followed it up taking his amazing form to India where up against a very strong Indian attack he scored a masterly double century that was not only eye catching but above all an EXAMPLE.

In making his double hundred against India he became the first visiting captain to make the highest score in India and it was all the more creditable because he was playing his 100th Test which was a feat that will never easily be equaled or surpassed.

When playing in India winning the toss, batting first and putting up a big first innings score is essential, because the wickets are made to be friendly to their spinners.

In the first Test the wicket at the Chennai ground on the first day favoured the batsmen and England who ran up a big first innings score won the match with their spinners Bess and Leach excelling.

Came the second Test and India had the good fortune of batting first and on a wicket that allowed vicious spin from day one, spinners Ashwin and Patel were unplayable and bowled India to an easy win.

With two more Tests to be played the side batting first and putting up a formidable score should win, because the wickets will be made for spinners and India have the better spinners.

erodrigopulle@gmail.com

By
Dinesh Weerawansa



The joint organizing committee of the Royal-Thomian cricket encounter, after a series of meetings, has now decided to hold this year's Battle of the Blues encounter on May 6, 7 and 8 in Hambantota.

However for the first time in its 142-year-old history, this year's big match will be a closed door affair with the die-hard spectators who will only be able to catch the action via live television coverage.

This will be the first time that it is being played outside Colombo as the Mahinda Rajapaksa International Cricket Stadium, Sooriyawewa becomes the ninth venue to host the prestigious encounter.

The Royal-Thomian cricket encounter has always been the prime cricket match not only among schools in Sri Lanka but the world over as the only uninterrupted inter-school cricket match which goes back to 1879.

There had been one other cricket match in the world which is a couple of years old but that too was stopped during the World Wars. Even the first ever Test match in the world was played just two years before the inaugural match between Royal and S. Thomas' in 1877 - between England and Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

But the Battle of the Blues series between Royal and S. Thomas' will go down in history that a strong bond, even the two World Wars, could not stop.

Similarly, even the current Covid-19 pandemic which stopped almost every form of human activity has not

been able to disrupt the 142-year-old rich Royal-Thomian traditions.

It was after the final day of last year's Royal-Thomian big match that the first wave of Covid-19 badly hit Sri Lanka. Amidst the midway through the second wave, Royal-Thomian is now looking forward to maintaining its unbroken sequence even during the Covid-19 threat.

The Battle of the Blues now comes to Hambantota for the first time in its 142 years as the Mahinda Rajapaksa Cricket Stadium was earlier in the plan to host the match from April 8 to 10 behind closed doors. But the joint organizers now plan to put it off by a month and to play the three-day match from May 6.

S. Thomas' proposed to play it in June or July but agreed to play in May before the GCE Advanced Level examination.

There will be live local television coverage of the three-day affair, similar to the recently conducted Sri Lanka Premier League T20.

Apart from the usual live webcast, negotiations are underway to give live TV global coverage for the benefit of the former Royalists and Thomians living in the Americas, European and Australasia regions.

When the Covid-19 pandemic first hit Sri Lanka badly in mid-March, last year's Battle of the Blues was just concluded. Most of the First XI matches of the 2019/20 season were completed by then.

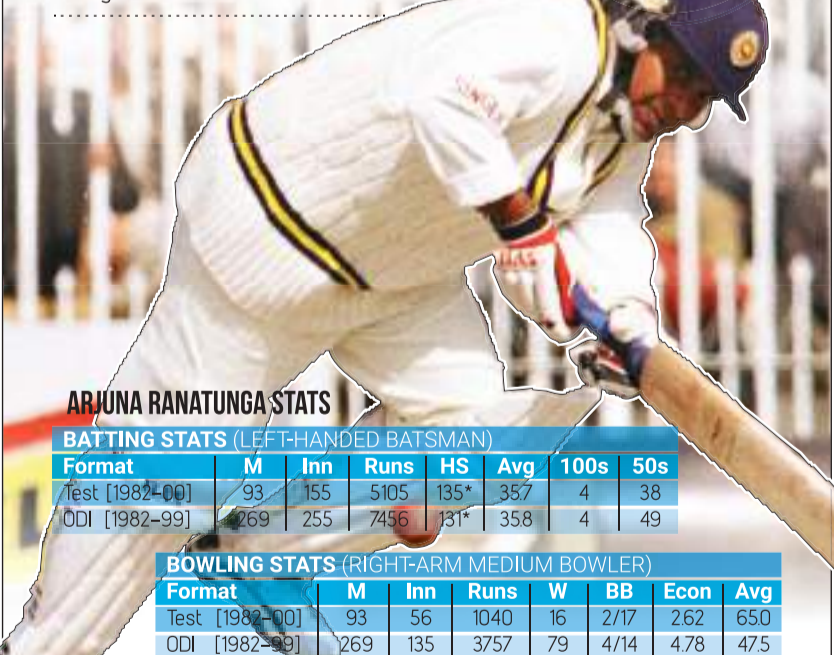
SINCE 1978
42nd OBSERVER SLT MOBILTEL SCHOOL CRICKETER OF THE YEAR 2020
Recognizing talent, inspiring greatness.

ARJUNA SECOND TO WIN OBSERVER SCHOOLBOY CRICKETER AWARD 1980/1982

Arjuna Ranatunga was the second schoolboy to win the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year award in 1980 and 1982.

After first winning the glory in 1980, he was the runner-up for the top award in the following year: won by Rohan Buljtiens.

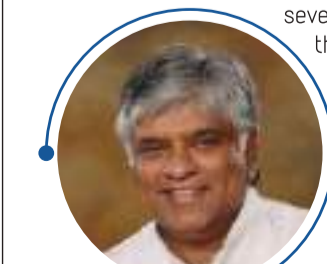
However, Ranatunga bounced back and once again won the award in 1982.



In the same year, schoolboy Ranatunga was chosen to represent Sri Lanka in the inaugural Test against England at Sara Stadium. He made it a memorable occasion by becoming the first Sri Lanka batsman to score a half century (54) in Test cricket.

Ever since, Ranatunga became a vital ingredient in Sri Lanka team. He captained the Sri Lanka team to win the ICC World Cup, beating Australia by seven wickets in the final played in Lahore on March 17, 1996.

On his retirement, he has also served as Chairman of an interim committee. Later, he took to politics and held the post of Cabinet Minister.



SINCE 1978
43rd OBSERVER SLT-MOBILTEL SCHOOL CRICKETER OF THE YEAR 2021
Recognizing talent, inspiring greatness.



The stalwart who kept the show going.... Former Deputy Editor (Sports) and longstanding Sports Editor of the Sunday Observer AC de Silva has been a stalwart who kept the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year going for over three decades since its inception in 1979. Here 'AC' gracing a Mega Show of yesteryear

Meanwhile, the 2020-2021 new inter-school under-19 season's first match that took place between St. Anthony's College, Katugastota and Mahanama ended in a tall scoring draw at Katugastota last weekend. It was the first inter-school match to be played after 11 months due to the Covid-19 situation. It gave confidence to school cricket that it could still bounce back under difficult conditions.

Pavan Ratnayake (179) of Mahanama became the first centurion for the season while his teammate Vinuka Rubasinghe (109) soon joined the club as Mahanama made a healthy 385 for 6 declared. In reply, the Antonians made 251 for 4 with M. Kamel (85) narrowly missing his first century for the season.

It was nice to see school cricket finally becoming a reality after the Covid-19 ruined it for almost a year.

The traditional two-day matches will not be counted as tournament matches this year. However, schools are permitted to play their friendly matches, provided they get the green light from the regional health authorities.

There will only be one-day limited over tournaments conducted by the schools cricket governing body.

The Secretary of the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association (SLCSA) JAKS Indrajith said they earlier got the approval from the Education Ministry to begin the new 2020-2021 Under-19 cricket season from March 15.

It will also be the date for the Western Province schools reopening after the postponed GCE Ordinary Level examination.

The SLCSA Secretary said now that they have got the final green light from the local health authorities a team will play five qualifying round matches each and that those matches will be played behind closed doors.

Asked whether the final round matches too would not entertain spectators, Indrajith said it will be too early to make a decision. He said it is too early to talk about that. If they get approval from the health authorities, then they could open the venue to the cricket loving public. But as it is, they will play the matches behind closed doors to ensure the health of all parties.

Prior to the preliminary round matches, the host team will inform public health inspectors of the area. All preliminary round league matches will be played at venues convenient to the two teams while the final round matches from the quarter final stage will be played at neutral venues.

The SLCSA will follow all guidelines set by the Education Ministry and health authorities strictly when conducting the tournament. They will strictly follow all guidelines set by the Education and Health ministry officials.

Royal, Trinity, DS Senanayake, De Mazonod, Wesley and Gurukula MV have been drawn in division 1 Group

'A' section 'X' in the Inter-school Under-19 limited over tournament to be played from next month. The Division 1 Group 'A' section 'Y' will comprise of St. Benedict's, St. Joseph's, Mahanama, St. Thomas', Matara, St. Sebastian's and St. Anne's, Kurunegala while section 'Z' of the same group will have Nalanda, S. Thomas', St. Anthony's Katugastota, Prince of Wales, Richmond and Maliyadeva.

The Division 1 Group 'B' section 'X' will have St. Peter's, Thurstan, Mahinda, Dharmaraja, St. Aloysius' and Moratu MV while section 'Y' will comprise Ananda, Isipatana, Zahira, Joseph Vaz, Dharmapala and Maris Stella. The section 'Z' of division 1 Group will comprise St. Sylvester's, Dharmasoka, St. Servatius', Devapathiraja, Lumbini and St. Anthony's, Wattala.

A further 36 school teams will battle it out in the Division 1 tier 'B' tournament drawn under three groups A, B and C. There will be 72 teams competing in the Under-19 division 1 and division 11 tournaments.

The SLCSA will conduct the Under-19 tournament from March 15 to May 2. There will not be any two-day tournament matches.

The one-day limited over tournaments will be conducted under two divisions with each team drawn to play five qualifying round league matches.

There will be 32 teams competing in division one - 16 in tier 'A' and another 16 in tier 'B'. Similarly, there will be another 32 teams in the division two. There again in division two, 16 teams will be in tier 'A' and another 16 in tier 'B'.

The teams will have some 47 days to complete their matches including the finals by May 2. In between, there will be a few days break after the first round for the Sinhala and Tamil New Year.

After the qualifying league round, eight teams each will be selected to play in the final rounds from the quarter final onwards. The maximum number of tournament matches a team has to honour is eight, including the five qualifying round games.

Meanwhile, the 43rd Observer-MobilTel School Cricketers of the Year will be launched with the most popular contests with the commencement of the 2020-21 inter-school season. However, the postponed 42nd Observer-MobilTel School Cricketers of the Year awards ceremony will be held no sooner the organizers get the green light from the health authorities.

Associated with the Sunday Observer are the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association (SLCSA), the Sri Lanka Cricket Umpires and Scorers Association and Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), headed by Shammi Silva.

The Observer-MobilTel Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year contest has gone from strength to strength, especially after the Sunday Observer teamed up with Sri Lanka Telecom MobilTel.

The SLT MobilTel added more power and energy to the Observer School Cricketers of the Year show 13 years ago, thereby improving the quality of the event drastically.

Apart from increasing the volumes of rich cash awards to the winning schoolboy and schoolgirl cricketers, the coaches and masters in charge who put in a lot of effort behind the scenes have been rewarded.

Chairman of Sri Lanka Telecom and SLT MobilTel, Rohan Fernando has given all possible assistance to the Mega Show which will march forward with more power and strength.

The SLT MobilTel is sponsoring the show for the 14th successive year, at a time when the company is heading towards new horizons under the dynamic leadership of SLT and MobilTel and Fernando, the former Thomian ace rower.

The management of Lake House has strongly backed the Mega Show. Current Chairman, W. Dayaratne and the team of Board of Directors - Dharmasiri Kariyawasam (Editorial), Rakhitha Abeygunawardhana (Legal and Administration), Janaka Ranatunga (Finance) and Canishka Witharana (Operations) have always been a tower of strength to take the Observer-MobilTel School Cricketers of the Year forward.

BUSINESS

business.suo@lakehouse.lk

FEBRUARY 21, 2021



COMPETITOR ANALYSIS, PAGE 26
A GOLDMINE OF IDEAS

WORLD HR CONGRESS PAGE 27
IN SRI LANKA

BENEFITS OF PAGE 29
E-MARKETING

BASIC INVESTING PAGE 29
CONSIDERATIONS

SLS 1630

SLS 1630 : 2019

"Packaged Natural Coconut Water"

Sri Lanka Standards Institution

011-2694981

dmp@slsi.lk www.slsi.lk

This standard prescribes the requirements, methods of sampling and test for packaged natural coconut water, which is offered for consumption. It only applies to coconut water which has been packaged in its natural state.

BIZ SNIPPETS

CSE to host good corporate governance forum

The Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) will conduct a two-part series of online forums themed "Beyond Basics: Excellence in Corporate Governance".

The forums will offer participants an in-depth understanding on the importance of good corporate governance practices and how it would increase investor confidence through transparency and accountability.

The first session is set to take place on March 3 from 3.30 p.m. while the follow-up session will be on March 18 at 3.00 pm.



Oil prices soar

West Texas Intermediate jumped over \$60 per barrel after the Polar Vortex that brought unusually cold weather to a large part of the US froze — literally — a third of oil production.

Citing unnamed sources from the industry familiar with the details, Bloomberg reported that U.S. oil production is now 3.5 million bpd lower than it was before the cold snap hit, marking the largest ever production decline in history. In the Permian, production came down by as much as 65 percent. According to the report, temperatures in Texas were so low at the start of this week that oil and gas liquids were freezing at the wellhead as well as in pipelines, which are mounted on the ground rather than laid underground. - Oilprice.com



Jaguar Land Rover to axe 2,000 jobs

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) plans to cut about 2,000 jobs from its workforce over the next year.

The company said it had started a full review as it prepares to become a "more agile organisation".

It comes after the car maker confirmed its Jaguar brand will be all-electric by 2025 and that it will keep all three of its UK plants open. The losses, from its worldwide workforce, will not affect manufacturing staff, a spokesman said.

JLR has its headquarters in Coventry and plants in Castle Bromwich, Solihull, and Halewood near Merseyside. - BBC



Wages Board approves minimum Rs. 1,000 wage

PLANTATION COMPANIES TO WITHDRAW FROM COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS

By **Rajitha Jagoda Arachchi**

All plantation companies in the private sector have decided to withdraw from collective agreements with trade unions, when the Wages Board implements the minimum basic wage for plantation workers, the Chairman of Planters Association of Ceylon (PA) Bhathiya Bulumulla told the *Sunday Observer Business*.

Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa promised to give Rs. 1,000 as the daily minimum wage for plantation sector workers, during his

Budget speech for 2021, which has been a political promise for years by successive governments. However, the Regional Plantation Companies (RPCs) opposed the move to grant a fixed minimum wage for workers as it would be a serious threat to the sustainability of the tea industry. Instead RPCs proposed a three-day minimum wage system, a revenue share model and pay based on every kilo of tea plucked by the workers, which was not welcomed by the unions. However, as discussions with the Unions failed to reach a compromise last week the Wages Board decided to approve a daily minimum wage of Rs. 1,000 for plantation labourers which will comprise Rs. 900 from plantation companies and Rs. 100 from budgetary allocations from the Government.



Workers are to receive their EPF and ETF remittances separately. "This is not a minimum wage. This is a political wage. Trade unions and the Government are trying to kill the 150-year-old industry," Bulumulla said. The decision on a minimum wage of Rs.1,000 has

been taken without proper consultation with the plantation sector.

The plantation companies are also not in a position to follow two separate guidelines (Wages Board directives and collective agreements with trade unions) in the future, he said. Asked about the preparation to try industry automation as an alternative, the PA Chairman said, "First we have to survive to do whatever the investment in the industry.

Automation or nothing will happen if the industry is killed". Minister of Labour Nimal Siripala de Silva told the media earlier that the gazette containing the decision of the Wages Board will be out within a week of the decision. However, the gazette is yet to be published after two weeks.

Global tourism promotion campaign to be launched next week

The global campaign to promote the destination and woo in travellers again to the island, will be launched next week following a meeting to be held by the steering committee tomorrow, a senior official of the Ministry of Tourism told *Sunday Observer Business* on Friday.

He said the promotional campaign targets all key tourism markets of Sri Lanka with a special focus on nontraditional larger markets in the East.

The number of visitors from the UK, a traditional market for Sri Lanka, is expected to be significantly low this year due to the rapid spread of the pandemic in the country.

A committee comprising Ministry of Tourism personal and industry experts was set up by the Minister of Tourism, Prasanna Ranatunga recently to spearhead the promotional campaign. **TO PAGE 23**

Business activities have gradually picked up in Colombo with normalcy and stability being restored to a certain extent. However, eeking out a living for many especially small scale businessmen seems to be a daunting task as consumer appetite has withered due to the drastic drop in the purchasing power of many. Here goods being transported to groceries in Pettah. **Pic: Wimal Karunatileka**

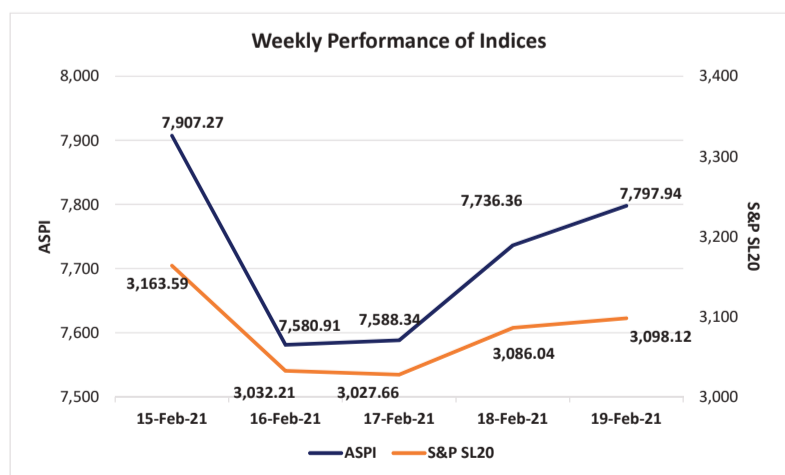
Save drain of forex

Promote SOPs for vehicle assembly and manufacture - Auto industry expert

Sri Lanka must promote Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) as a viable alternative for the production, assembly, and manufacture of vehicles in the country to importation of vehicles to save the much needed foreign exchange said Ideal Group Founder and Executive Chairman Nalin Welgama.

He said policy measures to promote SOPs must be expedited without delay to support the automobile industry to get to the next level which will be a turning point in the vehicle assembly industry in the country.

Minister of Industries Wimal Weerawansa recently said that Cabinet nod had been given to SOPs presented by the ministry for the production, assembly, and manufacture of vehicles in Sri Lanka as an alternative to the ban on import of vehicles. Several rounds of discussions between auto importers and the minister were held in this regard as parent companies of certain importers... **TO PAGE 23**



EXCHANGE RATES

Period	US Dollar \$	Euro €	Japanese yen ¥	Pound sterling £	Chinese Yuan ¥
Feb 15 - Feb 19					
Monday	197.03	239.58	1.8813	274.25	30.778
Tuesday	197.97	240.72	1.8803	276.56	30.885
Wednesday	198.94	240.99	1.8858	277.06	31.038
Thursday	198.38	239.39	1.8816	275.58	30.940
Friday	198.58	240.50	1.8845	277.83	30.792

Financial sector consolidation

Discussions in progress - Central Bank

Discussions between certain banks and financial sector institutions are in progress under the Central Bank's banking and financial sector consolidation program aimed at strengthening banking and financial sector stability, said a senior Central Banker at last week's media briefing on the current developments of the economy.

He said while discussions between certain institutions are at its initial stages others have made satis-



factory progress on reaching consensus on key issues.

The Central Bank in its Road Map launched last month, noted that the

bank is in the process of developing the Group-wide Consolidated Supervision (GCS) framework to be adopted under risk-based supervision of financial groups. Last year, the Central Bank commenced the implementation of GCS framework by carrying out limited GCS, based on the observations of relevant supervisory authorities. The bank will consider providing other regulatory relaxations to banks, where possible this year considering ... **TO PAGE 23**

Upfield to boost nutrition among children

Targets 100,000 children under Phase 1

Upfield, a global plant-based company through its operations in Sri Lanka, plans to make a nutritious breakfast for 100,000 children under the first phase of the company's nutritious breakfast program to be launched this year.

Around 63 percent of children in the country start school without breakfast according to a study.

The program will be launched in collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Education to boost the nutritious level of food among children.

"We plan to launch the program hopefully by the third quarter this year and expand the outreach next year," Upfield Marketing Manager, Shehani Liyanage said. **TO PAGE 23**



Business

Competitor analysis - a goldmine of ideas



BIZ TALK with Kishu Gomes

The post Covid-19 market landscape can be very different to the one you have played in before. It may look the same or similar but most players have changed their game to be relevant in the shattered markets with the hope of early recovery of lost margins.

Whether you are only considering your go-to-market strategy or are looking for opportunities to grow your business, a thorough exploration of the changed competitive landscape is essential for success.

This is where a fresh competitor analysis enters the stage, becoming your key source of market and competitive intelligence, needed to ensure growth and maintain or reveal your competitive edge.

A proper competitor analysis can become a goldmine of ideas that can help you make data-driven and more efficient decisions.

Re-validating your unique value proposition (UVP), finding new market opportunities and growing your market share, identifying gaps between your and competitors, prioritising your marketing and product development investments and discovering upcoming market trends and shifts in your competitors' new brand

positioning, target audience and product portfolio strategies.

Staying ahead

Everyone says that knowing your market is everything. Saying it is so important will help you stay ahead of the pack. Your market includes your customers, your suppliers and your competitors - to name the 3 most critical factors.

These three are pivotal characters that define the success of your business. Obviously, your customers are the ones buying from your business. A good place to start to evaluate your customer is by looking at your competitors. What are other people out there doing that is similar to your business? What are they doing well? What do your customers like and dislike about the competition?

All businesses face competition - nowadays more than ever before. Even if you are the only restaurant in town you must compete with cinemas, bars and other businesses where your customers will spend their money instead of with you. With increased use of the Internet to buy goods and services and to find places to go, you are no longer just competing with your immediate neighbors. Indeed, you could find yourself competing with businesses from other countries.

Your competitor could be a new business offering a substitute or similar product that makes your own redundant. Competition is not just another business that might take money away from you. It can be another product or service that's being developed and which you ought to be selling or looking to license before somebody else takes it up.

Knowing what your direct and indirect competitors are doing is an important part of running a successful business. But it's an area that many



companies ignore. That's not a good idea in today's difficult market conditions when your rivals could well be keeping their eyes on you and planning how to steal a share of your business. Competitor intelligence is something few firms do well, whether big or small. People tend not to do it thoroughly.

Keep your eyes and ears open

By finding out about your competitors you will avoid running your business half-blind. You will know what you are up against in your market, what threats you face, and you will reduce the risk of the unknown. You will be better placed to define a competitive advantage for your business.

You will know who your customers might switch to, why and how likely this might be. You will learn how good your products or service are

compared to your rivals and opportunities where you could perhaps improve performance. You will be able to design sales and marketing communication strategy which presents sharper, more effective messages. Most businesses already know who their main, direct competitors are.

Often they have worked with them or encountered them at trade events, heard of them through customers or seen their ads in the market or media. You should build up a list of all the main names and addresses. In addition, it is useful to think laterally about who else might be in competition for your customers.

Many products and services could be considered as 'non-essential' and so customers may be choosing to spend their discretionary income between two very different sectors -

Valuable intelligence can be gathered without leaving your desk. First of all, you can visit their website and see how and where they are positioned. Many companies have a presence on community and social networking sites

for example, householders choosing between a holiday and buying new furniture for the home.

Valuable intelligence can be gathered without leaving your desk. First of all, you can visit their website and see how and where they are positioned. Many companies have a presence on community and social networking sites. If a company is stock market listed, you can get a lot of information on the company.

The best source of information about your competitors is likely to be

your customers. Talk to them about their perceptions of your business and others in the same area or sector. As consumers are increasingly shopping around for a bargain, price is becoming a big issue and it's vital to know what your competitors are offering in terms of discounts.

Price is more of a justification for purchase than ever before. Competitor analysis can throw up some interesting findings. You may find that your competitors are not who you thought they were. When you start looking at competitors, you often find who you think are your competitors are not actually your main competitors.

For example, if you have a mobile phone shop on a local high street then you might think your main rival is the other independent phone shop up the road. But actually you are both probably competing with big out-of-town retailers as well as with online phone suppliers. In fact, having more than one type of supplier in the same area can help to bring more business your way as consumers feel they can get enough choice in the same area.

In fact, your competitors could be even more varied than you think. When consumers are making difficult choices about how to tighten their belts, you may be competing with totally different products or services for their spare cash. Staying ahead of the competition is not easy but there's no point in burying your head in the sand. When it comes to your rivals, knowledge is power.

Finally, "Play hard, play to win, but play by rules you and your business can be proud of. A reputation for good ethics and fairness has a way of attracting trust. So others will want to work with you more often than against you. And that is the greatest competitive advantage of all."

D'las International obtains COSMOS organic certification

D'las International (Pvt) Ltd, a manufacturer of fine fragrances and natural body care products in Sri Lanka, has obtained the COSMOS organic certification for its high-end products range.

It is one of the first companies in the Island to obtain such a certification awarded by Control Union, a certification body based in the Netherlands. COSMOS (Cosmetic Organic Standard) is an international private standard that adheres to principles such as promoting the use of ingredients from organic farming, using environmentally sound and healthy production and manufacturing processes and expanding the concept of 'green chemicals'.

The certification process was conducted and awarded by Control Union - South Korea and presented by its Sri Lankan branch.

D'las International (Pvt) Ltd is a member of the HDEES Group of com-



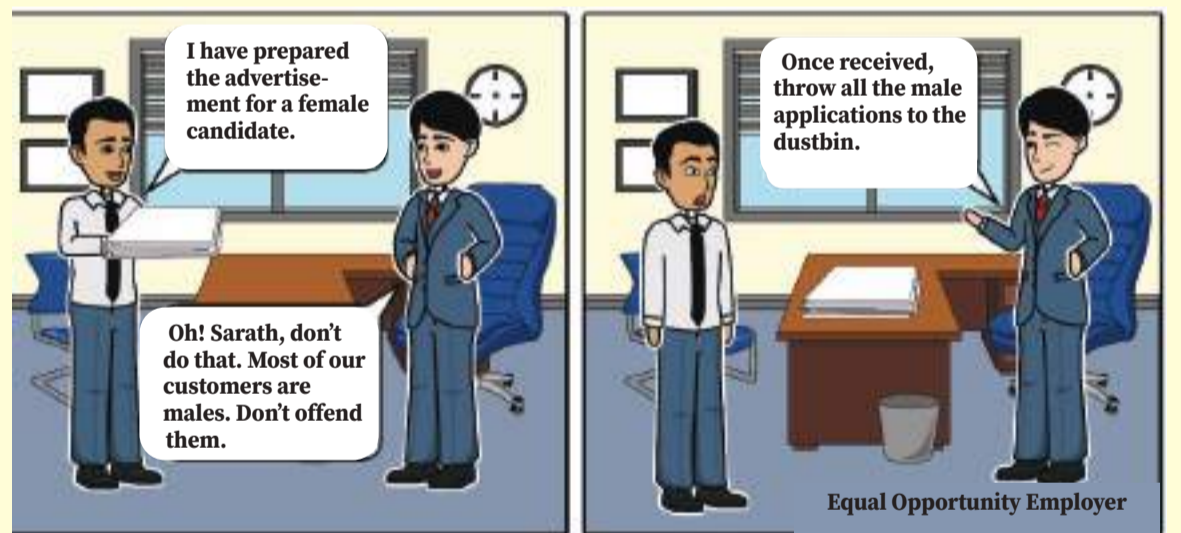
The HDEES Group management with the COSMOS organic certification.

panies, engages in the supply of natural, organic raw materials and ingredients. The HDEES Group has professionally pioneered the conversion of organic raw materials into various products that are marketed under member companies of the group. All

D'las products are manufactured using eco-friendly and green concepts that are 100% natural, under best ethical practices under cruelty-free processes. Over 80% of the raw materials used in the manufacturing process are derived from organic or natural sources.

Everyone knows HR

An equal opportunity employer agrees not to discriminate against any employee or job applicant because of race, colour, religion, national origin, sex, physical or mental disability, or age.



By Janaka Kumarasinghe

Nestomalt launches 'Salary for Life' promotion again

Nestomalt has launched its one-of-a-kind 'Salary for Life' campaign for the second year running, to reward another consumer with Rs. 50,000 every month until they turn 55, as per the terms of the competition.

Nestomalt aims to reward loyal consumers by helping them kick-start their journey, to achieve their ambitions and progress in life. Any Nestomalt consumer between 18 and 50 years can send the flap of a 400g Nestomalt pack - even multiple times - to be eligible for a raffle draw. One lucky winner will be chosen at random.

"After powering a positive start for generations of Sri Lankan families for more than 60 years, we're humbled to be able to take our sup-

port even further with this campaign, to help them progress in life in a way no other brand has done in Sri Lanka. We had a resounding response in the first year from Nestomalt fans across the country, and we're humbled and pleased to kick-start the campaign for the second year. We look forward to helping another Nestomalt fan achieve their ambitions," said Nestlé's Vice President, Dairy, Ruwan Welikala. Nestomalt's first ever Salary for Life competition winner last year, 20-year old Avishka Koswatte of Pilimathalawa, will continue to receive Rs. 50,000 every month from Nestomalt for 35 years. She is putting this additional support to good use, to help her progress towards her ambition of becoming a teacher and supporting her family.



Pelwatte receives Rs. 463 million SAPP facility for dairy farming

Pelwatte Dairy has secured Rs. 463 million from the SAPP (Smallholder Agribusiness Partnerships Program). Pelwatte Industries plans to catalyse and distribute it among 1,000 dairy farmers in the next six months as its first phase.

SAPP is a program implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture that aims to facilitate rural smallholder farmers with a focus on 'Public-Private-Pro-

ducer Partnership' in terms of building commercial partnerships, in providing access to finance, improving technical know-how and financial literacy while focusing on assisting farmers to improve their technology.

The project facility revolves around a 4P Value Chain model that brings the public sector, rural smallholder farmers and private sector companies to a common platform. Deputy

General Manager Susantha Malwatte said, "We currently have a registered dairy farmer base of over 12,500, with over 40 milk collecting centres encompassing the Uva, Central, Eastern, North Central and North Western Provinces, we hoard over 100,000 litres a day collectively. I believe that our engagement with SAPP will support the economic and social upliftment. As our first phase, we hope to SAPP to sup-

port 1,000 dairy farmers in six months." The 1,000 beneficiary farmers will be able to produce over 45,000 litres of milk a day after the third year of the intervention.

This will bring in the farmers at least Rs. 130,000 per month. While also developing 10 commercial fodder growers to support project beneficiaries by the first year of intervention, a company spokesman said.

NoLimit, among one of the best workplaces

Fashion chain, NoLimit, was recognised as one of the best workplaces in 2020 by the Great Place to Work Institute for the fifth consecutive year.

The awards ceremony was held at the Hilton Hotel recently. NoLimit was also presented with the Laureate Award as a result of the fashion chain clinching the Best Workplace in Sri Lanka title for five consecutive years from 2016 to 2020.

NoLimit enjoys a strong presence in all major cities, serving its discerning customers through 21 outlets islandwide. Their retail stores house a wide range of clothes and accessories for men, women and children.

NoLimit was recognised for its learning culture, where a continual development process is followed to

enable career progression for every employee. Furthermore, the practise and promotion of equal opportunity for all is embedded into the NoLimit system, which improves employee satisfaction, productivity and its attractiveness as an employer.

Great Place to Work is considered a global authority on high trust and high performance workplace culture. Through assessment tools and advisory services based on over 30 years of research, Great Place to Work provides the framework, benchmarks and expertise needed to create and maintain an outstanding working culture. The Great Place to Work Institute's mission is to build a better society by helping organisations transform their workplaces to nurture high trust and high performance teams.



NoLimit officials receive the award.

World HR Congress in Sri Lanka: Opportunities galore



STRATEGIC STRIDES
by

Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri

Powered by

PIMA

PIM Alumni

It was a rigorous yet rewarding process that we went through in competitive bidding towards hosting the most prestigious global event in the field of human resource management (HRM) in 2021. Today's column is a thought sharing of the relevance of it to Sri Lanka with multiple implications to diverse spheres such as tourism, education, management and leadership.

Overview

There is a World HR Congress initiated by the World Federation of People Management Associations (WFPMA). Reflecting its international origins and concerns, the meeting location moves among its member countries. The World Congress has been held since 1986 in twelve different countries. The most recent one was held in Chicago, USA in 2018 and they handed over the organising reins for Sri Lanka, thereafter, to host it in 2020. With the COVID-19 related challenges, it had to be rescheduled for October 2021.

The World HR Congress aptly enables HR professionals to build a global community of peers, to discuss new developments in HRM, and to network with colleagues from around the world who face similar complex challenges in HRM. It is a glamorous

event in bringing in HR professionals for a refreshing reflection collectively done through a mega event rich in both intellectual and interactive dimensions.

WFPMA in a nutshell

It is noteworthy to discuss the details of the WFPMA. The World Federation of People Management Associations (WFPMA) is an organisation representing more than 700,000 people management professionals in over 950 national personnel associations around the world. It was founded in 1976 to aid the development and improve the effectiveness of professional people management all over the world.

The founding members of WFPMA were the European Association for People Management (EAPM), Inter-American Federation of Personnel Administration (FIDAP), Inter-American Federation of Human Resource People Management Associations (FIDAGH) and American Society for Personnel Administration (now SHRM - the US Society for Human Resource Management). Subsequently the Asia Pacific Federation of Human Resource Management (APFHRM) joined as a full member in June 1980.

The North American Human Resource Management Association (NAHRMA) was set up and admitted as a full member in April 1997. Also, African Human Resources Confederation - AHRC (formerly African Federation of Human Resources Management Associations - AFHRMA, established and admitted as a full member in March 2004). AHRC members are the AFHRMA, and the Federation Africaine des Formateurs et Directeurs du Personnel (AFDIP).

The WFPMA advocates the development and recognition of the HR profession across the world. The WFPMA, with its member organisations, serves the public, organisations and communities worldwide by ensuring the relevance, reputation, and value of the global HR profession. Its strategic goals are stated as, create value for member organisations, thereby improving in the quality and effectiveness of professional people management which contributes to organisational success. speak out as a voice for the global HR profession and promote the importance of the HR profession.

Against a background of significant global disruption, change and the quest for competitive advantage, there is a growing awareness of the value of professional human resource management in helping to deliver that vital edge through people. The WFPMA advances its objectives through several frontiers.

The premier among all is the World Congress held once in two years. Research on critical and emerging HR issues that have a positive impact on business is another



front. Recognising outstanding world HR leaders through the WFPMA Petipas Award is another initiative. Convening twice-yearly Board meetings and specialist working groups, facilitating networks among member countries, federations and external bodies, promoting the use of a website for the dissemination of relevant information are also significant aspects of WFPMA. They have a WorldLink newsletter published five times a year.

WFPMA and APFHRM

The Asia Pacific Federation of Human Resource Management (APFHRM) is the network of human resources and people management associations' representative countries in the Asia Pacific region. It is duly affiliated to WFPMA. The Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM), Sri Lanka is a vibrant member of APFHRM.

The APFHRM collectively intends to advance the standing of the HR and people management profession within the region. It does this through its member representatives regularly meeting to exchange knowledge and research on best practice in HR. From the member associations' geographical proximity to one another, the Federation's major focus is in matters relating specifically to HR in the Asia Pacific region.

The countries that form the federation are Australia, Bangladesh, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. With the active participation of these country HR organisations, APFHRM aims to serve as the umbrella

organisation of all human resource institutes within the Asia Pacific Region. It also aims at improving the quality and effectiveness of professional human resource management in the region. Further, it encourages and supports human resource professionals in creating and developing their own associations in Asia Pacific countries where they do not yet exist. Also, APFHRM provides guidance and assistance to all member countries especially with regards to their programs that will uplift the human resource management profession.

The APFHRM strives to create a network of communities of practices in the region. It encourages national HR associations to identify research and report on invaluable lessons and stories of human capital management practices that will impact personal, organisational and business effectiveness through the creation of values by different groups of human capitals.

Dharmika Fernando, the immediate past president of CIPM Sri Lanka is currently the President of the APFHRM. CIPM Sri Lanka is also the secretariat of the APFHRM.

APFHRM and World HR Congress Based on the rotational nature of hosting, APFHRM got the opportunity to host the World HR Congress in 2020 (now rescheduled for 2021). This is after the WFPMA World Congress 2018 was held in conjunction with the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Annual Conference and Exposition in Chicago, IL, USA on June 17-20, 2018. Reflecting its international origins and concerns, the event 'moves' around the world. The World Congress has been held since

Against a background of significant global disruption, change and the quest for competitive advantage, there is a growing awareness of the value of professional human resource management in helping to deliver that vital edge through people

1986 in the following cities: 2016 Istanbul, Turkey, 2014 Santiago, Chile, 2012 Melbourne, Australia, 2010 Montreal, Canada, 2008 London, UK, 2006 Singapore, 2004 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2002 Mexico City, Mexico, 2000 Paris, France, 1998 Caracas, Venezuela, 1996 Hong Kong, 1994 San Francisco, USA, 1992 Madrid, Spain, 1990 Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1988 Sydney, Australia, 1986 Washington DC, USA. We can clearly see that it has held twice in Australia that covers Pacific region. It was also held in Hong Kong and Singapore that covers the East Asian region. What has not yet covered in the Asia Pacific region is South Asia, which houses one fifth of the world population. That was our competitive advantage.

The bidding in Hong Kong

One key agenda item of the Bi-annual meeting of the APFHRM held in Hong Kong in 2017 was the selection of the host country for World HR Congress 2020. Australia, Philippines, Thailand and Sri Lanka were in the foray. The bid from Australia was very impressive with the strong message of inviting to "come back" after successful completion of two such events in the past. It could have been a logical choice of preferring a tested and known brand.

The Philippines harped on the popularity of Manila as an established venue for global conferences citing many recent ones. Thailand bid for me was most "appealing" with a strong endorsement from the government and also featuring infrastructure, nature and culture. We had a huge challenge.

Rohitha Amarapala, Dharmika Fernando and myself represented CIPM Sri Lanka and we knew the tough reality. Then President of WFPMA, Peter Wilson also representing Australia added bit biasness to the bidding process slightly tilting it towards them. The crux of the matter was a secret ballot after the presentations by all four bidding countries. Each country in the APFHRM had a vote. Our logic and drive in rallying South Asian countries together really worked. Sri Lanka got the highest votes in a democratic manner which was acceptable to all. It was clearly a case of stress into success.

Challenges with Covid-19

Now the ball is in our court. We need to do justice for the Asia Pacific Region in not only showing the organisational capabilities of CIPM Sri Lanka but also showcasing Sri Lanka as the "Wonder of Asia". It will be a collaborative effort of CIPM and other professional bodies representing multiple fronts. We have aptly selected the theme: "Exalting People Professionals Amidst a Planetary Pandemic: Explore, Expand and Excel". We will deliberate on digitalisation, disruption, diversity, and diligence regarding the distinct dimensions of human resource management (HRM).

The World HR Congress will show the world the potential of post-war Sri Lanka with its multiple investment offerings. It will be a hybrid event, comprising both an in-person congress and a virtual congress over a period of three days. It will include plenary sessions at the start of each day followed by several concurrent sessions.

Being the knowledge-hub of South Asia with a very high literacy rate and other Human Development Indicators (HDIs), Sri Lanka can make an impactful impression among the global and regional participants of the event. Opportunities for knowledge sharing, research collaborating and professional networking will be in abundance.

Way forward

As Walt Disney said, "if you can dream it, you can do it". This is what keeps us going. As the logo of the event depicts, the national flower holds the globe, significantly depicting the island nation of Sri Lanka. Despite the bumpy rides we often see in the political circles, our motherland has many things to be proud of. Surely, we will make the World HR Congress 2021 such a meaningful and memorable event.

National Savings Bank raises USD 35 mn loan facility

The National Savings Bank (NSB) raised a USD 35 million loan facility recently, supported by Indian Bank and Indian Overseas Bank.

The facility was arranged jointly by NDB Investment Bank of Sri Lanka & Alpen Capital of Dubai. Having followed a transparent process, Indian Bank and Indian Overseas Bank were identified as the most appropriate international lending partners. NSB was able to leverage on its strengths of having a local credit rating of AAA (Ika) along with a strong financial and an operational track record of performance, in reaching a highly satisfactory agreement.

"We have been successful in raising funds, especially during these difficult times. I would like to thank the funding

banks for supporting our growth strategy and our advisors, NDB Investment Bank & Alpen Capital, for facilitating this transaction," said National Savings Bank General Manager and CEO Ajith Peiris. NSB is presently focused on an ambitious mid-term strategy targeting 2021 as part of diversifying its sources of finances to spearhead Government initiatives in critical post-Covid revival of enterprises and entrepreneurs in the country. This loan will provide much impetus in expanding the Bank's balance sheet and steering it towards this goal. NSB is committed to the development of the country and its citizens, as a trusted financier with a track record nearing 50 years.

NDB Investment Bank and Alpen Capital (ME) Ltd., acted as the sole finan-



The exchange of the agreement: From left - CEO, NDB Investment Bank, Darshan Perera, Country Head, Indian Overseas Bank, Shameer, Senior DGM, NSB, K. Raveendran, CEO, Indian Bank, Basheer Ahmed, GM and CEO, NSB, Ajith Peiris, DGM, Credit and International Banking, NSB, Ms. Christine Jesudian, Senior Director, Alpen Capital (ME) Ltd., Dilip Samanthilake and CEO, NDB Investment Bank, Ms. Kaushini Laksumanage.

cial advisors to the transaction. Alpen Capital (ME) Ltd. is incorporated as a limited liability company in the Dubai

International Financial Centre, Dubai, United Arab Emirates and is licensed by the Dubai Financial Services Authority.

Tourism Chamber calls for more relief

At present there are three million people who are dependent on the tourism industry in this country as a source of livelihood. A large number of them have been affected due to Covid-19. The Chamber of Tourism and Industry has made a number of suggestions to the authorities to help them, Chamber President A.M. Jauffer said.

Among them are: A moratorium on loan and vehicle leasing payments was given to the Tourism sector for one year. However, since there has not been any improvement in the situation it has been suggested that the moratorium be extended for a further period of one year. Although there was relief provided

via in capital payments the banks continue to charge interest payments. Tourism Industry has been paying an interest rate from 9% to 15% and has been requested from the authorities to totally remove interest payments or to reduce interest rates to 4%. As tourist hotels are affected the most due to the outbreak, a special loan scheme at 4% interest needs to be introduced for SMEs engaged in the tourism industry. A Covid-19 hardship fund should be set up to assist tourist service providers who have lost their source of livelihood.

Tour guides and tourist drivers were provided a one time relief package i.e. a payment of Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 15,000.

However, since there has been no tourist business taking place and we call on the authorities to continue the same payment for another six months until the tourism industry resumes operations. Consideration should be offered to assist the indirect suppliers of the travel industry such as suppliers to hotels, those engaged in eco-tourism, adventure tourism, manufacturers of handicrafts.

The government should introduce a pension scheme for tourist service providers and employees in the tourism sector. Foreign Investors who are interested tourism investment in Sri Lanka should be granted attractive tax conces-

sions and duty concessions. Employees in the tourism sector to be insured against all sickness including pandemics such as current Covid-19. Providing beach-cleaning equipment to local authorities in tourism areas. Providing a fully-equipped fire brigade to local authorities in tourism areas. Request all booking engine commissions to reduce fees until the industry picks up. The Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority must set up regional branches in tourist areas. The top ten tourist-generating markets to Sri Lanka in 2019: India, UK, China, Germany, Australia, France, Russian Federation, United States, The Maldives and Canada.

SEC encourages companies to list

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka (SEC) conducted a forum for the Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) of several private companies recently to encourage them to list on the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE).

The SEC has had a continuous dialogue with all stakeholders of the capital market and has emphasised on the need to take aggressive measures to develop the market in order to ensure that it is the preferred place to raise capital.

Only a few companies have listed on the CSE during the past several years and that was seen as one of the reasons for inadequate level of liquidity and relatively small size of the market. The SEC recently approved a new framework for listing of companies, granting complete autonomy to the CSE in the listing process and has also relaxed the Listing Rules to encourage more listings.

The aim of the forum was to reach out to companies that are not listed in order to make them aware of the benefits of getting listed and to apprise them of the key proposals included in the Government's budget for 2021 which has provided certain tax exemptions to companies which list before December 31.

The Chairman of the SEC Viraj Dayaratne made the opening remarks and outlined the advantages of obtaining a listing, especially during the current positive market environment and said the process

involved in listing a company was not as cumbersome or expensive as is generally perceived. He requested them to take the message to their respective Boards.

Presentations were made by the Chief Regulatory Officer (CRO) of the CSE, Renuke Wijayawardhane and Commission members of the SEC, Manil Jayasinghe and Naresh Abeysekera.

Wijayawardhane outlined the requirements and processes involved in listing and Jayasinghe explained in detail how listing on the CSE was an attractive option for companies to raise funds. He highlighted as to why this method of raising capital was more advantageous than other methods through which a company was able to raise capital.

Naresh Abeysekera outlined how the digital platform can be used to raise capital in the near future and benefits that listed companies can derive from the CSE mobile application.

The forum concluded with a panel discussion featuring the Chairman, the two Commission members, Director General Chinthaka Mendis and the CRO of the CSE. The panel discussion created the space for a dialogue between the panelists and the CFOs who participated at the forum.

The SEC plans to organise events where the Chairmen and CEOs of companies would be spoken to, to take this initiative forward.

Business

Fruit exporters explore opportunities in Mumbai

The Sri Lanka Consulate in Mumbai and the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) connected Sri Lankan fresh fruit exporters (avocado and passion fruit) with high-end supermarkets in Mumbai through virtual B2B meetings recently.

This was a follow up discussion on the program launched by the Consulate in September last year to promote and diversify Sri Lanka's agri products to the Indian Market in line with the Government's export economic policy. Twenty online B2B meetings took place between five fruit and vegetable exporters from Sri Lanka and three supermarket chains in India, Nature's Basket, More Retail, Star Bazaar and East West Agro, a Mumbai-based fresh

fruit importer. Given the close proximity and the duty concessions offered to Sri Lanka for agri products under the Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA), Sri Lanka is well positioned to use this untapped export potential.

In addition to avocado and passion fruit, the Sri Lankan companies have received inquiries on the possibility of exporting other products such as mangoes (during the off season in India), rambutan and soursop from Sri Lanka. India imports avocado from Latin America and Europe and passion fruit from South Africa as the local supply of avocado and passion fruit in India are not sufficient to fulfill the local demand.



The online BtoB meetings in progress.

Sign language training program

Disability Resource Centre of the Employers' Federation of Ceylon (EFC) will commence a 10-day training program on basic sign language. The program will be conducted over 10 consecutive weeks commencing March 2.

Sessions are scheduled for Tuesday and Thursdays from 2.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Online training will also be offered.

The sessions will be conducted in a physical-virtual blended learning model and the participants may opt to either follow the in-class sessions conducted at the EFC Disability Resource Centre or connect for

simultaneous virtual sessions via the conferencing platform Zoom.

The sessions will be conducted by professional sign language interpreter of the Department of Social Services, Chammi Nishara Dias supported by Manager, Specialised Training and Disability Resource Centre of the EFC, Ms. Manique Gunaratne.

Those interested in following the program are requested to forward the duly perfected registration form on or before February 25.

For more information, please contact 077 9571918 or maniqueg@empfed.lk

Global summit calls on women to shatter glass ceiling

Women Empowered Global, a global forum for female entrepreneurs and leaders and the Gerety Awards, a global creative award, will conduct a global virtual summit for women to "Shatter the Glass Ceiling", on International Women's Day.

An online virtual summit will be held on March 8 connecting strong personalities from around the world on their mission to empower women. The summit will address dialogue on powerful topics such as "Beyond Women on Boards; How the gender lens can impact organizational strategy for the better" and "Breaking Down Stereotypes; The shift from gender specific to gender neutral consumer branding".

The summit will feature internationally acclaimed speakers in two ses-

sions. Session 1 will feature a keynote address from Women Empowered Global, CEO Senela Jayasuriya, and Gerety Awards Co-Founder Lucia Ongay, followed by a panel represented by Founder/CEO, Destiny Arise, Zimbabwe and Australia, Hazel Herrington, Head of Creative Shop APAC - Facebook, Singapore, Angela Bassichetti, Goodvertising, Marketing Activist, Author and Speaker - Denmark, Thomas Kolster and Group Chief Customer Officer, Dialog Axiata, Sri Lanka, Sandra De Zoysa. This session will focus on looking beyond simply including female representation on Corporate Boards and discuss the unique value propositions of women in decision-making positions, and how the gender lens can impact organization strategy for the

better. It will be moderated by Founder & CEO of Women Empowered Global&WE. Global Academy, Senela Jayasuriya.

Session II will discuss the shift from gender specific to gender neutral consumer branding, what makes this transition so important (culture, stigma, empowerment), and how consumer markets are evolving around the world. The session features Ariana Stolarz, Chief Global Strategy Officer - MRM, USA, Amaya Coronado, Former CEO - LOLA MullenLowe, Spain;

Global President, FCB/Six, Andrea Cook (Canada) and Chairperson, HumanSense, Sri Lanka, Ruchi Sharma. The moderator for this session will be Founder and CEO of YES Builds, Senior Consultant and Global Business

Advisor, Yolanda E. Shields (USA). "I am looking forward to our 2021 IWD 'Shatter your glass ceiling' Global Virtual Summit, to make it a memorable, impactful and inspiring one."

Together with Gerety Awards, we have arranged a diverse lineup of speakers from around the world, to share their insights, thought-provoking perspectives and their experiences in how they are shattering the glass ceiling, how they #ChooseToChallenge and are supporting initiatives to empower more women," said CEO of Women Empowered Global, Senela Jayasuriya.

Women Empowered Global together with Gerety Awards has organised this global summit with a free-access pass for people who register before the day of the event.

Moose Clothing wins SLIM award

Moose Clothing Company clinched its first Bonze award under the "Best New Entrant Brand" category at the recently held SLIM Brand Excellence Awards 2020.

Moose Clothing believes in creating clothing that's loved by all, allowing everyone to embrace and celebrate their unique personalities. The brand is keen about perfecting every aspect of their clothing and puts in every effort to create a quality garment that will always speak for itself.

Executive Director and CEO of Moose Clothing Company, Hasib Omar said, "This is indeed a testimony of our hard work and dedication towards the brand and our customers. At Moose we believe that each customer is unique and our clothing is tailored to match that uniqueness. We entered the market with that in mind and this award is a clear indication that we are on the right track."

Moose Clothing Company is a result of a 50-year long expertise in the apparel industry and the brand strives to craft quality clothing through innovation that will always evolve with the wearer and resonate their lifestyles making them feel their best, he said.



Executive Director and CEO at Moose Clothing Hasib Omar (second left) with the company's Head of Sales and Marketing Stefan Schumacher, Head of Supply Chain Vinu Basnayake and Senior Manager Finance, Nadeesha Gunawardana.

John Keells Properties' Freedom Mortgages for HNB customers

John Keells Properties has tied up with Hatton National Bank to offer its Freedom Mortgages home financing scheme for potential homeowners looking to invest in its Tri-Zen development.

The Freedom Mortgage plan promises customers the financial relief of a two-year interest free period on their mortgage, with the customer only having to pay 20% up front. The bank will fund up to 80% of the purchase price and the loan will be offered at attractive interest rates starting from just 7%.

Investors are faced with an unprecedented opportunity to purchase a home in the heart of the city through the Freedom Mortgage plan. Once the first 20% is paid, the customers do not need to make any further payments for two years through this scheme, and the bank can also offer a grace on the capital repayment for up to five years. The loan process is supported by HNB's state-of-the-art back-end processes to ensure a three-day loan approval period for all applications.

"As one of the largest private sec-



After signing the agreement. (From left): John Keells Properties Legal Officer, Kanishka Herat, John Keells Properties Head of Sales, Nadeem Shums, John Keells Properties Chief Financial Officer, Ravi Wijeyewansa, John Keells Properties- Sector Head, Nayana Mawilmada with HNB Deputy General Manager, Retail and SME Banking, Sanjay Wijemanne, HNB Head of Personal Financial Services, Kanchana Karunagum and HNB Assistant Manager, Housing and Personal Loans, Sampath Dodanwela.

tor banks in the country, we have always worked to offer our customers the best possible method to achieve their dreams. This partnership is an ideal opportunity for pro-

spective homeowners looking to invest in a modern living space for their dream home," said HNB Deputy General Manager, Retail and SME Banking, Sanjay Wijemanne.

Upfield to boost... Continued from page 25

Upfield, leading producer of plant based spreads and cheeses with over 100 brands has committed to making nutritious breakfast a reality for 100 million children globally by 2025.

"We strive to improve the health and wealth of people through the promotion of nutritious food and awareness on the importance of consuming healthy food," Liyanage said at the launch of the Astra Diriyawa campaign in Colombo last week to empower women to be entrepreneurs in the baking industry.

The Astra Home Bakers pro-

gram will include comprehensive training on all aspects of cake making. Astra's mission is to empower at least one woman from each GramaSevaka division to boost the living standards of 14,000 families across the country.

"The program will boost household income and enable women to provide better health and education to children," Upfield Customer Development Director Anurudha Aluvihare said.

Astra has launched similar initiatives in Colombo and Kurunegala. The current initiative will be at a larger scale involving more benefi-

ciaries and stakeholders. The women empowerment program will be launched initially in the Western Province with 15 training programs next month with an investment around Rs. 10 million under the first phase of the program.

Association of Samurrdhi and Agricultural Research Officers General Secretary Jagath Kumara said around Rs. 10 billion has been allocated to support around two million Samurrdhi beneficiary families to improve their living standards and added that the Astra initiative will boost the efforts of the Government to empower low income families.

Global tourism... Continued from page 25

A theme of the global promotional campaign is "Sri Lanka, a safe place to visit".

Sri Lanka recorded over 4,000 visitors since opening of airports and lifting travel restrictions last month.

The country recorded 1,682 visitors last month following a nine-month closure of airports in March last year.

Around 87 percent of the travellers to the country last month were Ukrainians who were welcomed under the pilot project launched on December 26.

Others included travellers from

China, Belarus, Russia, Germany, Netherlands, Canada, India, the Maldives and the United States.

Aitken Spence Travels facilitated the first charter flight from Kazakhstan on February 6.

Sri Lanka tourism targets over 100,000 visitors to the country this year with the backing of the promotional campaign.

However, industry personnel said all depends on how soon the key travel markets world recovers from the pandemic.

Globally travel dropped by around 74 percent last year over the previous year due to travel restric-

tions across key destinations being enforced since April 2020. According to the latest UNWTO World Tourism Barometer, the collapse in international travel represents an estimated loss of USD 1.3 trillion in export revenue - over 11 times the loss recorded during the 2009 global economic crisis.

Sri Lanka is known for its wide attractions including the rich historical heritage that enables it to lure in travellers from across the globe.

However, the numbers of visitors it attracts a year is far below its competitors such as Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore and Malaysia.

Discussions... Continued from page 25

the extraordinary circumstances that prevailed last year.

The Central Bank also expects to review the Banking Act during the year, expecting to upgrade the legal and regulatory framework of licensed banks to further strengthen the financial system of the country.

Banking institutions for identifiable market niches, such as development banks, are accepted. Large commercial banks will be encouraged to continue looking into avenues of expanding into regional markets.

The Central Bank will continue to facilitate a market-driven con-

solidation process, enabling small and medium-sized banks to merge with other banks, preferably with larger banks having sound financial positions and viable business models.

The regulator had identified several ailing financial institutions facing severe liquidity issues to merge with larger and stable institutions under its long term financial sector consolidation program.

"We have found out the institutions that urgently need to come under the consolidation program which we are currently working on to ensure stability in the finance

sector of the country," a senior official of the Central Bank said. However, financial sector experts have been harping that there is no use in shutting the door after the horse had bolted, which was the case with closure of The Finance Company, a long-standing and reputed financial entity in the country. "Our plan is to consolidate and have merges between stronger and weak entities to ensure financial stability in the sector," he said. Meanwhile the State Minister of Finance said ensuring financial sector stability with stronger institutions is key to boost the economy.

Promote SOPs... Continued from page 25

...of vehicles are keen to invest in the vehicles assembly industry in Sri Lanka.

"There are no two words that importation of all non-essential goods must be brought to a halt to save the drain of foreign exchange from the country as all sources of foreign exchange inflows such as worker remittances and tourism have dried up," Welgama said.

Sri Lanka earns around USD 7 billion annually from worker remittances. "We also need to focus and empower local component manufacturing which is yet not up to the mark. Experts in this sector must be identified and supported," Welgama said, adding Sri Lanka

also has the talent and potential to be an Original Equipment (OE) manufacturer. Ideal has created two OE manufacturers in seats and exide batteries.

He said vehicle imports went beyond control in the past due to the former regime introducing excise duty on vehicles based on a unit rate for cc capacity which paved the way for parallel importers (non franchised importers) to import any vehicle freely under a market liberalised system.

He said previously franchised operators imported nearly 75 percent of new vehicles. However, the unit rate of taxation changed this landscape, wherein, parallel importers now import 75 percent of vehicles and fran-

chised operators a mere 25 percent. Therefore, in the past five years, a vast number of car importers set up car yards and showrooms throughout the island. He said a major drawback of this unregulated imports was the importation of cars which didn't have any aftercare backup. For example, some 7000 Nissan Leafs and other EVs arrived in SL without any service/ spare parts backup. The owners of these vehicles are now faced with insurmountable problems. According to the Vehicle Importers Association of Sri Lanka there are less than 3,000 vehicles imported which is not sufficient to meet even two and half months of demand.

Inimitable benefits of e-marketing

by
Hemantha Kulatunga



Encyclopedia.Com defines e-marketing as a process of planning and executing the conception, distribution, promotion, and pricing of products or services in a computerised, networked environment. The process is similar to traditional marketing, is to satisfy customer needs and demands. e-marketing provides more convenient methods to identify and analyse businesses, products, prices, and competition. The most vital advantage for the advertiser is the substantial cost-effectiveness compared to any type of traditional marketing.

At present, there are approximately 10.1 million internet users, 6.4 million social media users, 6.4 million Facebook accounts, and 31.8 million mobile connections in Sri Lanka. Considering the population, the figures are amazingly high compared to other countries in the region. This means that market penetration through e-marketing has become compulsory for Sri Lankan companies, whether they are small, medium, or large.

e-marketing is a mix of modern communication technology that focuses on marketing an organisation online. Features on the internet connect the organisation with new customers, retain existing customers, and build an identity. The reality is that whether the business has a physical presence or working completely online, e-marketing is essentially important to achieve high market visibility.

e-marketing facilitates businesses to reach customers through a range of different means and in a number of unique ways. The internet dispels the geographical limitations of businesses to reach a wider and more accurate audience. The capability of accessing

customers anywhere in the country and throughout the globe is an enormous benefit to marketers. e-marketing further personalises the audience through the efficiency of the applications where customers can easily be categorised to suit the marketing need.

Customer needs

Through the use of social media, companies can harness adequate information to identify the customer needs more precisely where they may get attracted automatically. e-marketing also offers important methods to draw customers including interactive and integrated advertising. The Internet helps organisations to create unified campaigns at substantially low costs. When the communications or promotional efforts are combined, the marketers can design more effective customer-centric messages to target audiences.

e-marketing is also described as a general term used to signify a collection of different internet related activities including website creating, consumer communications, e-mail marketing, social media marketing, and other similar pursuits. e-marketing can be understood as a broad concept that gained many additional platforms in recent years with the existence of the staggering number of smartphones available in the world. New applications are introduced by various sources frequently although the key platforms such as Facebook with 2.5 billion users, Twitter with 300 million users, YouTube with 2 billion users, LinkedIn with 600 million, and Instagram with a billion users are still leading sources for e-marketing.

The two key advantages among several others are the cost-effectiveness and speed of approach. These two reasons place e-marketing at a far above position when compared to many other traditional and contemporary marketing approaches. The cost to benefit ratio in e-marketing is

much higher than any other effort for small and medium-sized organisations depending on the products or services, according to expert opinion. Even for larger organisations, despite their traditional marketing campaigns, e-marketing is considered an exceedingly effective method to reach wider audiences.

The increased ability to acquire information and analyse them critically is also an incomparable advantage for organisations to design their marketing strategies and also to plan overall business strategies. There are comparison websites equipped with product listings, customer reviews, ratings, and so forth that offer an enormous opportunity to customers to choose options. Comparison websites are the best examples of the huge influence e-marketing has on customers. This constantly evolving e-marketing model is expected to improve substantially further in the future.

Numerous opportunities

The impact of user-driven and community-oriented social media applications is evident throughout the world. Many of these social networking services offer numerous opportunities to businesses in different forms. For example, Facebook offers advertising services to target individuals based on various useful criteria. Such advertising, therefore, is targeted at specific audiences with more focused messages.

In Sri Lanka, Facebook, with 6.4 million users, is the most effective e-marketing platform available currently for businesses. As the largest social media site in the world and Sri Lanka as well, Facebook has the largest audience for e-marketing in the country. Social media users usually open the Facebook application more frequently than other applications, extending a far better reach to advertisers. It is revealed that most Sri Lankans with active Facebook



accounts spend several hours a day collectively. Nevertheless, this habit makes advertisers excessively constructive with much better effectiveness in sending a message.

However, despite the numerous advantages, e-marketers should be aware that there are pitfalls in e-marketing as well. Heavy dependency on technology is one of them. The complete reliance on the internet can lead to different types of issues such as cyber-attacks, the competition created by free availability and misinformation.

Even when the local products are advertised, e-marketing platforms create a global competition with an enormous amount of competitive information. Besides, e-marketing has privacy-related issues as the information is usually public and accessible to everyone.

Another disadvantage was apparent in recent years with the enhanced use of social media. Despite many benefits, an image of a company,

product, or brand can be irreparably damaged by poor reviews and negative comments by readers. Particularly in the Sri Lankan market, these bad reviews can lead to more trailing negative comments that can be detrimental to a business.

Dissatisfied customers

Poor customer reviews empower dissatisfied customers to a far greater extent and has the potential to destabilise e-marketing campaigns. Particularly, the opinion of one disgruntled customer can go viral in an instant, undermining a successful business. The increased transparency can empower customers to search for competitive alternatives with the ease of acquiring information.

e-marketing offers perhaps an unlimited customer base to marketers on one hand and offers a vast amount of opportunities for customers to find alternatives or substitutes on the other. Businesses face fierce competition with the availability of a

gigantic amount of information about other similar products. Hence, in order to cope with the extent of competition, marketers must be highly competent and focus upon distinctive strategies to differentiate themselves from others in the market.

Online marketing in the existing fast pace at the market place is vitally important because it helps businesses to get found online. e-marketing also changes the way a business is observed by potential customers.

Whether it is social media, search engine optimisation, e-mail campaigns, or content marketing, the outcome is the boosting the credibility of the company and its products or services. Marketing organisations cannot resist or ignore e-marketing any longer whether they are small or large. Therefore, when considering the enormous benefits of e-marketing, the reality is that if the campaigns are properly strategised, the result for finding customers at the lowest cost is unparalleled.

Nurturing the tourism and hospitality industry

BY BHAVNA DADLANI

Last year was one that encouraged industries across the board to innovate and improvise. It was a year that saw various industries coming together and working towards a common goal to help the people of Sri Lanka - doing whatever they could in their respective capacities.

Business entities helped communities by providing support to health-care workers, ensuring key supply lines were kept open, and that residents had access to essential supplies through the curfew. Several hotels offered their facilities as quarantine units, as well as hospitals; organisations came forward to feed the hungry, and supported the armed forces and police in whatever manner they could.

Uber helped tens of thousands of earners on its platform by enabling new means of generating income, such as the 'tipping' feature on its app. We helped our courier and driver partners stay safe by providing them PPE gear and initiating contactless delivery.

The year saw people get more comfortable with the idea of having their needs delivered to their doorsteps, and this is one trend we can confidently predict will stay. As people begin to step out and cities begin to cautiously open up, we expect eaters to continue to look to food delivery to satiate their cravings.

Looking ahead, as tens of millions of people get vaccinated across the world, we can expect many businesses to slowly recover from their pandemic slumps. We remain optimistic and hopeful that 2021 will be a year for recovery and healing. For a country that thrives off its friendly faces, sun-kissed beaches and breathtaking views, our growing tourism and hospitality industry cannot recover just by itself. These industries need support.

We will do our bit. What we can promise is that the delivery industry will continue to innovate and improvise, to look for new ways of helping the country and allied businesses heal.

For businesses, last year saw more industries, including pharma-



ceuticals and retail try out delivery of their products - a trend likely to stay as Sri Lankans get used to the comfort of getting their needs delivered to their doorsteps. Having the advantage of getting their products and services delivered also turned out to be a new revenue stream for some businesses, which helped them stay afloat during challenging times.

We were proud to tie up with SriLankan Catering Ltd, and host their range of offerings on the Uber Eats platform. Apart from the national carrier, several leading hotels and cinemas opted for food delivery too. Through 2021 and beyond, home delivery will continue to be a focus area within the hotel and hospitality industry, and thus be a crucial pillar in scripting its revival.

Seen as an indicator of overall economic growth, the digitisation of sourcing food was not limited to the urban pockets of Colombo, but clearly gathered steam outside the city as well. A recent report by the Asian Development Bank projected this process of digitisation to rally all across Asia through 2025, adding 65 million jobs annually and an additional \$184 billion to the continent's combined GDP per year.

As we Sri Lankans get more comfortable with the idea of technology aiding our daily needs, delivery of goods and services is expected to become a staple across the country including tourist hotspots. This will be key as we open our borders to global tourists, who need to be introduced to our delectable local cuisines.

Given that we have now built systems for supporting the delivery of food, I'm confident it will be a key differentiator and catalyst to aid the recovery of the tourism and hospitality industries.

Getting started in shares - Part 3

Basic investing considerations



(Part 2 appeared last week)

When engaging in the stock market a potential investor needs to spend some time to understand their motive for investment, what is expected out of it and the extent of risk associated with it, prior to embarking on an investment of this nature.

Understand your investment needs and financial ability

A successful investment is one which would grow your capital and result in earning a substantial return. Share investment is an attractive investment vehicle, which would be fruitful if an investor is willing to invest their time and money for a long period. As share investments in particular works best when they are held long-term.

Know what options are available to you

After you have established your

objectives you can then consider a range of stocks and construct a suitable portfolio. It is always advised to be more prudent and also get advice from a qualified investment professional who is well versed on the subject matter, in order to fully understand what you are investing in.

It is always advised to seek professional advice if you fail to fully understand the features of an instrument, the investment-worthiness of the company or if any other doubt or confusion.

What is your risk appetite?

Are you an investor that is seeking to invest in a security that is considered to be less risky? Or are you prepared to accept higher risks for the prospect of higher returns?

Investing in shares is riskier than other forms of investments but offer a greater chance of a higher return.

You should also note that there are shares which over a period of time have been identified to pay a stable dividend and are perceived to be less risky in comparison.

Portfolio diversification

A strategy used to mitigate the risk factor when investing in the stock market. The famous investment adage 'don't put all your eggs in one basket' is the best way to explain the term diversification. If equities are the only form of investment it would be a smart move to diversify between multiple companies which would reduce the risk factor. In this way, losses made on some investments can be absorbed by gains made in others.

Choose the right approach

Investors who take a long-term approach to the market, reap the most rewards. For those investors who have a short-term investment, timing is important as they have to closely keep track of short-term movements in prices in order to find advantageous trading opportunities.

By either visiting the CSE website www.cse.lk or by installing the CSE mobile app you will be able to see the

performance of the overall market as represented by the ASPI or the index of 20 selected companies (S&P SL20). The CSE also conducts a number of investing related workshops around the country tailored to capture the interest of new investors.

Do your homework

When investing in shares one should be prepared to do some homework on the companies, they wish to invest in and acquire the basic skills of analysing a company's annual reports, accounts and other statements in order to understand how the company that you invested in is performing and how its share prices may move accordingly.

Consult your investment advisor or stockbroker to get the latest market information about shares you intend to buy or sell. Making decisions based on rumours, particularly if you yourself cannot explain the choice in a rational manner is certainly not advisable.

Also constantly check the CSE website on which all corporate disclosures are disseminated which would enable you to make a calculated decision.

Courtesy: The Colombo Stock Exchange (Part 4 will appear next week)

Textprint Lanka teams up with Trischel Fabric

Textprint Lanka (Pvt) Ltd - the fully integrated fabric printing entity of MAS Holdings supply chain - signed a sales and purchase agreement with Trischel Fabric (Pvt) Ltd recently. Through this agreement Textprint assumes the position of Trischel's official print solution provider.

With this merger, Trischel, a vertically integrated warp and weft synthetic fabric manufacturer, will leverage Textprint printing capabilities in synthetic fabric, cotton fabric and lace to offer a comprehensive manufacturing solution.

The amalgamation follows MAS' joint venture agreement of 2018 with Best Pacific International Holdings

Limited - the leading one-stop solution provider in the global synthetic textile industry. Since the formation of the joint venture, Trischel has grown to become one of the largest synthetic fabric manufacturers in South Asia catering to the needs of the world's foremost fashion brands.

With the amalgamation of Trischel and Textprint Lanka, the company will continue to drive performance improvements across the supply chain by streamlining operations and exploring more growth opportunities in the domain of fabric printing technology. Trischel's new printing arm will acquire Textprint Lanka's state-of-the-art technologies



After the signing of the agreement: (From left) CEO, Trischel Fabric, Dhanushka Fernando, Director, Trischel Fabric, Jon Jia, Group Finance Director, MAS Holdings, Prasanna Jayasekera, CEO, MAS Fabric Park, Misver Deane and General Manager, Finance, Trischel Fabric, Uvais Hamza.

such as flatbed printing, rotary printing, digital printing and foil printing, as well as its in-house design and

development unit, engraving unit, fully automatic color dispensing unit and other finishing technologies.

Business

Softlogic Life posts Rs. 1.5 b PAT

Softlogic Life revenue grew to record Gross Written Premium (GWP) of Rs. 15.6 billion, an increase of 25%, a media release from the company stated.

The strong growth follows a similar 25% growth that was achieved by the Company in the previous year when the economy was badly impacted by the Easter attacks in 2019. The Company is proud to note its contribution to increasing insurance penetra-

tion in the country with 265,617 policies issued during the past year, 33% of total industry that cover all segments of society. One in every three policies taken up in 2020 was a Softlogic Life policy with the Company insuring over 1.5 million Sri Lankan lives.

The Company was ranked third largest in the Life Insurance market, rising one more notch during the year and has overtaken much older players

to establish strong growth momentum with market share increasing to 15.2%. Profit before tax for the financial year ended 31st December 2020 was Rs. 2.1 billion and Profit after tax was Rs 1.5 billion.

Total assets of the Company were Rs.33.2 billion indicating a growth of 61%. The Company paid claims totalling Rs. 3.5 billion during the year in accordance with its unique claims settlement philosophy with 87% of

claims settled in one single day. Chairman of Softlogic Life Insurance Ashok Pathirage said, "We continue to remain fully confident of Sri Lanka's growth prospects and see the low penetration in the life insurance industry as a great opportunity for future growth."

Softlogic Life undertook key measures in 2020 towards sustaining its robust growth path by successfully raising USD 30 million (Rs. 5.7 billion)

during the year via a FinRe transaction with global reinsurance leader Munich and Subordinated Debt transaction with FinnFund and NorFund that will provide capital to further develop the business objectives of the Company. It is also important to note that the capital raising was concluded amidst an on-going global pandemic that demonstrates the bright prospects for the country's Life insurance sector.



Chairman Ashok Pathirage

Financial Year 2020-21 – First nine months performance

Hemas reasserts its agility with strong performance

Chief Executive Officer's Review

Hemas Holdings PLC (HHL) delivered another strong quarter of results driven by its commitment to serve customers in the core segments, Home and Personal Care (HPC) and Healthcare.

Continued focus on working capital efficiencies and cost rationalisation measures strengthened Group's liquidity position which was also endorsed by Fitch ratings with the reaffirmation of "AAA (lka)- Outlook Stable" rating criteria for the Group following the recalibration of its Sri Lankan National Rating scale.

HHL posted an underlying Group revenue of Rs. 17.7 billion for the quarter ended December 31, 2020, an increase of 3.3 per cent over the corresponding period last year, after adjusting for the disposal of the Leisure segment as a 'discontinued operation', except for Joint Venture invest-

ments held by the Group. Underlying Group operating profit for the quarter under review at Rs. 2.1 billion is a growth of 17.5 per cent over Rs.1.8 billion recorded last year while the underlying Group earnings of Rs. 1.3 billion is an increase of 36.5 percent over last year.

While the quarter-on-quarter growth momentum slowed down during Q3 in the backdrop of the second wave of Covid-19 in the Western Province, the Group reasserted its agility with a revenue growth of 2.3 percent and an operating profit growth of 3.0 percent over the preceding quarter.

The Group recorded a cumulative underlying revenue of Rs.47.9 billion leading up to the first nine months of FY 2020-21, indicating an 8.0 per cent growth against the corresponding period last year. Similarly, the cumulative underlying Group operating prof-



Group CEO Kasthuri C. Wilson

it of Rs. 4.7 billion for the nine-month period is a notable year on year increase of 61.0 per cent over Rs.2.9 billion recorded last year despite the challenges encountered in the macro environment and the intensity of competitive landscape.

The Consumer sector reported a

revenue of Rs.7.9 billion during the quarter, a decline of 5.5 per cent over corresponding quarter last year. However, operating profit for the quarter saw a year-on-year increase of 31.6 per cent, driven by both HPC and stationery businesses. The Healthcare sector recorded a revenue for the quarter amounting to Rs.9.3 billion against Rs.8.0 billion recorded over the corresponding period last year.

The Group's Pharmaceutical segment, Morison and Pharmaceutical distribution business experienced steady year-on-year performance across most of the key therapeutic segments, while the prescription driven antibiotics segment witnessed a slowdown.

Mobility sector revenue for the quarter under review at Rs. 458.1 million is a decline of 38.0 percent over the corresponding period last year.

Hayleys delivers Rs 8.20 b PAT

Foreign currency earnings top USD 443 million

The Hayleys Group maintained its growth momentum in the first nine months of FY 2020/21, delivering its highest ever pre-tax profit of Rs.11.51 billion which represents a tripling of profitability compared to the corresponding period of last year.

The performance reflects exceptional growth in the core performance of the Group's export-oriented businesses, relentless focus on cost efficiencies through the 'Haysmart' program and commendable improvements in the Retail and Construction Materials sectors. The period under review reflects the strongest quarterly and cumulative nine-month performance in the Group's operating history and demonstrates its adaptability and responsiveness in navigating complexities stemming from the operating landscape.

The Group's revenue increased by 7% to Rs.171.90 billion in the nine months driven by continued growth in

the Hand Protection, Purification, Agriculture and Textiles sectors. Gross profit growth amounted to 14% and reflects improvements in core profitability-primarily in the export-oriented businesses. Meanwhile, the Group continued to achieve cost efficiencies with consolidated Administrative expenses declining by 4% during the period, reflecting the successes of Haysmart, the Group's holistic cost rationalisation program.

The earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortisation (EBITDA) recorded strong growth of 38% to Rs. 22.60 billion. The stellar performance of the Hand Protection and Purification sectors represent robust demand, timely capacity expansions, improved product mix, effective supply chain management and ongoing cost efficiencies.

Agriculture and Construction Materials sectors also recorded commendable growth while Consumer &



Chairman Mohan Pandithage

Retail delivered its highest-ever quarterly profitability supported by targeted sales campaigns, robust demand for IT products and effective margin management. Despite continued losses in the Leisure Sector, the Group's Consolidated Earnings before Interest and Tax (EBIT) increased by 40% to Rs.17.28 billion during the nine-month period. Resultantly, pre-tax profit

nearly tripled to Rs. 11.51 billion while profit-after-tax amounted to Rs. 8.20 billion compared to Rs.2.21 billion in the corresponding period of last year.

Chairman and Chief Executive of Hayleys PLC, Mohan Pandithage said, "While we expect our export-oriented businesses to maintain their current growth momentum and deliver continued earnings growth, we are also optimistic about our domestic businesses, given the resumption of economic activity and anticipated revival of Sri Lanka's economy."

"We commend the Government for its efforts in creating a conducive environment for businesses to continue operations, despite unprecedented challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. I congratulate and acknowledge the dedication and indomitable spirit of the Hayleys team, which has been a vital factor in the Group's success during these challenging times," he said.



State Minister of Fisheries, Kanchana Wijesekera and Ministry officials visited the Tess canned fish factory in Peliyagoda last week. They met the CEO Shiran Fernando and Director Shevan Fernando and inquired into the equipment used to can the fish, under the Government's policy uplifting local industries. Pic: Wimal Karunatilekka

Pizza Hut and Social Services Dept to empower differently-abled

Gamma Pizzakraft Lanka (Pvt) Ltd has partnered with ChildFund Sri Lanka and the Department of Social Services, to improve the economic engagement of youth with disabilities, especially girls with disabilities, in quality vocational training programs in a safe and conducive environment.

This partnership has led to the inauguration of an industrial food technology unit and renovation of the accommodation facilities for girls with disabilities at the Vocational Training Centre, Amunukumbura.

This mega-project is being executed under the concept of 'An Equal Slice For Everyone', which is the Social Purpose of Pizza Hut International. ChildFund Sri Lanka has enrolled girls with disabilities and has widened the streams available for training and quality of teaching. The Department of Social Service hopes to make Persons with Disability

(PWD) community active stakeholders, by unlocking their fullest potential to aid national economic development.

The food technology unit at the vocational centre with a state-of-the-art kitchen will provide a comprehensive curriculum, ranging from food and beverage, hygiene and food safety standards to proficiency in English. Upon the successful completion of the course at this food technology unit, they will be employed within the Pizza Hut chain or with other socially responsible entities in the country, with whom discussions have already been initiated.

Director of Human Resources of Gamma Pizzakraft, Kaushal Mendis said, "We firmly believe that our efforts will not only improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities but also promote and safeguard equality, self-determination, dignity and social inclusion of such persons."

Sampath Bank's asset base up 15.4%



Chairman Harsha Amarasekera

Sampath Bank continued to grow in 2020 with the Bank's asset base expanding by 15.4% to cross the historical Rs. 1 trillion mark to reach Rs. 1.1 tn as at December 31, 2020, from Rs. 962 bn reported as at end December 2019.

Sampath Bank recorded a decline in Profit After Tax (PAT), from Rs. 11.1 bn in 2019 to Rs. 8 bn for 2020. The Bank registered a Profit Before Tax (PBT) of Rs. 11.2 bn compared to Rs. 15.5 bn recorded in 2019, a decline of 27.9%.

The PBT and PAT of the Group for the year ended December 31, 2020 stood at Rs. 11.9 bn and Rs. 8.4 bn respectively, denoting a decline of 27.2% and 27.6% respectively.

With the government-led economic stimulus package and interest caps introduced by the regulator bringing pressure on the Bank's Net Interest Margins (NIM), in 2020 the Bank registered a NIM of 3.3% which was 116 basis points lower than the year 2019.

Total Interest Income for the year 2020 decreased by Rs. 14.9 bn to Rs. 88.6 bn compared to Rs. 103.5 bn registered in the previous year, reflecting a dip of 14.4%. Total Interest Expenses too reported a decline of 11.6% to Rs. 54.8 bn



MD Nanda Fernando

in 2020 from the Rs. 61.9 bn recorded in 2019.

The combined impact of the lower interest regime and the concessionary interest rates charged during debt moratorium phase I, drove down the Bank's NII by 18.6% from Rs. 41.6 bn in the previous year to Rs. 33.8 bn in 2020.

Sampath Bank reported net fee and commission income of Rs. 8.5 bn in 2020, a decline of 15.7% against the previous year.

The main contributor to the Bank's asset growth during this year was net loans and advances, the reason being the sluggish credit demand from the private sector and the selective lending approach adopted by the Bank amid the elevated credit risk prevalent in the market throughout the year. As a result, the net loan book of the Bank, which stood at Rs. 689.4 bn as at December 31, 2019 expanded marginally by 4.5%, to reach Rs. 720.2 bn as at December 31, 2020. The debt and other instruments portfolio recorded a growth of 76% or Rs. 118.8 bn in the year under review.

Sampath Bank's deposit base expanded by Rs. 168.6 bn or 23.5% during the year, to reach Rs. 886.9 bn as at December 31, 2020.

Velona Cuddles clinches Silver

SLIM Brand Excellence Awards



Chairman of Threadworks (Pvt) Ltd., Dr. Gehan De Soysa and a senior member of the sales team, receive the award

Velona Cuddles, a brand in the hygiene and clothing segment was presented a Silver award for "Innovative Brand of the Year" at the SLIM Brand Excellence Awards 2020 recently.

Chairman of Threadworks (Pvt.) Ltd., Dr. Gehan De Soysa said, "We are honored to be recognized at the SLIM Brand Excellence Awards especially in a year that required companies and brands to demonstrate strong resilience in order to thrive. This award reflects our focus on continuous innovation amidst adversity and it is a validation of the commitment and tireless effort that the entire Velona Cuddles team puts into placing the valued consumers at the heart of everything we do."

The innovative and pioneering solutions have orchestrated remarkable wins for Velona and this award

reflects its resilience in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic and its repercussions. Velona Cuddles showcased an innovative line of products with the launch of its eco-friendly biodegradable bamboo diapers and 100% biodegradable bamboo water wipes last year, he said.

In an industry first initiative, Velona Cuddles became the first FMCG brand to launch a subscription-based app to deliver its products having identified the need to provide convenience in purchasing regularly used products such as diapers.

The launch of this app in March 2020, at an extremely crucial time during the early days of the pandemic and a lockdown in place, ensured that customers received their orders, safely delivered to their doorsteps, de Soysa said.

TEA MARKET REPORT

SALE NO.7 FEBRUARY 16-17, 2021

■ This week's tea auction (Sale No. 7) was conducted on February 16 - 17 (Tue/Wed) and, the offer quantity of 6.7 m/kgs showed a gain of 0.4 m/kgs over the previous auction. The Low Grown Leafy/ Semi Leafy/ Tippy and Small Leaf/ Premium Flowery catalogues totalled 3 m/kgs, whilst Main Sale High and Medium category amounted to 0.6 m/kgs. The Ex-Estate catalogue had 1 m/kgs.

■ The Ex-Estate market was noticeably irregular following quality. A very select range of best Western BOP's were firm while the remainder lost Rs. 10 to 20 and their corresponding BOP's lost Rs. 20. Below best BOP's saw prices which were Rs. 10 to 20 easier but their corresponding BOP's which were Rs. 20 to 30 easier at the commencement of the sale, eased to a lesser extent as the sale progressed. CTC PF1's from the Western High elevation were Rs. 10 to 20 lower whilst Western Medium sorts lost up to Rs. 30 per kg. Low Grown PF1's were easier up to Rs. 20 and sometimes more. BP1's from all three elevations met with subdued interest and were irregular and easier. Japan and the UK were more selective. China was active. Russia picked up 'Tea Bag' types at lower levels.

■ Low grown again met with fair demand. Well-made OP1's ruled fully firm to dealer while poorer sorts were about maintained. OP/OPA's were firm to selectively dealer with poorer types mostly maintaining earlier levels. Stylish BOP1's were fully firm. The better made Pekoe's were firm but mixed varieties were irregular and lower on last. Select best FBOP's/FBOPF1's were firm to selectively dealer whilst the balance was largely firm. Buyers for Russia, Azerbaijan, Iran, the UAE and other Middle Eastern countries were active. Turkey was selective.

■ This week's auction comprised 11,716 lots totalling of 6,703,498 kgs.

■ The catalogue-wise breakdown was as follows:-

	Lot	Qty. (Kgs)
Low Grown Leafy	2,111	928,063
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1,918	971,830
Low Grown Tippy	2,033	1,078,586
High and Medium	1,390	648,046
Off Grade/BOP1A	2,317	1,326,647
Dust	646	675,790
Premium Flowery	433	82,722
Ex-Estate	868	991,814
Total	11,716	6,703,498

Crop and weather from February 8-14, 2021

■ **Western/Nuwara Eliya Regions:** The Western Region reported bright weather throughout the week, while clear mornings and evening showers were reported in the Nuwara Eliya Region. Showers are expected in the Central Region by the Department of Meteorology in the week ahead. **Uva/Udapussellawa Regions:** Both regions reported bright weather at the beginning of the week and rainfall was experienced towards the latter part of the week, whilst a few sub-districts in the Madulima area reported misty conditions throughout the week. According to the Department of Meteorology, heavy showers are expected in the Uva Region in the week ahead. **Low Grown:** The Low Grown Region reported bright weather at the beginning of the week and evening showers towards latter part of the week. Rainfall is expected in the Sabaragamuwa Region by the Department of Meteorology in the week ahead.

■ **Crop Intake:** A slight decrease in the crop intake was reported in the Western and Low Grown regions, while the Nuwara Eliya Region maintained. The Uva/Udapussellawa regions reported a decrease in the crop intake.

Source: Lanka Commodity Brokers Ltd

Project to improve Customs' access to sea cargo information

The Customs will work with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the private sector in a new project, Digitising Global Maritime Trade (DGMT).

The project will be financed by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

In the DGMT project, public and private sector partners work together to improve Customs' digital access to sea cargo information. The project aims at implementing a new data integration solution, ASYHUB, which enables seamless exchange of sea cargo data between Sri Lanka Customs and trade data providers involved in the maritime trading process.

Director General of Sri Lanka Customs, retired Maj. Gen. Vijitha Ravipriya, GIZ Sri Lanka Country Director Ms. Christiane Einfeldt, and the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka, Ms. Hanaa Singer signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalise the cooperation at the Customs Headquarters in Colombo recently.

"We expect that the implementation of the digital platform ASYHUB will enable speedy clearance of cargo, reduced transit time and ultimately minimise the trade costs for the private sector, Vijitha Ravipriya said.

The data submitted will allow the Customs to process the cargo prior to arrival and departure to determine earlier which cargoes to inspect, and which to release, reducing the time and costs of maritime trade for import-

ers and exporters. The Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Sri Lanka, Holger Seubert, said, "This project exemplifies Germany's firm commitment to support rules-based, fair and free trade, particularly the implementation of the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement.

The project's outcomes will strengthen the framework conditions for trade and investment in Sri Lanka and make it an even more attractive market."

GIZ Sri Lanka, Country Director Ms. Christiane Einfeldt said "By providing technical expertise and feedback during the implementation, the private sector stakeholders play an important role in ensuring an effective outcome. GIZ will support these new

processes with targeted in-depth capacity building and awareness raising."

Director of Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD, Ms. Shamika Siri-manne said, "ASYHUB will provide Sri Lanka Customs with richer information to support a more informed risk assessment for a better targeting and more effective decision-making on which shipments to inspect. This means the project would increase the capacity of Customs to keep goods moving while reducing risks, which is especially relevant in the current Covid-19 pandemic."

Sri Lanka is the second country to officially join the project after the General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia joined in October last year.



Director General Customs, retired Maj. Gen. Vijitha Ravipriya, GIZ Sri Lanka Country Director Ms. Christiane Einfeldt, and the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka, Ms. Hanaa Singer at the signing of the MoU at the Customs headquarters.

DFCC supports Rata Puraama QR payment initiative

DFCC conducted a promotional campaign at the Narahenpita Economic Centre recently to promote QR payments under the Rata Puraama Quick Response (QR) initiative of the Central Bank.

DFCC has assumed an active role in supporting CBSL's vision of building a cashless future. As a financial institution which continues to leverage the use of advancements in technology and digitalisation, it is expected that the shared values of DFCC and the CBSL will result in an even faster adoption of QR technology among the general public. The launch of DFCC's Pay App in January 2019 resulted in the bank becoming among the first financial institutions to be certified for the LANKAQR standard which is now accepted as the national common

QR. The Pay App permits customers to make retail payments using smart mobile devices through funds available in their current or savings account to the merchant's account directly.

The DFCC Pay App provides a convenient, secure and affordable option for making retail payments which is otherwise primarily made by cash. DFCC Credit Cards can also be added to the DFCC Pay App to facilitate Visa QR local and overseas transactions at VISA QR enabled merchant outlets through a smart mobile device.

Similarly, the DFCC Pay Merchant App can be used by all types of merchants in the country from large corporates, SMEs to wayside vendors to accept these payments.



Manager, Merchant Acquiring, DFCC Bank, Chrisnan Jayamanne (in the middle) presents a QR Code, POS material to a merchant at the Narahenpita Economic Centre during the promotional campaign.

Classic Travel bags award

Classic Travel won a Restart Resilience Award under the service sector, large category, at the SLIM Brand Excellence Awards 2020 recently.

"We are delighted and honoured to have been recognised by SLIM for our enduring spirit and our pursuit of excellence in superior customer experiences. While being deeply affected by the many implications of the Covid-19 pandemic in Sri Lanka, which brought the global travel industry to a deafening halt, Classic nevertheless strived hard to offer an uninterrupted service to its customers.

As we come back bolder and stronger in the new normal, we will

continue to invest our efforts in maintaining consistently good customer services through an enhanced travel service portfolio," said CEO, Classic Travel, Shiham Imamudeen.

The stringent awarding process evaluated numerous financial and operational areas, including the company's response to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on its internal and external stakeholders, how it minimised the impact of operating efficiencies across the organisation, its revised process and strategy, performance during the crisis and its business continuity plan for future crises. Winners



Classic Travel officials receive the award.

were chosen across four categories; consumer goods, service sector, consumer goods SME, and service sector SME.

HNB launches leasing scheme for professionals

HNB PLC has introduced a leasing scheme for professionals with minimal conditions, attractive benefits and low interest rates with the aim of increasing the standard of living of this niche customer base.

Customers who fall under the professional category of doctors, accountant, architect, financial analyst, lecturers, lawyers, hospitality, human resources, marketing, pilot, navigation officers, researchers, senior academics and C-Suite executives of A-grade companies can make use of the new product.

"Professionals have needs, but with their time-consuming jobs, it becomes impossible to go through the tedious process of obtaining a lease. This scheme enables them to buy their dream vehicle by making the process easier," said HNB Senior Manager, Leasing Niluka Amarasinghe.

"When compared to other countries, the market price for automobiles is higher in Sri Lanka. Therefore even though there are professionals who are fit to purchase a vehicle, they are unable to do so. However, this special scheme combined with their



existing remuneration packages will help them opt for the right vehicle and increase their quality of living," he said.

The scheme offers customers a residual payment equivalent to 25% of the market value of the lease, the highest residual amount paid by a bank at the moment, providing customers with the opportunity to purchase vehicles at a lower monthly rental.

HNB will offer a discounted interest rate from the prevailing published rate. Customers will also receive a Prestige Prime credit card, with the first year fee waived off.

Clear Water Systems introduces 10-litre bottles

Clear Water, a company which provides bottled water to domestic and corporate consumers including major banks, hotels and resorts, has introduced biodegradable covers to protect its newly introduced 10-litre bottle of water.

"Sometimes it can be tough to handle the massive 19-litre bottle of water," said Clear Water Director Chrysantha Fernando. "Our new 10-litre bottles that come in a biodegradable packaging not only ensures that the bottle is clean and safe, but also easier to handle, lift and carry," he said, adding that senior citizens and housewives would

find it easy to lift and refill the dispenser.

The company plans to provide a clay water dispenser crafted by local artisans to those who purchase a 10-litre bottle for the first time.

"Not only would you be supporting local artisans with your purchase, but you'll also be supporting the government initiative to go plastic-free," he said. The company also plans to add 10 electric delivery vehicles to its fleet, when the vehicle import ban is lifted, through its sister company Eco Trans Lanka Holdings (Pvt) Ltd, said Fernando.

Port City Colombo presents equipment to battle Covid-19

CHEC Port City Colombo (CPCC) donated a PCR testing machine and 5,000 PCR test kits valued at over Rs. 20 million to the Government recently. Asst. Managing Director of CPCC, Yue Yeqing presented the equipment to Chairman, Presidential Task Force on Economic Revival and Poverty Eradication, Basil Rajapaksa.

State Minister Dr. Sudarshani Fernandopulle said that the PCR machine will be first installed in the Gampaha district to support and increase ongoing daily PCR testing. Hon. Basil Rajapaksa stated that the Government plans to vaccinate the entire nation for COVID-19 as per WHO standards and hopes to be recognized as a COVID-19 eradicated country.

Hilton Colombo ushers in 'Year of the Ox'



Hilton Colombo ushered in the Chinese New Year with the tossing of the symbolic "Yee Sang" a traditional colourful salad symbolizing abundance, prosperity and vigour. Here Executive Chef Robert and Kay Ng do the honours in celebration of the Year of the Ox 2021.

Port City Colombo representatives updated Rajapaksa about the present progress of the project. Rajapaksa said he was confident about attracting FDIs to the country through the development of Port City Colombo this year.

Over the past few months, Port City Colombo has donated protective gear to authorities on multiple occasions inclusive of a donation of 10,000 masks to the Sri Jayawardenepura Hospital, 2,000 masks to Sri Lanka Customs and a Rs. 6 million worth donation to Colombo Manning Wholesale Market, Sri Lanka Police, KalutaraNagoda Hospital, Department of Information and the Ministry of Health.



CPCC officials present the PCR machine to Basil Rajapaksa.

With more and more citizens testing positive around the island, the donation comes at a time of dire need for Sri Lanka, where all efforts need to be made in order to aid in the fight against the deadly pandemic.

Cargills Bank expands to Nawalapitiya

Cargills Bank opened its latest full-service branch on Gampola Road, Nawalapitiya recently. The new branch is the 21st branch in the Cargills Bank network and provides customers with access to a full gamut of banking and financial services. The branch operating hours are from 9am to 5pm on weekdays, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday.

The opening ceremony was conducted under the patronage of the Managing Director and CEO of Cargills Bank, Senarath Bandara. The chief guest was the Divisional Secretary of Nawalapitiya, Ms. C K Amarakoon. Selected members of the Bank's corporate management team were also present.

Senarath Bandara said, "At Cargills Bank, we are committed to harnessing the spirit of progress in every Sri Lankan. Thus, we need to reach out and be closer to our customers to provide them with the expected level of service. To achieve this objective strategically and efficiently, we are working towards increasing our presence in econom-



Managing Director and CEO of Cargills Bank, Senarath Bandara makes the first transaction following the opening of the branch.

ic and social hubs around the country. Nawalapitiya is one such hub that we have identified.

"Through our new branch, we look forward to building new relationships, inspiring new ideas and

acting as a strengthening force for Sri Lanka's agricultural sector, SMEs and the general public. We welcome all individuals and businesses in the area to visit us and join us on this journey," he said.

Advertorial

Abans records Rs. 1.5 b consolidated PAT

The recently ended year posed a series of challenges in the financial market and business sphere, as the Covid-19 pandemic gave rise to a plethora of risks, drawbacks and losses in terms of profit, capital and company sustainability.

A sharp increase of 187% was depicted in the Group Profit After Tax to end at LKR 1.45 Billion, compared to the previous year's LKR 520 Million; while a 175% year-on-year growth was noted in the Profit-After-Tax of Abans PLC (the company) to end at LKR 1.45 Billion, compared to the previous year's LKR 527.1 Million.

Abans Group scored a record top performance for the third quarter (Q3) for the Financial Year 2020/21 with a Profit After Tax of LKR793Million, seeing a significant 144% increase compared to the year before. The Company reported a PAT of LKR750.6 Million for Q3, a 105% increase from last year, which proves the resilience of the company to adapt to any change in market conditions.

"Foresight, smart strategy and



Mrs. Aban Pestonjee

strong implementation has enabled Abans to rise to leadership positions in many of the sectors they operate in. However, it was necessary to recalibrate strategy to ensure they were geared for the new normal, for an era driven by artificial intelligence and big data, which would provide significant competitive advantage to those who were fast enough to embrace it. Following these strategies have proven to be quite effective, as seen by the remarkable results displayed by the Financials up to December 2020," stated Mrs. Aban Pestonjee, Chairperson



Behman Pestonjee

and Founder of Abans Group of Companies.

Despite the severe repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic on several businesses, revenue for Q3 reached a growth of 40%, at both Group and Company level, while Cumulative Revenue for nine months depicted a year-on-year growth of 9%.

The Group Gross Profit stood at LKR 7.4 Billion and LKR 3 Billion for nine months and three months (Q3) respectively.

"The Group, as a whole, is geared to perform even better in the coming

year, with the implementation of new policies and evolving methodologies," said Behman Pestonjee (Tito), Managing Director of Abans Group.

Driven by strategic cost reduction policies and working capital management strategies carried out in the past nine months, the Group's (as well as the company's) Admin and Selling Expenses noted a decrease to LKR 4.9 Billion, compared to LKR 5.6 Billion from the previous year.

Furthermore, Net Finance Cost for the nine-month-period was reduced to LKR 619 Million from LKR 921 Million; whereas for the 3rd quarter, the same was reduced to LKR 119 Million compared to LKR 286 Million last year. This was reduced mainly due to the low interest rate environment and the company's strategic working capital management.

Mrs. Chandrika Perera, Executive Director - Finance, commented, "The Group's financial and business strength and stability has placed Abans at a prominent position of being able to pursue greater heights and achievements in the years to come."

BOC ensures safe environment for staff

In managing the early part of the pandemic, the Bank of Ceylon's (BOC) HR function proactively engaged all employees, drawing on a novel method of delegation, seeing that it would be the most effective and efficient way forward in handling an unprecedented situation posing similarly unseen challenges.

To mobilize a team exceeding 8,000 staff members in the initial months of the global pandemic, required the bank's HR department to give trust and confidence, to all employees across the organization, in their capabilities and decision-making power.

BOC adopted a two-tiered strategy, where the primary objective included the protection of all employees, and secondly ensuring business would go on as normal even with the restrictions. Therein, employee adherence to all Health Department enforced regulations and orders remained a key HR goal, complemented by its own initiatives to drive employee safety and continuity of operations.

Accounting for the many impacts of COVID-19 on the bank's HRM function, BOC has adopted numerous changes in its delivery of



K.E.D. Sumanasiri

HR services including digitalization. BOC has afforded much focus to ensuring a strong work-life balance for employees, in line with the increased need for work-from-home and flexible work arrangements organization-wide.

Despite the growing trend of digitalization to streamline repeat HR processes and tasks, even within the BOC setup, the bank is emphasizing on the need for the human touch in HR.

It is what lends the all-essential organizational component of human capital, now being actively pushed worldwide as a quantifiable contributor to business success, humaneness.

Coca-Cola and Avocado partner to refresh and reward food experiences

Coca-Cola has entered into a partnership with Avocado, a Sri Lankan food-based loyalty app to make meal times more fun and rewarding for consumers. Avocado app users can click and upload photos of their Coke over a meal with family and friends till the 12th of March and be entitled to win a Grand Prize of an iPhone 12 Pro and exciting gift vouchers worth Rs.100,000 from Avocado's network of partners.

The Avocado app enables users to get rewarded for every picture or video they upload of them enjoying Coca-Cola with their family, friends or a loved one. Pankaj Sinha, Managing Director, Coca-Cola Sri Lanka Private Limited said,

"The act of sharing a meal with

friends and family, treasuring each moment and bonding with them has become more important than ever before. This partnership with Avocado is unique as social media is a natural home for foodies. We look forward to our consumers sharing authentic and creative pictures of mouth-watering dishes along with the taste of Coca-Cola." Special occasions at home or a family meal outing in Sri Lanka is incomplete without the familiar sight of Coca-Cola bottles on the table, which promises to refresh any occasion and make every meal more memorable. The Avocado app has over 3,000 users in Sri Lanka and a growing partner network that includes restaurants, fashion stores, hotels and many more.



Collaboration - Coca-Cola Sri Lanka Pvt. Ltd's Mario Perera (Country Marketing Manager) and Pankaj Sinha (Managing Director) with Bhanuka Harischandra (Founder - Surge Global) of Avocado

clicktoinsure.lk, your on-line insurance broker

It is now more than ever that we need the protection of insurance given the economic and social backdrop we are facing worldwide. Insurance, when purchased wisely, not only takes care of your losses but also ensures that your loved ones are taken care of in an emergency.

Through clicktoinsure.lk, customers can enjoy expert, personalized and unparalleled insurance brokering services of Assetline Insurance Brokers (Private) Limited at anytime, anywhere in the country and at your convenience.

clicktoinsure.lk is platform that provides a gamut of information enabling customers to make informed decisions on the best suited insurance solution for each of their unique requirements. Unlike most other on-line platforms of



Insurance companies, clicktoinsure.lk facilitates comparison of insurance solutions from multiple leading insurance providers without the hassle of physical visits; you can weigh the pros and cons and then buy the policy that suits you best with just a click of a mouse.

Whether you are a new or existing customer you can access and avail the benefits and offers by merely registering with clicktoinsure.lk. Existing customers also have the ease of accessing details of

the policies maintained with AIBL as well as paying their premium, online.

Commercial, HSBC, HNB, Seylan and NDB Credit Card holders are now offered a six (06) or twelve (12) months' interest free installment plan for AIBL premiums via clicktoinsure.lk. Additionally, when you buy a full motor insurance cover through clicktoinsure.lk, a 10% cashback on the basic premium is offered.

AIBL is one of the leading insurance brokering companies registered with the Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (IRC-SL) and a David Pieris Group company.

'Assurance in Insurance' was led to AIBL's reputation of being the most trusted insurance brokering company in the country.

Samsung AvurudhuWasi, to welcome Sinhala and Tamil New Year

Samsung is proud to announce their annual Samsung Carnival AvurudhuWasi Campaign, where customers can ring in the Avurudhu season with amazing discounts and payment schemes on a variety of Samsung products.

This year, customers can get up to 30% cash discounts and warranty offers on TVs, Refrigerators, Air Conditioners, Washing Machines and Microwave Ovens from 17th of February to 15th of April 2021. Customers can

also visit the One Galle Face Atrium-Samsung Carnival Stall between 1st of March and 15th of April to avail these offers and participate in digitalised Avurudhu Games.

Managing Director of Samsung Sri Lanka, Kevin Sung Su You shared a few words about the demand for Samsung TVs and Refrigerators. "This season, due to the prevailing pandemic, consumers are looking to create experiences right at the comfort of their homes. They want to buy bigger

TVs that offer better cinematic viewing experiences. It is also evident that consumers have reduced the frequency of shopping to practice social distancing. Therefore, they are keen on purchasing Refrigerators with larger storage spaces to store more food and to maintain their freshness for the whole family to enjoy. The 'Samsung Carnival- AvurudhuWasi' promotion is aimed at creating that much needed experience by these consumer offerings as we enter the New Year."

The Flemington lays foundation stone for third apartment project

Following the success of The Flemington's first and second condominium development projects at Rajagiriya and 103 Campbell, the dynamic property developer recently hosted the ground breaking ceremony and commenced construction of its third condominium complex at 20 Vajira Road, Colombo 4.

The ceremony was headed by Shamitha Ganegoda, Managing Director of Elish Development (Pvt) Limited and was followed by religious activities to commemorate the milestone. The piling contract for the project has been awarded to San Piling (Pvt) Limited, a subsidiary of Sri Lanka's premier construction service pro-



vider Sanken Construction (Pvt) Limited.

"The Flemington 20 Vajira is a modern condominium influenced by

our signature Australian concepts and styling. It features minimal and spacious interiors without compromising on privacy and the convenience of city living" said Shamitha Ganegoda, Managing Director of Elish Development.

The apartments come with features such as en-suite bathrooms and well-designed kitchens with built-in appliances. The location also offers breathtakingly scenic views of the Indian Ocean and Colombo skyline.

Residents will also have the opportunity to enjoy rooftop entertainment pods, a state-of-the-art gym, rooftop garden, infinity swimming pool and a function hall.

Fortieth anniversary of Oman-Sri Lanka diplomatic ties

The Sultanate of Oman and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka commemorated the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations on February 17.

To mark this momentous occasion, Foreign Minister of the Sultanate of Oman H.E. Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, and the Foreign Minister of Dinesh Gunawardena, have exchanged felicitation messages on this significant occasion in the bilateral relations between the two countries.

"It is a great honour to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries and truly a milestone event in the history of our countries.

"Oman and Sri Lanka have increased their cooperation in many areas in the last few decades at a bilateral and multilateral level.

"The 40th Anniversary is an



opportunity that allows us to highlight the extremely valuable relationship which has developed over these forty years; a relationship guided by our shared understanding and mutual interest for the pursuit of prosperity for our peoples under the Leaders of both countries.

"On the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the diplomatic

relation between our two countries, I wish to extend my heartfelt wishes to His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for the good health, happiness and further progress and prosperity of the people of Sri Lanka," said Juma Hamdan Hassan Al Malik Al Shehhi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman.

Vision Care authorised dealer for Oticon hearing aids

Hans Demant was living a peaceful life with his wife Camila and children in Denmark. It was the 1900s and life and technology then was far from what we can even imagine it to be now.

But his wife Camila suffered from a hearing loss that could not be cured through means of medication.

In 1902, the coronation ceremony of princess Alexandra was one of the monumental events of that time. And news spread of a device she wore for the ceremony that helped her hear well. Hans driven by a desire to help his hearing-impaired wife, Hans Demant travelled from Denmark to England to buy the same type of hearing device.

In 1904 in contract with General Acoustic Co, began the import and dis-



tribution of the first hearing devices to Denmark: the electric Acoustic hearing devices. Hans Demant's son, William, takes over the company upon his father's death in 1910. William learnt about the manufacture and repair of Acoustic hearing devices from the USA. Due to the restrictions imposed during World War I, William started assembling hearing devices in Denmark and then eventually manufac-

tured the first Danish-made licensed hearing device the 'Acousticus'.

In 1946 William Demant started the Oticon Corporation in partnership with American hearing aid producer, establishing its headquarters in Copenhagen. Oticon is creating a "Life changing Technology" at present and towards the future.

It has given thousands of people with hearing loss; a quality life with better hearing than ever, making them and their loved ones happier than ever before.

Oticon is providing Life changing technology to every single person with hearing impairment. So, you also can help your loved ones to hear better and inspire their lives even better.

SPECTRUM

features.suo@lakehouse.lk / Tel: 011 2 429 429, 011 2 429 228 / Fax: 0112 429 227

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

The Methodist Mission began in Ceylon in 1814, with the arrival of a team of missionaries sent by the British Conference. At the 150th anniversary in 1964, the Conference of the Methodist Church, Ceylon received its full autonomy.

From the beginning, Education has had an important role. Schools were established in many places. Of the 177 Methodist schools in 1960, 175 schools were taken over by the Government that year. Only Wesley College, Colombo and Methodist College, Colombo remained under the ownership and administration of The Methodist Church.

Wesley College Colombo, a leading, premier Christian boys' school was founded on March 2, 1874 and named after John Wesley (1703-1791), the great Evangelist and Founder of the Methodist Church. Tradition has it that every year, the Double Blue Fraternity gather to celebrate the memory of the Founder of Wesley College the Rev. Daniel Henry Pereira - on Founder's Day, March 2 which is the death anniversary of Rev. John Wesley the great Evangelist.

Psalm 127:1 says, "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain." The strong conviction of the Founders of Wesley was, that in any activity they undertook for the College and its future - God's blessings were needed, for whatever they intended to accomplish for this school.

Diversity

2021 marks the 147th anniversary of this historical founding of Wesley College. Even though this institution was envisaged to be distinctly a Christian boys' school, Wesley College opened its doors in a magnanimous gesture to provide opportunities in education for thousands of Sri Lankan boys from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds in the past 146 years, while upholding and maintaining its distinct Christian identity.

The Vision of Wesley is - To be the Premier Christian secondary educational institute and to provide men of stature and integrity to be leaders in the technologically advancing environment.

The Mission of Wesley is - To inculcate Christian values and provide opportunities to develop latent potential and skills to lead the nation.

Against this backdrop, it could be said that the Divine Providence of God has indeed bestowed an incredible Blessing upon this Institution Wesley College, as it prepares to celebrate 150 years since its founding on March 2, 1874 by Rev. Samuel Rowse Wilkin and Rev. Daniel Henry Pereira. This great Blessing is the current "Wesley Troika" comprising Three Wesleyites who carry on this noble Mission of the Founding Fathers by upholding the Christian Traditions and Spirit of John Wesley through the mandate entrusted to them. They are Rev. Ebenezer Joseph - President of the Methodist Church, Avanka Fernando - Principal Wesley College Colombo, and Sri Shanmugalingam - President Wesley College OBU Colombo.

Rev. Ebenezer Joseph is an old Boy of Wesley College, who heads the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka as its President for the second time and in which capacity, he is also the Manager of Wesley. He also previously served as the head of the Methodist church in Sri Lanka from 2005 to 2010. He was a hosteller at College and was a student during the tenure of Shelton Wirasinghe.

He was the General Secretary of the National Christian Council of Sri Lan-



Wesley College, a hallowed seat of learning



President, Old Boys Union Wesley College - Sri Shanmugalingam

ka for 14 years, promoting Ecumenical relations among various Christian Denominations and promoting Inter- and Intra-Faith Dialogue. Rev. Ebenezer was conferred the title of "Samayanthara Darshana Sevitha Shasana Sobitha" in recognition of his contribution for National Unity and Religious Co-existence in Sri Lanka in 2006. He has specialised in Theology and Social Analysis and lectures in Theological Institutions.

The Principal of Wesley College Avanka Fernando is an old Boy and the youngest Principal to be appointed. He hails from a Methodist background nur-



Principal, Wesley College - Avanka Fernando

tured by his father Rev. Noel Fernando who was also a former President of the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka. Fernando had his entire Education at Wesley College where he excelled in Academics and also represented the College Internationally in Badminton and Chess at the Asian Junior Chess Championship in 2003.

Having completed his Bachelor's Degree in Sciences from the Open University of Sri Lanka, he proceeded to complete his Master's Degree from the University of Portsmouth in the UK specialising in Education, Leadership and Management.

WESLEY COLLEGE COLOMBO, A LEADING, PREMIER CHRISTIAN BOYS' SCHOOL WAS FOUNDED ON MARCH 2, 1874 AND NAMED AFTER JOHN WESLEY (1703-1791), THE GREAT EVANGELIST AND FOUNDER OF THE METHODIST CHURCH. TRADITION HAS IT THAT EVERY YEAR, THE DOUBLE BLUE FRATERNITY GATHER TO CELEBRATE THE MEMORY OF THE FOUNDER OF WESLEY COLLEGE THE REV. DANIEL HENRY PEREIRA

Fernando joined the Staff of Wesley as a Teacher in 2009. He rose to becoming the Sectional Head of Grade 10 and 11 and promoted as the Headmaster.

He was later appointed as a Co-Vice Principal and was promoted to be the Vice Principal of the College. In 2017, he was appointed as the acting Principal of the College by Methodist Church of Sri Lanka and was confirmed as the Principal.

Sri Shanmugalingam, the President of the Old Boys' Union is a strong Methodist. He is a Director at York Arcade Holdings PLC and is a Professional Financier and is into Portfolio Management of a group of companies.

He is also in the field of Investment Finance Administration and Real Estate. The Committee of the Wesley College OBU Colombo, under the leadership of the Incumbent President Sri Shanmugalingam, strives to uphold the traditions and values of the great Christian Methodist Legacy - which they inherited from

preceding generations and ensure that it is passed down to the future generations of Wesleyites. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many projects and activities of the OBU were curtailed.

However, the OBU under the Leadership of Sri Shanmugalingam is working in unison and close collaboration with the Principal Avanka Fernando and the President of the Methodist Church, Rev. Ebenezer Joseph, towards the projects planned for the 150 years Celebrations for the betterment of Academics and Sports at Wesley.

Old boys

The Old Boys' Union having a history of over 130 years, has been involved in many projects be it in Academics, Sports, Extracurricular Activities. They have always upheld the traditions of the College, founded on great Methodist principles of simplicity and honesty by producing men of integrity



President, Methodist Church of Sri Lanka - Rev. Ebenezer Joseph

for the country. Wesley College is an institute which brought together boys from many ethnic and religious backgrounds under the Double Blue Flag and produced many distinguished old boys during the ages in all spheres to serve the nation, "as men of grit and industry."

Among these have been national heroes, legislators, educationists, doctors, sportsmen, bankers, mercantile sector professionals, musicians, dancers and artists, the brave men of the Security Forces, all of whom brought honour and glory to Wesley and the Nation, and still remained unassuming - simplicity being the hallmark of the Wesleyan Methodist Spirit!

Among some of the most outstanding and distinguished alumni who have passed through the hallowed portals of Wesley College and have contributed to society and the world are: Sir Oliver Ernest Goonetilleke - the 1st Ceylonese Governor-General (1954-1962), Sir Don Baron Jayatilaka - President of the Colombo Y.M.B.A. Freedom fighter and Leader of the State Council, Sir Claude Corea - President of the UN Security Council, Chairman of the UN Interim Committee on International Commodity Arrangements of GATT, Representative to the United Nations, President of the Ceylon National Congress, Ceylonese Representative in the United Kingdom, First Ceylonese Ambassador to the United States, D. M. Rajapaksa - Known as the Lion of Ruhuna and a member of The State Council of Ceylon, Walisinghe Harischandra - Social Reformer, Historian and Author, Sir Mohamed Macan Markar - Member of the Legislative Council of Ceylon, Sir Gerard Wijeyekoon - the first President of the Senate of Ceylon and Member Legislative Council of Ceylon, Mahadevan Sathasivam - International Legendary Cricketer, P. De S. Kularatne - Principal of Ananda College, E.W. Adikaram - Social Activist and a Philosopher, Founded Multiple Schools - Anula Vidyalaya, Ananda Balika Maha Vidyalaya Kotte and Ananda Shasthalaya Kotte, E. F. C. Ludowyk - Shakespearean Scholar, Author, Playwright and Critic, The First Professor of English University of Ceylon and the First Dean of Arts in the University in Peradeniya, M. H. Mohamed - Speaker of Sri Lanka Parliament and Mayor of Colombo and Deshamanya Chitrasena - internationally known for his work in establishing and popularising traditional Sri Lankan dance forms worldwide.

These brilliant old boys are role models who have lived up to the ideals and values of the founders, bringing honour and glory to their Alma Mater through their professions. They will continue to inspire generations of Wesleyites in the years to come.

Mental health during a pandemic

By
Nirosha
Rajapakse



There is nobody on the planet earth, who is exempted from the risk of getting infected with the Covid-19 virus until an exact cure is found. The news on Covid-19 was initially heard from Wuhan, China in the late 2019.

A research conducted in 2020 by Wei Ji and his fellow researchers on "Cross-species transmission of the newly identified coronavirus 2019-nCoV" at the Department of Microbiology, Peking University Health Science Centre School of Basic Medical Sciences, Beijing, China, declared that the Covid-19 virus belongs to the family of the Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) and SARS.

Albeit there has been a lot of news on its originality, there is no firm declaration as yet from where the virus has originated. The spread of the virus in some regions has been alarming; North America and Europe in particular where daily multiple of deaths are reported. A research conducted in

2020 by Ren and his team of researchers said that the efforts taken to arrest the gravity of the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic within the communities are being jeopardised by the sheer thought of fright and preconception.

Psychological reactions

It is revealed that as and when an infectious disease begins to threaten the people in a community, the psychological reactions of the people may have a direct impact on the magnitude of the spread of the disease as well as the manifestation and the prevalence of emotional discomfort and social disorder during and after the epidemic.

Steven Taylor in his book of the "The Psychology of Pandemics" states that the resources and funds to reduce and manage the consequences of mental health issues brought out by the pandemic are not sufficient. In an outbreak of a pandemic, generally more resources and funds are allocated on testing, reducing the contraction and the care given to critical patients.

But the psychological and psychiatric needs of the affected and vulnerable parties should not be neglected. A significant role in adherence to pub-



WHEN AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE BEGINS TO THREATEN THE PEOPLE IN A COMMUNITY, THE PSYCHOLOGICAL REACTIONS OF THE PEOPLE MAY HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON THE MAGNITUDE OF THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE AS WELL AS THE MANIFESTATION AND THE PREVALENCE OF EMOTIONAL DISCOMFORT AND SOCIAL DISORDER DURING AND AFTER THE EPIDEMIC

lic health is played by the psychological factors of the affected parties; in grappling with the fear and the threat of getting infected and subsequent losses. Defensive responses, such as

feeling of insecurity and anxiety, emotional distress, such as a condition of mental agony as well as maladaptive behaviour, such as avoiding getting adopted to novel and stressful situa-

tions could be considered as psychological reactions to pandemic circumstances.

The people who are diagnosed with psychological issues are particularly vulnerable to get infected.

Cuiyan Wang and his team of researchers on the "Immediate Psychological Responses and Associated Factors during the Initial Stage of the 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Epidemic among the General Population in China" at the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, Faculty of Education, Huaibei University, China, have found out that 54 percent of the respondents, selected from 194 cities in China, in January and February 2020 had the moderate to severe psychological impact of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Lower life expectancy

Mark Rodgers and his fellow researchers on "Integrated Care to Address the Physical Health Needs of People with Severe Mental Illness: A Mapping Review of the Recent Evidence on Barriers, Facilitators and Evaluations" stated that even when there is neither epidemic nor pandemic, compared with the general population, people who are diagnosed with established mental dis-

eases are likely to have a relatively lower life expectancy. Consequently, there involves an increased risk of infection with Covid-19 among people with preceding mental health substance use disorders; having issues in testing and treatment.

Li Duan and Gang Zhu of the Department of Psychiatry and Central Laboratory, the first Affiliated Hospital of China Medical University, China said that a considerable increase in depressive symptoms and anxiety among the people who are not identified with preceding mental health conditions may have the potential of undergoing the post-traumatic stress disorder in due course.

The World Health Organization (WHO) foresees that the professionals in the health and social care segments will have risks on the impact of psychological symptoms, most importantly if their work is provided in the areas of emergency departments, primary care, public health, emergency services and critical or intensive care.

In that light, a high consideration should be given to the pre and post psychological complications, experienced due to the Covid-19 virus as long as it remains on the planet earth.

Features

Pick your right moment



By
R.S. Karunaratne

When you are feeling happy, loving, floating – these are the right moments when the door is very close. Just a knock will be enough.

-Osho

Most of us try to meditate when we feel miserable, anxious, tensed or nervous. We are simply going against the current. You should try to meditate when the mind is calm and you feel happy, loving and floating. On some days we get up early in the morning full of zest, but we do not know the reason for our unusual happiness. Psychologists say something must have happened deep in the subconscious. In other words, something must have happened between us and the cosmos. Do not waste that time. This is the ideal time to meditate even for a few moments. If you feel some kind of harmony, that is another time to meditate. When there is harmony you should ride on it and the waves will take you to distant lands.

In an interview with a leading actor who is no longer among the living, I asked a stock question. What do you need to get ahead in life? Brains? Education? Energy? He shook his head and said, "Those things help to a certain extent. But there's something more important."

"What's that?" I asked him. "You should know the right moment," he said.

"Right moment to do what?" I asked him.

"To act or not to act," he said with confidence. "You should know the moment to speak or to remain silent. Then I realised that every actor worth his salt knows the value of timing which is an all-important

SOME MISGUIDED YOUNG PEOPLE THINK THAT THEY CAN DO THEIR HIGHER STUDIES LATER IN LIFE. THOSE WHO REPEATEDLY POSTPONE THEIR STUDIES WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO FIND A LUCRATIVE JOB. WHEN THEY MEET WITH FAILURE LATER ON IN LIFE THEY ARE OFTEN DISHEARTENED BY WHAT SEEMS TO BE A RELENTLESSLY HOSTILE WORLD. SOME ELDERLY PEOPLE MAKE THE RIGHT EFFORT WHEN THEY DECIDE TO READ FOR A DEGREE, BUT THEY ARE DOING SO AT THE WRONG MOMENT

factor not only for actors but also for others. You should know the right time to get a job, marry and settle down. When you fail to grasp the right time for such activities, you will be over the stipulated age to apply for a job or too old to marry.

William Blake

I have met several men and women who did not know the value of right timing. An editor of a women's tabloid confessed that she could not get married at the right time due to work. When she turned 70 she told an interviewer, "I've missed the bus!" The actor was right. If you can learn to recognise the right moment when it comes, and act swiftly before it goes away, the problems of life become vastly simplified. William Blake wrote:

"If you trap the moment before it's ripe,

The tears of repentance you'll certainly wipe;

But if once you let the ripe moment go,

You can never wipe off the tears of woe."

Some misguided young people think that they can do their higher studies later in life. Those who repeatedly postpone their studies will never be able to find a lucrative job. When they meet with failure later on in life they are often disheartened by what seems to be a relentlessly hostile world. Some elderly people make the right effort when they decide to read for a degree, but they are doing so at the wrong moment.

Smaller failings

In most developed countries the divorce rate is higher than that in developing countries. A divorce court judge in a US court observed, "Oh, these quarrelling couples if only they'd realise that there are times when everyone's threshold of irritability is low, when a person can't stand nagging or criticism – or even good advice! If married partners would just take the trouble to study each other's moods, and know when to air a grievance or when to show affection, the divorce rate would be cut in half."

A friend of mine asked his wife which of his smaller failings annoyed her the most. "Your tendency," she said promptly, "to wait until we're about to walk into a party before telling me that my hair is untidy or my dress didn't look quite right." The husband did not know the right time to tell his wife that her hair was untidy or her dress did not look quite right.

Good manners

are often nothing but good timing. We are often unsure as to what the 'right' frame for the moment is. That uncertainty supports a minor industry of experts, columns like 'Ask Aruni' or 'Dear Abby.' Social schemas are embedded and hidden in the fabric of group life. What is more annoying than to be interrupted in mid-anecdote? Some of us do not know the moment we should remain silent.

The right moment should not be confused with the auspicious moment decided by an astrologer. It is practically impossible to do everything at an auspicious moment. However, if you know the right moment to do something, that is more than enough to succeed in life.

Ear for music

Good timing is not a gift, something you are born with, like an ear for music. Time is a skill that could be acquired by anyone who cared to make an effort. But there are a few requirements to learn the art of good timing. In the first place, keep yourself constantly aware of how decisive timing can be in human affairs. William Shakespeare was right when he wrote, "There is a tide in the affairs of men which taken at the flood leads on to fortune."

The next step is to make a pact with yourself never to act or speak when driven by anger, fear, hurt, jealousy or resentment. They are emotional spanners that can wreck the most carefully developed timing mechanism.

Once, I lost my temper when a colleague criticised my work. I used some harsh words in response. Later I realised that what she said was correct and offered my apologies. The celebrated Greek philosopher Aristotle said, "Anybody can become angry – that is easy; but to be angry with the right person, and to the right degree, and at the right time, and for the right purpose, and in the right way – that is not within everybody's power and is not easy."

Powers of anticipation

To master the skill of good timing, you have to sharpen your powers of anticipation. This is because the future is not a closed book. Much of what is going to happen is determined by what is happening now. But the problem is that some people cannot make a conscious effort to project themselves beyond the present. They are also unable to gauge future possibilities and act accordingly.

The look-ahead capacity is important in running a household. For instance, you cannot rely on the supply of uninterrupted electricity all the time. Suddenly there will be a power cut.

How many of us are ready to face



such a situation? If you are looking for candles when the lights go out, you have no capacity for looking ahead.

The art of good timing includes knowing the moment when present action will eliminate future trouble.

The Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy wrote, "The strangest of all warriors are these two – time and patience." Even the American philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "If the single man plans himself indomitably on his instincts, and there abides, the huge world will come round to him." It is not easy to acquire patience because it is a subtle blend of wisdom and self-control.

Even if you wish to donate something to charity, find the right time to do it. It is useless donating dry rations to farmers when they are reaping their harvest. Similarly, do not donate clothes to those who can afford to buy them. As the Old Testament says, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

karunaratners@gmail.com

Berlin Chen's spring festival in Sri Lanka



In 2013, Berlin Chen travelled to Sri Lanka with his girlfriend. She loved the paradise island very much, especially Nuwara Eliya, the tea capital of the central highland.

High above the coastal plains of Sri Lanka, mountain clouds rest over a blanket of tea plantations. Travelling through winding roads and lush green valleys, with tiny streams and waterfalls, Berlin successfully proposed to his girlfriend in the romantic environment. And then they chose to live there.

Berlin said, "We established the first Chinese restaurant in Nuwara Eliya, as well as a guest house, although they are currently closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic." The girlfriend who was travelling with Berlin is now his wife. Their son is three years old and the daughter is two years.

The 2021 Chinese New Year, the Spring Festival, was a rare holiday for them. The Chinese New Year, also known as Lunar New Year or Spring Festival, is China's most important festival. It is the time for families to be together and is a week of official public holiday. It is like the Sinhala and Tamil New Year in Sri Lanka.

The Chinese New Year 2021 was on Friday, February 12, beginning a year of the Ox. Berlin Chen's family usually cannot return to China to visit relatives during the Spring Festival. Sri Lanka is a popular tourist destination. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, China was the second largest source of tourists for Sri Lanka's inbound tourism. The Spring Festival is the peak season for Chinese tourists. Berlin's restaurant and guest house are generally very busy during that time. Therefore, in the past few years, they spent every Spring Festival in Sri Lanka, and then travelled to China after the festival.

However, unlike in previous years, the family had no business during the Spring Festival in 2021, due to the bleakness of the tourism industry. So they had planned to go to north Sri Lanka for a holiday.

Regardless of whether the Spring Festival is leisurely or busy, special festival habits are observed every year. The ritual for Berlin Chen's family is to wear new clothes on New Year Eve, from kids to the elderly. "That's why my wife prepared brand new clothes for the family quite early before the festival," he said.

Living in Sri Lanka, his children are still very enthusiastic about the Spring Festival as the children in China. "As the most important festival in our coun-



try, it is necessary for children to understand the Spring Festival culture. When my three-year-old son heard us discussing New Year preparations, he shouted, asking for firecrackers for the festival." Firecrackers and fireworks are part of Chinese New Year customs, just as giving red envelopes and other gifts.

"I hope the Covid-19 will end soon, and we look forward to the recovery of Sri Lanka tourism," Berlin said.

Speaking of his Chinese New Year wishes, he said: "My first wish is world peace and prosperity for both my motherland and my second hometown Sri Lanka. The second wish is my family's health and safety. I also wish that people's efforts will be rewarded."

Covid-19 has severely affected overseas tourism throughout the world. Sri Lanka is no exception. To welcome tourists on the Chinese New Year 2020, which was the year of the rat, the Berlin couple renovated their restaurant in Nuwara Eliya and prepaid a large amount of rent to the landlord. After the outbreak of Covid-19 they had to close the restaurant on the first day of the Chinese New Year for safety.

"This has deprived our family of all income for half a year. Therefore, in May, when Covid-19 became severe, my family moved from Nuwara Eliya to Colombo and began to run this small family restaurant to tide over the hard time."

"I look forward to the end of the Covid-19 pandemic and the end of people's suffering. I hope when tourism recovers, my Chinese restaurant in Nuwara Eliya can resume business," he said.



LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT?

SARAH'S BIGAMY



-The
Devastation
Revealed-



BY SANTHOSHVA JAYAMALI SENEVIRATNE

Sarah and Nicolas, the soon-to-wed couple bring Samara across the border to Canada, hidden in their vehicle as she's wrongfully accused of carrying illegal drugs. They pretend to be married although they aren't. At the border, Sarah is arrested for carrying an ornamental gold pagoda in her handbag. She's bailed out the following day and a court case is filed. She wonders why Nicolas and Samara don't turn up to inquire after her and, learns later that they're in a secret affair and they've betrayed her. She attends the court case alone, pays a fine and faces a suspended sentence of six months imprisonment. The following week, she flies to a city far away, finds employment there and settles down.

Episode 6

Sarah stepped on to the bus that was somewhat crowded. All the seats were occupied and she had to keep on standing. The bus moved slowly, yes, noticeably slowly, however, quite suddenly it took a brisk turn and, Sarah lost control of her hold. She almost ended up falling but, she was helped. Yes, a hand stretched out to help her. She moved her eyes along while being helped, until they ended up on the face that belonged to the hand and rested her eyes on a very handsome man.

He gave her a smile and, it was immediately returned, and sudden impulsive feelings began to develop within her. Was she in a sudden desire? A desire to see him again? To own him? Not to let go of him? To cling to him? Questions rose in her, though she hardly knew they did. She was in a state of daze, confused and somewhat bewildered. However, regardless of her own unawareness of knowing the same, she loved it. Perhaps she fell in love. Love at first sight? It was yet a question.

"You can hold here so you won't fall again," he said with a smile, giving her space to hold.

His deep rhythmical voice was equally charming. She was almost floating in the air. She loved it. Who would bid farewell to the kind of sentiment that rocked you and, you felt like your heart was soothed? No one. Just no one. Sarah was in the same state, fortunately or unfortunately. Perhaps, he was in there too, just like her. His eyes didn't leave her. They stopped right on hers. They were talkative, just like hers.

"Going home, after work?" He asked, in an effort to hold on to a conversation.

"Yes." Sarah ended up giving a brief answer.

"Where do you work?"

"At the pancake restaurant in

town."

"Really? I'm sure you're never hungry, then."

Sarah gave out a quick laugh at his remark.

"You too, after work?" She asked.

"Yes."

"Where do you work?"

"At the gem cutters."

"That's interesting, perhaps you must be very rich."

They both burst out laughing at Sarah's remark.

Sarah was initiated to fall into a lot of wit. She enjoyed it when it started. So, began their spontaneous conversation that looked like a coincidence but, really, wasn't. Neither of them knew it was destined. They fell into a soothing conversation without their knowledge, and smoothly they were falling in love. How beautifully pathetic! And of course, pathetically beautiful! How amazing! All lovers are really in love in their minds, with the notion of being loved and loving. The feeling is a cluster of unnoticeably brief moments, misunderstood as a whole. So, Sarah was going ahead with it and, so was he.

"You still haven't told me your name," he said.

"You never asked," Sarah said.

They smiled at each other again, before he said aloud.

"Okay, what's your name?" he asked.

"Sarah, and you?"

"Sherman."

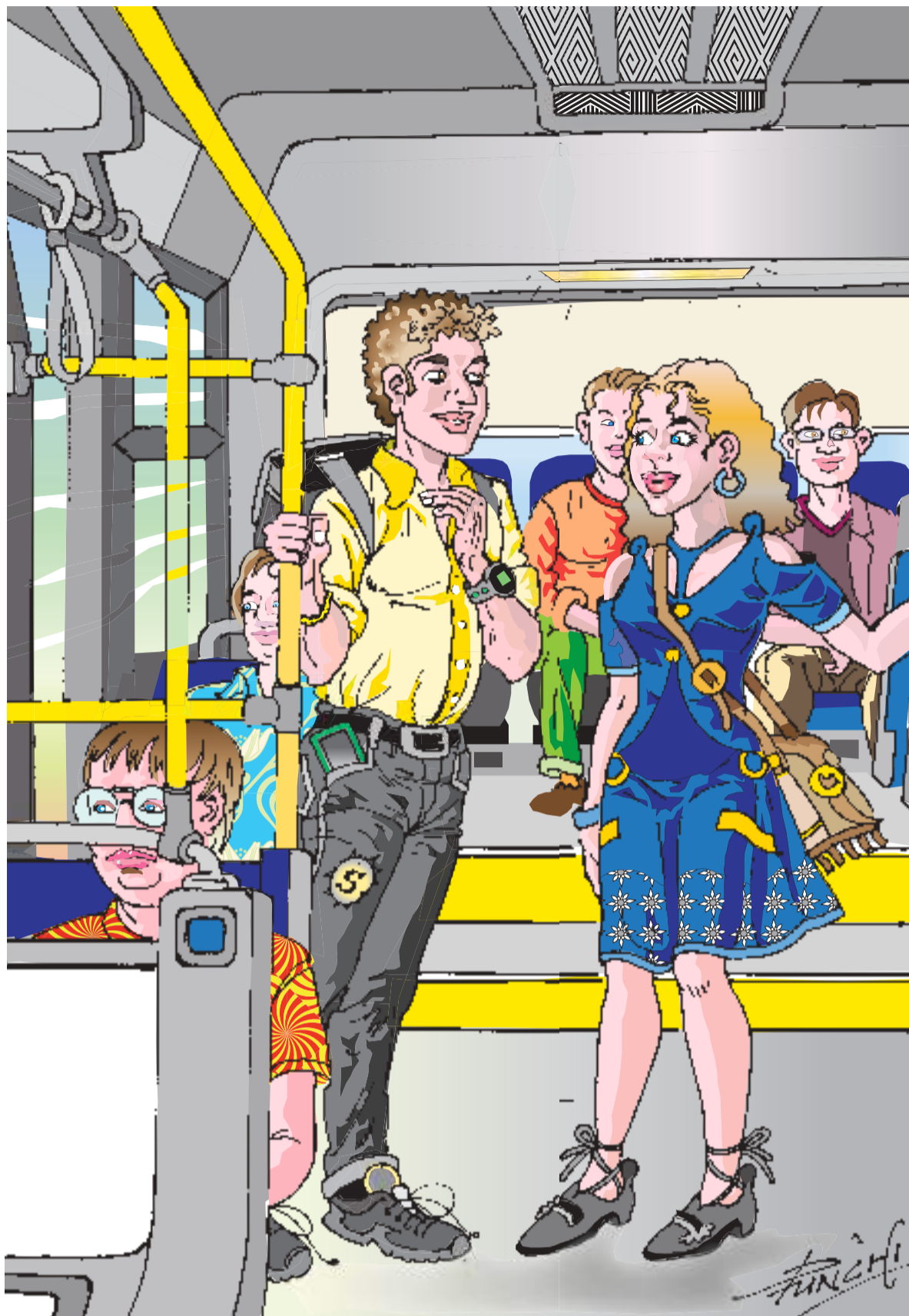
"That's a very rare name."

"So is Sarah."

The bus came to a halt and so did their sweet conversation.

"This is where I get off," he said. "If you let me, I'll accompany you to the end."

Sarah was silent. He was still gazing at her, expecting an answer. Sarah wanted to be quick and give him the best wonderful invitation and ask him to come with her, throughout her entire life, but she held her breath for a while, not knowing why, perhaps to



maintain modesty, the modesty she thought that was.

"We're leaving in five more minutes," the conductor announced.

Sarah thought that the five minutes were the longest time, ever: one twelfth of an hour - three hundred seconds. But, really, she didn't know that even a second was made of a cluster of unmet moments, just like she didn't know it when she was extending her sentiments for the first time, towards her newfound love.

"We're leaving in one minute," the conductor announced.

"Please tell me! I'll come with you if you say, 'ok'. The bus will start soon."

Sarah was shaken, suddenly. There were still an immeasurable number of

extremely brief moments and, she spoke.

"Yes, please, come with me!" she said loud.

And so began the journey.

Were they walking along a flowery path or on a red carpet? She didn't know or she wasn't very sure either, but after a few more stops of silence, it was her time to get down and, they both did together. It was quite late and in the dark they stopped to talk on the road.

"I have to walk about ten minutes from here," Sarah said.

"Okay, I'll let you go then. Will you give me a call, tomorrow?" he asked.

"Yes, what's your number?"

"Do you have a pen, I'll write it

down."

"Really, I'm very good at memorising numbers. You don't need to write. Just say it! I'll remember it," she said.

That was right. Sarah had an excellent memory where numbers were concerned. Once said, she could remember well. But, he wasn't sure.

"That means you aren't going to call?" he asked.

He sounded disappointed. It sounded as if he thought that she was trying to ignore him. But that wasn't so. She did want to call him. But right now she didn't want him to think otherwise so, she held out a pen to him. He wrote the number on a tiny piece of paper and gave it to her. She looked at it and put it in her handbag. They part-

ed with the hope of seeing each other again.

Sarah found herself in bed that night, with pleasant thoughts about the amazing man she coincidentally met. His words were echoing in her heart.

"Tomorrow isn't a working day for me. So, call me!"

He was the most handsome man she had ever met. Holding his hand for the rest of her life was the best that could ever happen to her. She quickly fell asleep, having the same pleasant, soothing dreams. It was Sherman, Sherman and Sherman. Everywhere, it was Sherman and no one else.

The next morning, she hurried to the university. Before the class began, she decided to make her first call to him. It was a cherishing expectation to listen to his voice again. She walked to a telephone booth in the university premises. There was a line of students waiting to make calls at the booth. She had to wait and, it wasn't easy. She wanted to excuse herself and move to the front but, she waited. The line was extremely lethargic and slow-moving. She hated it. She thought she was spending a few hours there. The more she clung to time, the slower it was moving and, so was the line. She was spending an immeasurable number of extremely brief moments and, however, finally it was her turn.

She held the receiver, and pressed the buttons, the number that was well written in her mind - 852147. She heard the ringing tone at the other end and felt as if an abnormally long time was being taken to answer. After several rings it was answered. She heard an elderly female voice and, her guess was that it was his mother.

"Hello, could I speak to Sherman, please?" Sarah asked, in her best formal voice.

"Oh, he's gone out. Are you the girl who's looking for a job? He told me you'd call." The lady sounded as if she was expecting her call.

Sarah was confused - perhaps, he was helping a girl to find a job.

"Are you ready with your resume to hand it over to him?" The lady asked again. Sarah was silent.

"Are you looking for a job?" The lady asked, amid her silence.

Sarah thought for a moment. Perhaps Sherman wanted to help her find another job, better than her restaurant job.

"Not really. I haven't spoken to him about a job," she said.

"Oh then, you're another girl. He's not home right now. He's gone out. I'll tell him when he returns. What's your name?"

"I'm Sarah. When will he be coming home?"

"I'm not sure of the time he'll be back. It's not a working day for him. He's gone out with his wife."

Sarah stood still at the reply. She wondered if she really heard it. So he's married? He has a wife? Then why did he sound like he wanted to meet her again? Why did he ask her to call him and to meet her? Why did he sound disappointed when he thought she wasn't going to call him? Was he just playing a prank on her?

She cut the call short and started walking to her class, disheartened.

-To be continued next week

Brides and grooms of Sri Lanka - Reimagined

"Together we're creating moments of happiness and cherished memories for the new couple and their families" said Founder and CEO of LOVI Ceylon, Asanka de Mel, as he introduced LOVI Ceylon's Groom collection. Each groom's look was paired with extraordinary creations from Sri Lanka's top bridal designers, jewellers, florists, hair and make-up artiste and captured by story-telling photographers.

The presentation graciously hosted at the Taj Samudra and Shangri-La hotels saw 30 leading designers working hand in hand to infuse fresh ideas, celebrate cultural diversity and show-off Sri Lankan couture—the island's handcraft

heritage. The stunning bridal costumes were painstakingly made by renowned designers Messrs. Dhananjaya Bandara, Rishard Raheem, and Michael Wijesuriya as well as Ms. Indi Yapa Abeywardena, Sonali Dharmawardena, Darshi Keerthisena, Ramona Oshini, Sandani Perera, and Jaish Parathalingam.

The newcomer, Ms. Anusha David also presented her couture creations. "We want our groom and all of the men at the wedding including the grooms-men, dads, young boys and friends, to be themselves—to feel rooted in culture, well dressed and at ease on the wedding day," said Asanka.

The designs progressed from sketch to stitching, handcrafted fine jewellery made of precious metals encrusted with diamonds, sapphires and rubies.

Breathing life into these wonderful

creations with superb hair and make-up was anchor of the shoot, Ms. Nadiya Fernando and her collaborator Omesh, while Ramani Fernando, Shane Perera, Viran Peter, also worked magic on the models.

The father - son duo Dinuka and Dineth Fonseka took on the herculean task of capturing all the creations as the anchor photography partner.

De Mel expressed his thanks to the wonderful models and the models who brought the visions and fancies of the designers to life, as well as poet and author Ashok Ferrey for being the MC.

"We have world class craftsmanship here, it's fun to work with so many experts, who just happen to be friends, to present a beautiful collection that could nudge the course of Sri Lankan clothing identity," said Asanka when asked about the work that went into this.



Features



This copy of the Ballad was penned by Song dynasty calligrapher Mi Fu in 1094 AD (Public domain- MulanBook).

True ending of a Hollywood heroine

BY CHAMARI SENANAYAKE

Hollywood tells us touching tales, some of them are legends from around the world and some from history. One of the greatest legendary warriors comes from the Hollywood movie 'Mulan' which was recently adapted to a live action movie as well.

I prefer the 1998 Disney animation Mulan which was a fun-filled movie with voices of Hollywood heavyweights, such as Eddie Murphy and Jackie Chan and songs from artistes, such as Steve Wonder and 98 degrees, Christina Aguilera and Donny Osmond. It became a success around the world, with earning over US \$ 304 million and boasted many awards and nominations.

Mulan is famous around the world as a soldier in China during the Northern and Southern dynasties between 420 and 589 AD. Like in the animated and live action movie, she disguised herself as a man and joined the Emperor's Army so that her father, a sickly veteran conscripted a second time by imperial decree, wouldn't be killed in combat. It was the law to provide a man from each family for battle.

When the Emperor's officers came and issued the documents to her old father to report for duty on a later date, Mulan cut her hair and disguised herself like a young man and left her household in the morning with his sword, stallion and the documents, something unthinkable for a teenage girl to do. As there were no picture identities at that time, she was accepted as the man from her household without any questions asked. From this beginning, it is an unbelievable story of the courage and actions of a remarkable woman, whose destiny was to follow a path like no other woman of her time.

First known transcription

Historical mention of Mulan dates back to more than 1,500 years ago, when a folk song called 'The Ballad of Mulan' was popularised during China's North Wei Dynasty about this brave young warrior woman. The first known transcription of The Ballad of Mulan comes from the 6th century.

However, the first written records of the poem have been lost to time. But like many stories they morph and evolve, gaining or losing many aspects in the process with centuries in time, even though much of the story remains the same. The movie length feature by Disney in 1998 and 2020 had her save the day, the Emperor's life, offered a role as an adviser at the palace, which she refuses, and later she returns home to her loving father and builds a romance with General Li Shang.

But, research shows that the reality was far from these Hollywood happy endings, as many historical accounts paint a darker and a cruel ending to this amazing heroine.

The original Mulan story plays out more like a Shakespeare tragedy than a Shakespearean comedy, as most Chinese writers, including the 17th Century Chu Renho had penned the story that is believed to be the closest to true history as well as a musical version, first released in 1695 which had acquired many new plots, characters and twists, such as in Shakespearean plays. But, the ending is just as unbelievable as the beginning in the warrior legend.

The fact remains that Mulan lived during the Wei dynasty, a time when the lifespan of an average person was short and girls were forced to marry when they were very young, a rule imposed by the Government.

Like in many cultures around the world that time, women were seen as servants from birth. If she had not run away and joined the Army to save her father, Mulan would have been trained to obey men, before eventually being married off to a stranger who would



Mulan 2020 and Mulan 1998 by Disney movies

MULAN IS FAMOUS AROUND THE WORLD AS A SOLDIER IN CHINA DURING THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN DYNASTIES BETWEEN 420 AND 589 AD. LIKE IN THE ANIMATED AND LIVE ACTION MOVIE, SHE DISGUISED HERSELF AS A MAN AND JOINED THE EMPEROR'S ARMY SO THAT HER FATHER, A SICKLY VETERAN CONSCRIPTED A SECOND TIME BY IMPERIAL DECREE, WOULDN'T BE KILLED IN COMBAT

how many changes had occurred during her absence and that her home is no longer the happy place that it once was when her father was alive. The real Mulan doesn't have any romantic interest like in both the Disney movies. She doesn't fall in love with the General or anyone else. She seems in reality, the ultimate woman who doesn't need a man, who had the courage to do what no other woman accomplished during her time.

As she is now an unmarried older woman, after receiving an order from the new Emperor to become his concubine, after being used to such a warrior's life, rather than face the humiliating fate of becoming a concubine, feeling lonely and misunderstood, the legend says that Mulan, the heroine the world has now fallen in love with, decided to commit suicide.

The first onscreen adaptation of the legend of Mulan was the 1927 silent film 'Hua Mulan Joins the Army'. A number of film portrayals has been produced since then, but unlike in movies, in almost all historical accounts, Mulan doesn't get her happy ending. Some accounts even say that her heart was sent to the ousted emperor (Legends from Sui and Tang).

Fiction or reality

While some modern historians disagree with the story of Mulan, calling it fiction, some sources such as the National Taiwan University archives and internet sources linked to their research mention that an inscription in an ancient memorial erected during the Yuan dynasty states that Mulan served under Emperor Wen of Han, adding how Mulan fought against the Xiongnu, a tribal confederation of Nomadic people.

Ming dynasty historian Zhu Guozhen has written that Mulan served under Emperor Yang of Sui, who was a womaniser and corrupt ruler. Perhaps, he was the second Emperor that was mentioned in most historical accounts inspired by the Ballad of Mulan, who overthrew the more generous Emperor that Mulan served under and forced Mulan to be his concubine.

According to some tales, his tomb was relocated several times due to consecutive lightning strikes and the public believed it was because he was so corrupt and had raped women. Zhu Guozhen describes how Emperor Yang sought to take Mulan as a concubine, but she took her own life to preserve her honour.

Perhaps these two accounts tell the tale of what happened to the heroine at the end, how she had to face a new ruler's demands and an unforgiving society to an unmarried woman, discarding her as a used coin and forcing her to become a sex slave when she has risen above men for 12 years. Such a depressing stage would force a strong woman, when cornered to a dark end to seek such a sad exit, no matter how brave she had been in front of her enemy, when the war was over and faced with the daily life of society, our lovely heroine had no escape.



Ancient cloth painting of Hua Mulan- 18th Century (British Museum)



'Mulan Joins the Army' painting by Ming Dynasty artist Tang Yin where Mulan is shown with her father's horse (Public domain)

become her master. If Mulan's husband had been rich or powerful, he would also have been within his right to take on a concubine too.

Twelve years of fighting

But it wasn't until the release of Disney's 1998 animated movie 'Mulan'

that the woman fighter's story became known worldwide. In the Chinese legend, however, her identity is never "discovered."

She spent 12 years fighting bravely alongside a group of male soldiers and was never found out. After being honoured by the emperor and finally returning home, she at least reveals

her true identity as Hua Mulan. She was rewarded for her bravery by the Emperor and promoted to the rank of 'General' with a position in the palace, but all she wanted was to return home to her family.

The Emperor is said to have granted her wish, just the same as in the movies. But in the real ending, the

Emperor is soon overtaken. When she returns to her village, she finds that not only her father had passed away many years ago, but her mother had also remarried. She would have had to remarry, as prospects for women in traditional cultures have always been quite barren.

The heroine becomes distressed at

Springtime Andrews: the adventurous horse in Australia

BY MITHUN DE SILVA

Australian born nine-year old Dinaal Shaquil De Silva's maiden picture story book "Springtime Andrews: The Adventurous Horse in Australia" tells the story of a curious young horse and his day-to-day life.

The story is written to an exemplary standard containing a barrage of elements, making it a desirable book for children of all ages.

Those who read the book will

THE STORY IS WRITTEN TO AN EXEMPLARY STANDARD CONTAINING A BARRAGE OF ELEMENTS, MAKING IT A DESIRABLE BOOK FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES. THOSE WHO READ THE BOOK WILL ENJOY THE ENTERTAINING AND WELL-DRAWN ILLUSTRATIONS THAT ACCOMPANY THE SIMPLE YET POWERFUL WORDS OF THE STORY

enjoy the entertaining and well-drawn illustrations that accompany the simple yet powerful words of the story.

The moral of the story is one that people of all ages should understand and follow, which would make the world a much more peaceful

place for human and non-human animals alike.

Dinaal is the youngest son of former Sunday Observer Sub-Editor Channa de Silva who is residing in Australia.

The book "Springtime Andrews" is available in the major book stores in Sri Lanka, Ramona Bookshop (Kesbewa), Jeya Book Centre (Peoples Park Complex), Vijithayapa Bookshop (Nugegoda), Buddhist Cultural Centre (Dehiwela) and Sarasavi Book shop (Nugegoda).



MONTAGE

features.suo@lakehouse.lk / Tel: 011 2 429 429, 011 2 429 228 / Fax: 0112 429 227

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

BOOK REVIEW

Saho - nostalgic camaraderie, atemporal order and a prefab cultural landscape

BY PROFESSOR ARI ARIYARATNE

Saho (the Comrade) is a novel that deserves better attention from sophisticated readers. It is written by Ariyaratna Athugala, a Sri Lankan academic who has shown his talents and skills previously as a prolific writer and a playwright.

A group of college students living in an unspecified college campus in Sri Lanka is central to the novel.

The dramatis personae are Tharu, Sandu, Hiru, and Ratu. Sandu has freshly graduated from college and secured a dubious probationary college teaching position, which would not be likely to last over an academic year. Nearing graduation, her friends face an equally uncertain future.

Their unsettled prospects notwithstanding, the main characters in the novel are inclined to become entangled in the themes common to their age groups in a college campus environment, such as romance, ambition and the generally lukewarm reception to authority, control and convention.

Hence *Saho* is a work fitting well with the genre of novels known in the West as college novels. Sometimes known as academic or campus novels, this genre often appeals to its niche audience, consisting of high schoolers, college students and the likes. Aligning with the popular trope that college is the happiest four years of one's life, at times, some college novels (and the movies based on such novels) have been successful in grabbing readers' attention beyond their traditional constituency.

Prefab cultural landscape and atemporal order

Prefab cultural landscape and atemporal order

The story unravels in a prefab cultural landscape. The author carefully confines his chosen characters and their activities mostly into several places in the college campus, such as the playground, the cafeteria, the classrooms, the library, undergraduate dormitories and private boarding houses.

This made-beforehand landscape and those who inhabit in it exist without relation to time, as if they live in an eternal present. Atemporal order is accentuated due to another reason.

The names of most characters in the novel bear cosmic connotations. As a result, the reader feels galactic. More to the point, the main characters express this-worldly feelings, thoughts and actions while alluding to Other-Worldly or extraterrestrial vastness simultaneously.

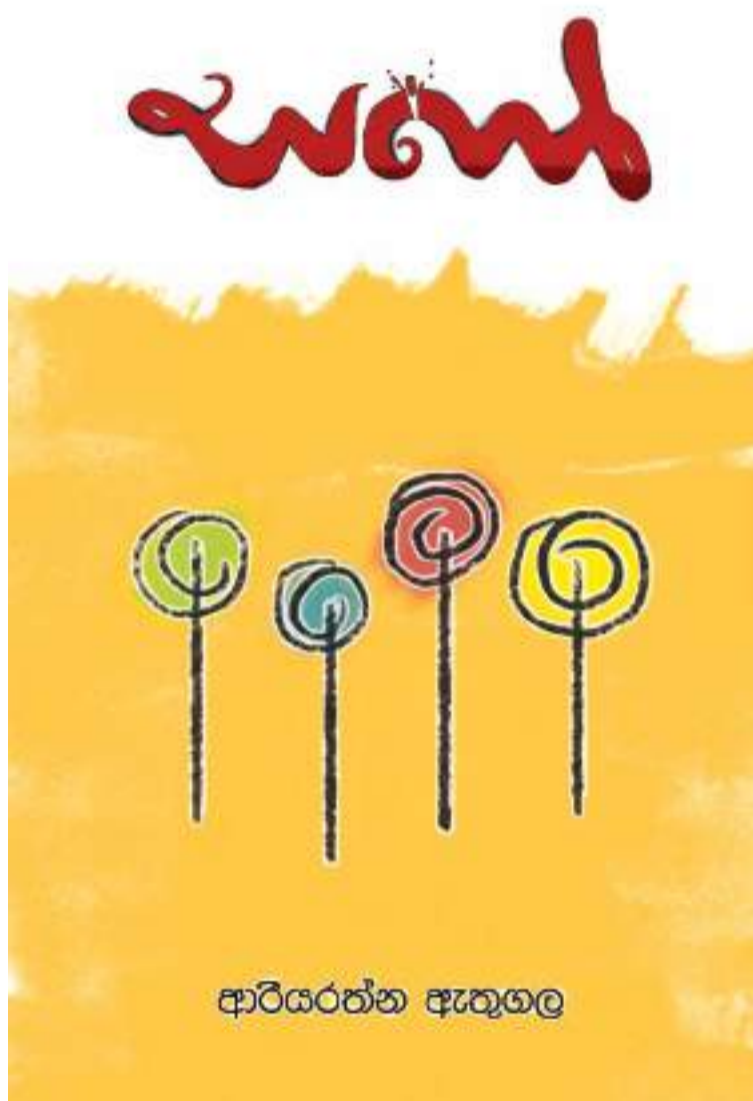
For instance, they see some lecturers' conduct in this college campus as akin to that of extraterrestrial beings (p. 26).

Moreover, they jokingly point out that a thinly made string hopper is worthy for nothing but to use as the protective viewing of a solar eclipse! (p. 79). Likewise, Rathu, a main character in the novel insinuates the following: Hiru's sunrises have boosted Saho's morality, Sandu's moonlight has awakened his desire and Tharu's rock-throwing (after appearing on the scene like a comet rose from the distant sky) has brought a tragic end to Saho's life (p. 65).

Nostalgic camaraderie

Although the main characters share the commonality of being relatable to each other as young adults facing similar predicaments in a college campus environment, they also impart profound dissimilarities.

For instance, Sandu can spew lines from classical English literature in her class sessions while others in the group reacting cluelessly as if the linguistic barrier is some-



thing insurmountable. Similarly, Hiru proves in the end that she can hang out with her friends while concealing her complicit life. By the same token, Rathu can mingle with his friends while insinuating their responsibility for Saho's death simultaneously. The strongest commonality they all share is nostalgic camaraderie.

Let me describe succinctly what nostalgia does. Nostalgia essentially crushes the surface of an atemporal order and a prefab cultural landscape. It does so by resurrecting time and place. It sets up a frame of meaning within which positing a "once was" in relation to "now" is possible.

Nostalgia is a crucial narrative function of language that orders incidents temporally while dramatising them in the mode of "things that happened," that "could happen," and that "are happening now." In this sense, to narrate a story is to place oneself in an event and a setting, and to relate something to someone. In other words, nostalgia makes it possible to create a relational interpretive space in which meanings have straight social antecedents.

Novel to film adaptation

It is to this interpretive space the author brings in the competing memories of camaraderie, a core concept of mutual trust, friendship and unity.

The strength of Athugala's novel rests on his adroit depiction of Saho, the deceased protagonist of the narrative through competing nostalgic memories. At the novelist's hand, Saho has become an interpretive space where competing memories of camaraderie are presented, negotiated, contested and fiercely fought out.

His immanent and pervasive presence is made manifest in such a way that the reader begins to feel Saho's living presence. Let me end this brief note on Professor Athugala's novel by adding a word on its transition to a film.

"I first wrote the screenplay," says the author in the preface of the book, inferring that it was the film project that he had in mind at first and on his way of getting that job accomplished, the novel came into being later. If one sets aside the familiar query which came early, the chicken or the egg, one cannot help

SAHO IS A WORK FITTING WELL WITH THE GENRE OF NOVELS KNOWN IN THE WEST AS COLLEGE NOVELS. SOMETIMES KNOWN AS ACADEMIC OR CAMPUS NOVELS, THIS GENRE OFTEN APPEALS TO ITS NICHE AUDIENCE, CONSISTING OF HIGH SCHOOLERS, COLLEGE STUDENTS AND THE LIKES

but remember that many college novels in the West have become college films later.

For example, German writer Heinrich Mann's 1905 novel Professor Unrat or 'Professor Filth' was one of the earliest predecessors to the genre of college novel.

The movie, adapted from the book by the German director Josef von Sternberg, was *Der Blaue Engel* or 'The Blue Angel' (1930). The film was the first feature-length German full talkie. It presented the tragic transformation of a respectable professor (played by Emil Jennings) to a cabaret clown and his descent into madness.

While bringing Marlene Dietrich (who played the role of Lola-Lola, the cabaret dancer and singer) international fame, the film also introduced another distinguishable trait in the genre of college film and its sister categories, the film of teenage romance and melodrama and the coming-of-age film.

That hallmark was the film's musical score and the songs which could sensationalise the audience. As mentioned by film historians, when Marlene Dietrich was singing "Falling in Love Again" in the movie, Western filmgoers at the time have embraced not only the playful, flirtatious and self-consciously seductive character of cabaret girl and the nutty professor, but also the musical score that immensely helped Dietrich to deliver it.

Although the college film genre was introduced to Sri Lankan cinema by the veteran film director Sugathapala Senerath Yapa with



Prof. Ariyaratna Athugala

his *Hanthane Kathawa* or 'Story at Hanthana' in 1968, this category never became a well-established movie genre. Subsequently, Yapa's film spawned a trove of trivial imitations and cheap parodies in many Sri Lankan films, however.

Only a few films that can be genuinely considered college films arose subsequently. Wasantha Obeyesekere's 2002 film *Salelu Warana* or 'The Web of Love' and Asoka Handagama's *Ege Esa Aga* or 'Let Her Cry' (2016) were two of such distinctive college films.

Several teenage romantic melodrama films also followed. One of the earliest movies in this category was Ranjith Lal's *Nim Walalla* or 'Horizontal Line' (1970). Lester James Peris's *Golu Hadawatha* or 'Silent Heart' (which was based upon Karunasena Jayalath's novel bearing the same title) was screened in 1972.

The plot of Sumithra Peris's film *Gehenu Lamai* or 'Girls' was adapted from Karunasena Jayalath's novel. It was released for Sri Lankan film audience in 1978. In addition, Sunesh Dissanayake Bandara's 2004 film *Adaraneeya Wassanaya* or 'Romantic Rainy Season' was elicited from Upul Shantha Sannasgala's novel '*Wassana Sihinaya*'. Just as their Western counterparts, the musical score and some of the songs in these movies could sensationalise Sri Lankan niche audiences.

Allegory and cinematic metaphor

Let me give an example of how great filmmakers combine realism with a parable of life. Let us focus on the Japanese New Wave film *Woman in the Dunes* (1964). This was the film characterised by the American film critic Roger Ebert as "a modern version of the myth of Sisyphus, the man condemned by the gods to spend eternity rolling a boulder to the top of a hill, only to see it roll back down" (*Chicago Sun-Times*, February 2, 1998). In this black-and-white film adapted from the novel penned by Kobo Abe in 1962, the director (Hiroshi Teshigahara), the writer of the screenplay (Kobo Abe), the cinematographer (Hiroshi Segawa) and the composer of music (Toru Takemitsu) fruitfully collaborate to construct one of the most powerful cinematic metaphors that I have ever seen.

"In line with Plato's Allegory of the Cave that it invokes in the beginning (in Chapter 2), Athugala's novel unfolds to become a college novel with an allegoric flavour. Even though the action of the novel takes place in a realistic space, the characters inhabiting that space seem to act almost like the dramatis personae in an allegory. When one reads an allegory in the form of a novel, the narrative acts as a moral lesson or message.

In an allegoric work, concrete things such as characters, setting and objects are likely to represent deeper meanings. When adapting a novel with an allegoric tinge to a film, it generates a fertile ground for a cinematic metaphor to germinate and thrive. *Saho* is a promising college novel that warrants heeding of the refined reader.



ART NEWS

Exhibition

TALKING PICTURES



Sanjeeva Kumara's latest exhibition, "Talking Pictures," grapples with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic: its immediate impact on people's everyday lives, its revelations about inequalities that had escaped notice or been hidden away from the public eye and the fear of the unknown, commenced at the Gallery Café 2 Alfred House Road, Colombo 3 on February 11 and will conclude on March 4.

Questions outweigh any sense of certainty - do we return to normalcy or do we tear the status quo down, and rebuild? In a time when connection is limited - and potentially dangerous - we look towards shared symbols, traditions, art and music, rooting ourselves in these shared cultural experiences to feel connected to our communities.

Scars of pandemic

Sanjeeva's latest exhibition does not claim to have the answers to all of our questions. Instead, his work reveals his unconscious - attempting to unearth his own questions and reveal the unknown scars of the pandemic, oozing out of his mind directly onto his paintings and drawings.

Sanjeeva surrenders himself to the physical moment of painting, eschewing formulation, planning and pre-sketching to mimic the upheaval and loss of orientation all of our communities are facing today. His alien dreamscapes are the product, not of his hand or mind, but of his unconscious.

Born in 1971 in Colombo, Sanjeeva Kumara began his artistic training at the University of Kelaniya in 1999, completing his Master of Fine Arts at the Dutch Art Institute in the Netherlands in 2003.

As a visiting lecturer at the University of Kelaniya and the University of Visual and Performing Arts in Sri Lanka, Sanjeeva believes in sharing the knowledge that he has acquired in his career as an artist.

Sanjeeva has had work displayed internationally, from Austria and Germany to New York and London. He has represented Sri Lanka at the Dhaka Art Summit in Bangladesh and in the Netherlands' Gallery Art Korner's selection of "Recent Developments in Contemporary Sri Lankan Paintings."

He was a finalist for the 2015 Sovereign Asian Art Prize in Hong Kong and has earned a name for himself through his unique use of both local and universal symbols which come together to create works that are layered in the artist's life, the country he grew up in, and the stories he has learnt along the way. Sanjeeva calls his works "pictures" rather than "paintings" to highlight how they are not limited by their medium; instead, they transcend material boundaries - projecting outward and guiding the viewer to look inward.



Features

Retro reviews: Cinema of yesteryear

'South of St. Louis'

BY DILSHAN BOANGE

Released in 1949, and directed by Ray Enright, *South of St. Louis* is a Western film set in the days of the American civil war that brings pronounced southern sympathies through its storyline and scheme of characters. The story builds on the friendship of three ranchers whose personal goals and ambitions are put to the test in the face of the brutal civil war that has wrecked their peaceful lives on the ranch known as Three Bell Ranch which was meant to signify how each of the trio wore a 'jingle bob' on the spurs of their riding boots.

Kip Davis played by Joel McCrea, Charlie Burns played by Zachary Scott and Lee Price played by Douglas Kennedy, are the trio of ranchers of the Three Bell Ranch whose ranch is attacked and pillaged by guerrilla raider and Union Army leader Luke Cottrell. Kip's fiancée Deb, played by Dorothy Malone begs the trio not to go in pursuit of Cottrell and his band of thugs as she believes that seeking to settle the score will result in tragedy. How-



ever, Kip, Charlie and Lee are determined to ensure that Cottrell and his looters will not trouble them again as they want to rebuild the ranch and not quit.

Path of divergence

The trio encounter Cottrell at a local bar. But he refuses to be provoked into a gun draw with Kip as the wily Cottrell is aware of Kip's reputation

for being 'quick on the draw'. However, Kip then challenges Cottrell to an old fashion one on one fist fight which becomes quite a spectacle. Kip beats Cottrell and sends him packing warning him to stay out of Texas. Although it seems initially that the trio have prevailed over the man who destroyed their livelihoods, 'the battle' is far from over. The civil war has brought the northern Yankee Army to their midst and their hometowns are now 'occupied Union territory'. It is in this context that the trio who had always been together find themselves on the path of divergence. Lee who cannot stand to see the Union Army takeover their lands decides to join the Confederate Army.

Kip and Charlie, however, decide they will rebuild Three Bell ranch, but what soon awaits them is a path that leads them to unexpected gains and dangers. The turning point occurs when Kip undertakes for a fee of fifty dollars to deliver a wagon load of furniture to Mexico which reveals to be a secret consignment of firearms for the Confederate Army.

Enterprise of gunrunning

Although arrested by the Union

THE STORY BUILDS ON THE FRIENDSHIP OF THREE RANCHERS WHOSE PERSONAL GOALS AND AMBITIONS ARE PUT TO THE TEST IN THE FACE OF THE BRUTAL CIVIL WAR THAT HAS WRECKED THEIR PEACEFUL LIVES ON THE RANCH KNOWN AS THREE BELL RANCH WHICH WAS MEANT TO SIGNIFY HOW EACH OF THE TRIO WORE A 'JINGLE BOB' ON THE SPURS OF THEIR RIDING BOOTS

Army in Texas, he is secretly released on being transported as a prisoner. From there on, Kip and Charlie embark on an enterprise of gunrunning for the Confederate war effort along with their partner in business, the attractive lounge singer 'Rogue' who first got them involved in the business on the cover of the furniture consignment.

The path that opens before Kip and Charlie sees them face off their nemesis Luke Cottrell who is also now supporting the Confederate forces due to better financial prospects, as well as being drawn into a cycle of profiteering that leads to crossing paths with Lee who moves up the ranks of the Confederate Army. Treachery, greed and battles with conscience and duty bring events that alter their lives forever. The end is not one that shows a reunion of the trio's friendship for long, but doesn't disappoint those who wish for a happy ending.



A doyen of Asian cinema

BY K.S. SIVAKUMARAN

We have one Sri Lankan film maker who has contributed to world-class Asian cinema. He is Dr. Lester James Peries.

Along with Satyajit Ray of Bangla in India and Akira Kurosawa of Tokyo, Japan and also of the same place Ozu, Peries has been a pioneer from the Asian continent of vintage fame to compete with the New Wave Directors of France, such as Francois Truffaut or the Italian, Michael Angelo Antonioni or Swedish Ingamar Bergman, to emerge as someone to look forward to in producing different kinds of films that had humanism as a base. They were different from those clever craftsmen across the Atlantic.

Lester James Peries is an international celebrity and needs to be understood particularly by the Western world.

Books on Lester

There are a few books in Sinhala, English and one or two articles in Tamil on Lester James Peries. There are various interpretations on him as a film maker by our film critics in the calibre of Reggie Siriwardene, I A. J. Gunawardene, Philip Cooray, Donald Abeyasinghe, Tissa Abeysekera, Ajith Samaranyake, Gamini Haththotuwegama, Vernon Abeysekera and a few others who have written in English. There are many more writings on him and his films in Sinhala and English.

We must get the exact information from the horse's mouth - Lester's own estimation of his films. That is why 'Lester by Lester' - as told to Kumar de Silva' gains a significant place in the library of Lester James Peries Studies. This illuminating book was first published in 2007 by the Vijitha Yapa Publications.

The 212-page book, which has a few photographs of some of Lester's major films partly speaks about the growth of the Lankan Sinhala cinema. Besides the Introduction, Foreword, Publisher's Note and Acknowledgement, information and critiques of Peries's own films beginning with *Rekawa* (1956), *Sandeshaya*, *Gamperaliya*, *Delovak Athara*, *Ran Salu*, *Golu Hadawtha*, *Akkara Paha*, *Nidhanya*, *Desa Nisa*, *The God King*, *Madol Duwa*, *Ahasin Polowata*, *Veera Puran Appu*, *Pinhamy*, *Beddegama*, *Kaliyugaya*, *Awaragira*, *Wekande Walauwwa*, and *Ammawarune* (2001) are succinctly analysed. There is also a filmography of Lester's short films from 1949 to 1971.



Dr. Lester James Peries

The credits of all the films have been listed. This too would help the student of cinema identify the veterans in Sinhala Cinema of yore.

The Maestro also lauds Kumar de Silva in his Foreword to the book - "...Kumar's wise counsel prevailed. Excavating the past, when film making has been part of your life and that of Sumitra's (editor of some of my best known films), has triggered off many pleasant and creatively important memories. Remembering them has been painful sometimes, but often deeply satisfying. A final word - if not for Kumar de Silva's persistence over five long years, this book would never have been published."

Amazing film maker

The publisher, Vijitha Yapa writes about Lester: "He was famous but he was very humble. Popularity had not led to a swelling of his head. He was easily approachable, friendly and in no hurry to chase you out because he was busy. Since then, each film he made exposed the talent of an amazing film maker."

Kumar de Silva is an electronic and print media journalist proficient in English and French. He is a Public Relations and Media Consultant and holds a degree in English and French. He worked for the Cultural Service of the Embassy of France in Colombo and became popular with his presentation of the television program 'Bonsoir'. A versatile artiste at his comparatively young age, he was recently conferred with the honour of 'Chevalier in the Order of Arts and Letters' by the Government of France in recognition of his contribution to promoting French culture in Sri Lanka for more than a quarter of a century.

'Table Top' performances - a sharing of work-in-progress

'Table Top Stories' is a performance making workshop series led by the UK-based theatre company Forced Entertainment. The workshops were convened by Floating Space in Sri Lanka, and Katha Ghera in Nepal, in collaboration with the British Council.

These workshops, conducted over a four-week creative process in January 2021, brought together 10 performers/performance makers from Sri Lanka and Nepal to create a series of performance work conceived and performed using a table and a selection of everyday objects.

This performance making approach is based on Forced Entertainment's Complete Works: Table Top Shakespeare at Home which tells the plots of all of Shakespeare's 36 plays through this compelling approach to storytelling. Each play was approached by Forced Entertainment in terms of the shape of the story, the voice of the telling and the narrative of description - around event, person and motivation.

'Dramatis personae'

They would work out each scene and its cast of characters: what we know in the theatre as 'dramatis personae'. Slowly, the story becomes translated to a world of objects. Immersed in a similar process of performance making, 'Table Top Stories' gave this community of artistes based in Sri Lanka the space to examine one's practice and enjoy the collaborative experience of making not just with the facilitators and local artistes, but also a peer group working simultaneously in Kathmandu.

The participating artistes from Sri Lanka were Abiramy Patkunam, Arun Welandawe-Prematilleke, Chalana Wijesuriya, Sumathy Sivamohan and Tasmin Anthonisz.

Concept and the creativity

Artiste Abiramy Patkunam said, "I love the art of story telling. It's wonderful to be creating theatre experiences that can be done even with minimal objects.

Art requires no luxuries; a strong concept and the creativity of an artiste will go a long way if we channel our ideas and thoughts through new and interesting cre-



ALONG WITH SATYAJIT RAY OF BANGLA IN INDIA AND AKIRA KURUSOWA OF TOKYO, JAPAN AND ALSO OF THE SAME PLACE OZU, PERIES HAS BEEN A PIONEER FROM THE ASIAN CONTINENT OF VINTAGE FAME TO COMPETE WITH THE NEW WAVE DIRECTORS OF FRANCE, SUCH AS FRANCOIS TRUFFAUT OR THE ITALIAN, MICHAEL ANGELO ANTONIONI OR SWEDISH INGAMAR BERGMAN, TO EMERGE AS SOMEONE TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN PRODUCING DIFFERENT KINDS OF FILMS THAT HAD HUMANISM AS A BASE

ative approaches such as these." Chalana Wijesuriya said, "Receiving feedback about the objects selected allowed me to think in a certain way.

Additionally, being able to think

out loud with certain concepts or ideas that I had with the team and hearing techniques Forced Entertainment used during their performances was quite insightful.

I feel I am discovering the im-

portance of the relationship between the objects and the characters that I have assigned to them play a big role in this performance as the objects are quite ordinary.

This is also making me discover how I want to think about the pace and the tone of each scene and focus on which aspects of the story I want to highlight for an audience.

Having to add dialogues and giving character to these objects has also been quite an interesting process."

Tasmin Anthonisz said, "It was honestly very refreshing to be part of the workshop. It was really nice to feel like a performer again."

Shine a light on Autism

Improve autistic children's quality of life with early intervention

By  Carol Aloysius

World Autism Awareness Day on April 2 will shine the spotlight on a subject that has up to now not been given enough attention. As experts in Early Child Development from across the world gather to discuss ways in which the autistic child can have the opportunity to develop his or her fullest potential, here in Sri Lanka various interventions have already been put in place by the Ministry of Health with Government support. The World Autism Awareness Day theme for 2021 is 'shine a light on autism' thereby increasing awareness about those who have autism especially the children. To commemorate this Day the international community will light up hundreds of thousands of landmarks, buildings, homes and communities around the world in blue - 'Light it up Blue'. This will improve knowledge about autism and deliver information on how important it is to detect early for early intervention.

The *Sunday Observer* asked President Sri Lanka Association for Child Development (SLACD), and Senior Lecturer in Paediatrics-Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayawardenepura and Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, Teaching Hospital Colombo South, Dr Saraji Wijesekara to share her expertise with our readers and parents of children with autistic and other neurological disabilities.

Excerpts of the interview:

Q. The current priority of the Government is to give every Lankan child an opportunity to develop to his/her fullest potential. Do you think this is a step forward, especially, in the context of children with certain inherent disabilities such as autism?

A. Yes. In Sri Lanka we attempt to detect children with autism as early as possible and carry out home entered early intervention. Starting with the Education Ministry initiatives under the concept of education for all, each child will have some form of education until they are 18 years.

As the majority of school leaving happen around the ages of 14-17 the implementation of vocational training by the Education Ministry has made a pivotal role in educating children with disability such as autism. Further, the paid apprentice period in governmental and non-governmental organisations is an important milestone in ensuring the future of these children.

Q. Autism is a subject that not many people understand. How would you describe Autism in simple laymen language?

A. Autism is a condition demonstrating poor social communication skills and some peculiar behaviours that could be repetitive in an affected child. In Sri Lanka the presenting complaint is speech delay as in most developed countries. This is identified as a spectrum as the symptoms and signs vary vastly among individuals.

Q. Is autism a disease or a condition? What causes it?

A. Autism is not a disease entity. It is a condition. The causative factors are yet to be identified and several hypothetical aetiological factors are postulated. Genetic influence coupled with environmental triggers have shown to be the major risk factors. The dietary components, screen time and lack of stimulatory inputs to the developing brain have been positively associated with many studies.

Q. Are there different types of autism or degrees of autism? What are the symptoms?

A. The symptoms of this condition fall into a spectrum. In the study conducted in Sri Lanka the most significant presentation was the speech delay. The problem is that it is detected late i.e. close to three years after the child's birth. So it is considered a delayed presentation. Avoidance of eye gaze, lack of interest in the surroundings and being in his/her own world, not playing with peers, ritualistic behaviour such as rocking, hand movements, spinning and interest in rotatory objects such as fans and rolling the tyres of cars are a few of the many symptoms. Some may have a jargon of words with no meaning and have echolalia (repetition of the question itself with the same wording). They may not like cuddling, hugging and kissing. Some may be frightened of loud noises or familiar noises such as the blender or polisher.

Depending on the severity of the symptoms they can be categorised as mild, moderate or severe and the outcome would depend on the severity.

Q. I understand there are certain factors that put some people more at risk of getting autism than others, e.g. those with ADHD. Do you agree? If so what are they?

A. Children with autism could have many associations. Attention deficit hyperactivity is one such condition. Epilepsy, aggressive and depressive behaviour and learning disability can be witnessed in some.

Q. Is it correct that teenage moth-

ers and older mothers are more prone to have autistic children due to low birth weight babies and declining hormones as they reach the end of their menstrual cycle? Some studies have proved this. Do you agree?

A. This is an observation. Many studies are underway to address this concern. The hormonal theory could be the reason, however, no quality research publications have proved it so far.

Q. How common is this disease globally?

A. In 2020, the USA reported that approximately 1 in 54 children in the U.S. is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), according to the 2016 data.

Q. How widespread is it in Sri Lanka? Has there been any recent study on the incidence?

A. At present the available data in Sri Lanka is only up to year 2000. No recent data is published yet. But the numbers seeking medical care shows that the incidence of autism is increasing and awareness among the public is soaring.

Q. Is Autism curable?

A. Autism is a neuro developmental disorder. It is not curable. But early intervention with therapy and guidance would help them to lead a normal life including education, employment and marriage.

Q. Is it preventable if detected early?

A. As we have multiple factors responsible for autism it is difficult to implement preventive strategies. However, early detection and intervention with therapy would lead to a better quality of life.

Q. How is it diagnosed and by whom? I understand a multidisciplinary team is needed to treat and diagnose autistic children. Who comprises this team?

A. It is a clinical diagnosis. That means the behaviour pattern would help us diagnose it. There are validated questionnaires to be filled by the parents/caregivers; teacher assessments and doctors' assessments will help to diagnose. Investigations such as MRI brain, EEG and blood tests would help to eliminate other causes and do not help diagnosing autism.

A Child Psychiatrist, Paediatrician or a Paediatric Neurologist would be needed to give a diagnosis of autism.

The Multi-disciplinary care by doctors, nurses, occupational therapists, speech and language pathologists, physiotherapists, psychologists, teachers who have been trained and social workers would help the child



Dr Saraji Wijesekara

improve and each one of them will work on attaining certain short and long term goals for this child ensuring the participation of the child in society.

Q. What are the intervention methods used? Are they tailored to the specific needs of each child?

A. The term Joint Attention is very important. That is, the parent and the child have to engage in the same task without any interferences and it is integrated to the daily routine. The speech therapy, behaviour modification therapy, sensory integration activities are some of them that key stakeholders would work upon.

Q. Are parents involved in the process? What is their role?

A. The parents are the best therapists or doctor to their own child as they are the persons who know the child well. They have to carry out activities with their child without any external disturbances (i.e. no mobile phones, talking to friends, etc) and interactive play with the child or read or write.

Q. What are the challenges that face those dealing with the care of autistic children?

A. Lack of literacy about autism in general. There is a lack of understanding the condition and directing to therapy. Most people caring for autistic children give up as there is no instant cure for the condition and also the caregivers are not given adequate recognition.

Q. Today we have an invasion of new technology and new methods on treating children with behavioural problems. I understand there was a conference held recently where such methods were highlighted in which you participated. Tell us about some of these new methods and approach to dealing with children with behavioural problems.

A. With the invention of new technology there are apps in mobiles where the parents can use to detect initially to check if their child has early signs, if the baby behaves in a peculiar manner. Also there are many reliable sites on the web that give information to caregivers as well as clinicians.

The home based management is the mode of therapy in our country due to cultural and economic reasons and video conferencing has been tried with success due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The series of webinars conducted by experts in the field to reach every corner of the country have been successful in the recent past while usage of social media such as Face book, YouTube and Whatsapp have been a main source in disseminating knowledge.

Q. Do you think autistic children need to attend special schools? If so why?

A. Education for all and inclusive education for socialising in normal

classrooms is the target by the Education Ministry. Those moderately affected who disturb the class with aggressive behaviour can be managed by teachers for special education. The very severe ones where it is impossible to socialise, the special schools would be the choice. Recommendations by doctors, psychologists and teachers will decide who need extra support.

Q. There are still many myths surrounding autism. How have they prevented parents seeking early treatment and detection?

A. Parents still lack understanding this condition and delay bringing their child for medical examination. Myths regarding speech are very common and often the delay in speech is attributed to a family trait where someone in the family also started to talk late. The danger here is that it prevents early identification which in turn reduces the chance of getting proper care at the time of brain development.

Q. Do you see a rainbow of hope for children with disabilities in the near future now that there is more focus on their plight?

A. I am being very optimistic as the Government has identified childhood disability as a key area that needs attention. So a lot of background work is happening i.e. development of infrastructure, trained personnel and motivating families with disability.

Q. Since we are in the midst of a Covid-19 outbreak how likely are children with autism to get infected with this virus? Do you have guidelines for protecting them and their carers?

A. This is a trying period for all of us and more so for children with autism. They face the risk that any other child would face if they don't adhere to health regulations. The guidelines are such that if an autistic child gets the infection he/she needs to be kept with the reliable caregiver and caregivers need to be quarantined if the child needs to be with them. The most important message to the caregiver is to practise health guidelines to prevent infection.

Q. Have you a message for parents and carers of children with autism?

A. Autism is not a disease; it's a condition. The child has to live with it for the rest of his/her life. Early detection and intervention at the age where neural connections are being strengthened is key strategy to improve the quality of life in children with autism. Hence, do not delay to seek medical advice. Multidisciplinary care is the successful mode of intervention to allow maximum participation of the child in family, school and the society.

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			

DOWN

- (K) Trouser leg part
- Cajun cook's vegetable
- (K) McDonald's Happy ___
- Institutions for the mad
- (K) Breakfast strip
- (K) Resting on
- (K) Holders of eyes' rods and cones
- Kinda out-of-touch mentally
- Fabric with metallic threads
- (K) Days before big holidays
- (K) Lion's home
- (K) Attempt
- (K) "When do we ___?" ("Feed me")
- (K) Part of a wrapped present
- Get ___ for effort (2 words)
- (K) Acted as a leader
- Small food scrap
- (K) Class with smocks
- (K) Gentleman's address?
- (K) "The Star-Spangled Banner" writer Francis Scott
- Horrible cocktail?
- Holds one's interest
- (K) Egg layer
- "Rocket" or "rocket" ender
- Sarcastic taunts
- (K) Trump's VP
- (K) ___ slaw
- Supposed sign of things to come
- (K) Skin opening
- Heading at the top of a list
- Latin "and others" abbreviation
- (K) Stadium cover
- (K) Lid on a head

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1	E	S	T	U	L	S	H	A	L	T			
2	H	A	L	O	C	H	A	W	I	V	E		
3	A	U	G	O	U	T	H	A	H	E	N		
4	Y	O	U	T	I	R	E	S	S				
5	C	E	A	C	H	I							
6	T	X	N	I	O	H	I	S	T	I			
7	C	O	L	I	N	D	S	L	O	S	K	R	S
8	S	E	C	R	A	O	E	T	I	P			
9	A	C	E										
10	E	H	A	I	L								
11	Z	S	B	R	A	G	M						
12	H	O	R	E									
13	M	A	N	T									
14	A	R	M										
15	H	O	R	E									
16	A	R	M										
17	H	O	R	E									
18	E	M	O	T	I	O	N						
19	L	A	R	G	E								
20	A	R	M										
21	L	A	R	G	E								
22	N	O											

ACROSS

- (K) Extremely deep sleep
- (K) High jumper's hurdle
- (K) Winter ride provider
- (K) Strummed instruments in Oahu
- (K) Had chili and onions
- (K) Make a street smooth
- A fight or battle
- (K) Army barracks bed
- (K) Word said in churches
- Emotionally crumble (3 words)
- Large coffee vessel
- "No" voice vote
- Favorable, warm, sunny forecast
- (K) Muffin type
- (K) ___ a question
- (K) The two that make eleven?
- (K) New bride's title
- (K) New York's ___ Canal
- (K) Huge ball of chewed gum
- (K) Like August 11th, usually
- (K) What a key allows
- (K) Hairstyling stuff
- Pin for hanging stuff
- Like laundromat machines (2 words)
- (K) Hair tool
- (K) A couple thousand pounds
- (K) "___ Jail" (Monopoly card words)
- Sheltered side, at sea
- (K) "Lord of the Rings" creature
- A Dutch cheese
- (K) You may write with them
- It comes before W
- (K) Foot part

Sudoku 5

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. The solution to the puzzle will appear next week.

2	8		3	4	6			
5			9		8			
			5	8	7		9	
6	4		9					
				3			2	6
1		7	2	8				
	3		1					9
	4	3	5				1	7

Can you find the answer to this riddle within the solved puzzle?

Riddle:

Milky Way unit?

Last week answer: 52-D) Ore

Last week solution

1	2	7	9	8	4	6	3	5
5	9	4	3	6	2	1	8	7
3	6	8	1	5	7	2	9	4
8	3	5	2	9	6	4	7	1
7	1	6	8	4	5	3	2	9
9	4	2	7	1	3	5	6	8
4	7	1	6	2	9	8	5	3
6	8	3	5	7	1	9	4	2
2	5	9	4	3	8	7	1	6

Feature



Captivating cascade

True to its name, Bopath Ella dazzles!



The ruined Buddha statue at Batadomba Lena cave



The ancient grandeur - the well-preserved kurakkan gala at Delgamuwa Vihara which protected the Sacred Tooth Relic



The cool cascading stream in Bopath Ella falls

—Text & Pix by—
Mahil Wijesinghe

A milky white foam bursts forth from Kuru Ganga which originates in the Sri Pada (Adam's Peak) mountain range. The sheet of water that comes crashing down envelops the area in a fine mist. Bopath Ella is Sabaragamuwa's most picturesque waterfall, as voiced by every visitor to this place. The breathtaking spot is a few kilometres from Kuruwita on the Colombo-Ratnapura (A4) main highway. The perennial waterfall is a hotspot for picnickers and young couples from all over the island. The place is too charming to be ignored.

As you approach the waterfall, the sound of water echoes all around. When you look up, practically nothing is visible except for the blinding white curtain, which makes the surrounding rolling hills look blue against the sunlight.

Travelling about three kilometres from Kuruwita, the narrow meandering road branches off to a motorable road on the right which is half a kilometre long, and thereafter you have to park the vehicle in the car park and wade through a shallow stream to reach the waterfall.

During weekends and holidays, many visitors are seen bathing at the



Bopath Ella falls - a hotspot for picnickers and lovers

small shallow pool at ground level. Unmindful of the crowd I walked on the pebbled muddy road leading to the waterfall, drinking in the lush beauty of the area. I learnt from the trader selling food to visitors that these are evergreen and semi-evergreen forests where small animals such as, rabbits, fox and a few varieties of birds are occasionally spotted in the peripheral areas. Walking back to the falls, indeed, the continuous stream of milk from a height of 30 metres is a sight worth seeing.

It is interesting to see how the waterfall is compartmentalised. The gushing stream crashes down like a Bo leaf between two huge boulders, then curves and forms a second step of water sheet. After the steep fall, the water gathers and cascades over another rock boulder.

There are several small streams straying off here and there by the side of which one can relax and spend as much time as you wish during a whole day in Bopath Ella.

Pre-historic cave

For an exciting encounter with heritage, travellers should include a trip to the interesting archaeological sites in the vicinity of Bopath Ella, in their itinerary. Batadomba Lena, the pre-historic inhabitant cave lies in a leech-infested verdant forest at the top of a mountain not far from Bopath Ella.

This tropical forest reserve has become a host to a variety of trees, animals, rare species of plants and cool cascading streams. A half-hour arduous trek to the top will reward an adventure in the beauty of a huge cave preserved by the Department of Archaeology.

They have carried out explorations and unearthed human skeletons and bones belonging to the ancient habitation of Homo-Sapiens, surrounded by flourishing flora and fauna. Batadomba Lena is an interesting site for students studying history and exploration for travellers interested in our culture and heritage.

Forest hermitage

The damaged Buddha statue and buildings in the cave show that there had been a forest hermitage in the past.

Another interesting cultural and historical site in the area is the Delgamuwa Vihara on a small hill on the banks of Kuru Ganga, a 10-minute drive from Bopath Ella. This Vihara is situated 0.5 kilometres from the main Colombo-Ratnapura (A4) highway close to the Kuruwita town at the end of Vihara Mawatha.

It is quite a memorable experience in itself as you are welcomed by the bhikkhus in the temple on the top of a verdant hill where the Sacred Tooth Relic was protected from invaders during the reign of King Mayadunne in Seethawaka. It was kept hidden in a kurakkan grinding stone.

It is on display in a specially decorated building at the Delgamuwa Vihara in Kuruwita which provided protection to the Sacred Tooth Relic for over 40 years before it was taken to Kandy. The vihara was destroyed by Portuguese invaders, but restored later. This shrine is a popular place of visit for Buddhist pilgrims.

Batatota Lena is another historical site which attracts adventurous visitors. This historic cave temple can be reached by travelling seven kilometres along the Kuruwita-Erathna road, proceeding a further one kilo metre from the Batatota junction leading to the Batatota School and a further three quarter kilo metre along the steep road. It is believed that this sacred place was established by King Walagambahu to whom most cave temples are attributed.

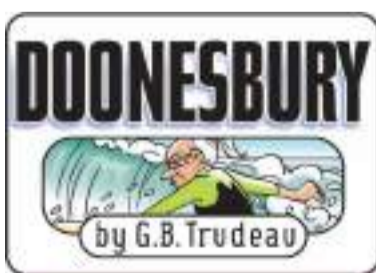
The reclining Buddha statue is said to be constructed during the time of King Nissankamalla. There is also a belief that Divagaha associated with the Buddha's visit was identical with this place. Of the other objects of interest found in the cave are a standing Buddha image, murals and Makara Thorana (archway). Some of these creations depict features characteristic with the early Kandyan period.



The interior of Batatota cave



The pre-historic Batadomba Lena cave covered with forest



OBSERVER EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 21, 2021



LOOKING FOR
A PASSIVE INCOME

PAGE
42



ONLY SRI LANKAN TO BE FEATURED
IN THE EXCELLIGENT...

PAGE
44



“DISTANCE EDUCATION IS NOT AN
OPTION FOR TEACHING INSIDE...

PAGE
44

Steps will be taken to distribute resources equally to all schools

– Minister of Education, Professor G.L. Peiris

Minister of Education, Professor G.L. Peiris said that the resources of the Ministry of Education would be distributed to schools without any difference from North to South and East to West. Minister said so during his recent visit to Jaffna at a discussion held at the Bishop's Palace with the Bishop of Jaffna.



Minister made these observations considering the matters raised by Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin Gnanaprakasam, Bishop of Jaffna.

“As of now our government has identified that the education, agriculture and fishing industries as the fields where the government should solve the problems and where the government should interfere. Special programmes and plans are at the implementation stage for each of those fields.

I think we should not get angry with one another over debates but work together to reap the results of

these programmes. It is very important that we teach Sinhala language to the children especially in these areas.

At the moment, Tamil is being taught successfully in schools in the South. Likewise, it is very important that mutual understanding is main-

tained among schools in the North with the South. The interest of the children in these provinces to Sinhala language is very high. I promise to take all steps necessary to fill the teacher vacancies which is the main problem in the implementation of these programmes” he said.

Suspend holding events in schools amid prevailing risky situation

INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Secretary to the Ministry of Education Professor Kapila Perera emphasized that he had received reports that some schools are planning to hold various events without minding the prevailing risky and unsafe situation owing to the Covid - 19 pandemic situation, and this is a time where all have to act with responsibility and attentively regarding the health security of the entire school community.

Secretary to the Ministry

of Education Professor Kapila Perera has sent a letter of instructions to all the provincial, zonal, divisional educational officials, heads of pirivenas and principals to suspend all such events with immediate effect until further notice.

Secretary to the Ministry of Education has further instructed that all events that have been organized and all the events that are being planned to be held in the near future should also be suspended until further notice.



Study Leave for students sitting Ordinary Level from February 17

The G.C.E. Ordinary Level Examination which was to be held in December 2020 has been re-scheduled to be held from 01st March to 11th March 2021 and the Secretary to the Ministry of Education, Professor Kapila Perera has instructed all the Provincial, Zonal and Divisional Education Authorities and Heads of Pirivenas and Principals to take

steps to grant study leave to these students sitting the Ordinary Level Examination from 17th February to 25th February 2021.

Further, the Secretary to the Ministry of Education has informed that the study leave should not be a hindrance to the issue of the Admission Cards to the students who are sitting the examination.



“Teaching many subject matters to memorize is not education”

– MINISTER OF EDUCATION
PROFESSOR G. L. PEIRIS

Minister of Education Professor G.L. Peiris said that teaching many subject matters for the children to memorize is the great weakness of our education system and building the personality of the children to face the challenges in life and to act independently is what should be through education.



Minister made these comments at an event at St. Aloysius' College in Galle under the patronage of Minister of Education on the 16th of this month.

Minister explained that steps would be taken to set up a digital platform in coming March to obtain ideas, proposals and advice from all parties including religious leaders, intellectuals, heads of various fields, principals, parents, past students and businessmen of this country regarding how the education should be formulated, the changes that should be made, what sort of support should be provided for our children to match the future work world. Minister pointed out that at times it is practically difficult to implement decisions taken regarding education at the Ministry of Education from Isurupaya and the co-ordination in ground level is very important for that.

Minister also pointed out that the biggest shortcoming in our present education system is the mismatch of the education our children receive and the job market. Minister explained that there are a lot of employment opportunities in the business institutions but most of the children have failed to obtain the qualifications and skills to match those job opportunities and through educational reforms in the near future the government expects to address these shortcomings.

Minister also said that prime

attention should be paid to special fields such as Information Technology, Computer Technology, Languages and Communication skills within the education system and through development of these fields can contribute to uplift the economy of this country. Minister who pointed out that many actions could be implemented in the near future within the education system including provision of Smart Classrooms, modernization of the university courses and increasing the university entrance opportunities and emphasized that the success and productivity of steps taken at national level depends on the support provided by all parties.

Minister of Plantation Industries Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, Secretary to the Ministry of Education Professor Kapila Perera, Old Boy of St. Aloysius' College Dilith Jayaweera, Dhammika Perera, Media Secretary of the Ministry of Education Buddhika Wickramadara and many others graced the occasion.

Newly constructed Smart Classroom and the Media Unit of St. Aloysius' College, Galle were declared open by the Minister of Education Professor G.L. Peiris and he also went around to find out the shortcomings in the infrastructure facilities.

BE WORLD READY WITH A DEGREE FROM AN AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY - ECU

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE UP TO 30% OFF TUITION FEES* - APPLY NOW

Choose from a wide range of Bachelor Degrees:

- Bachelor of Commerce
- Bachelor of Computer Science
- Bachelor of Science (Cyber Security)
- Bachelor of Science (Nursing Studies)*
- Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science)

APPLY NOW

HOTLINE: 011-2555123
EMAIL: INFO@ECU.EDU.LK
ECU.EDU.LK — ECU SRI LANKA CAMPUS

RANKED IN THE WORLD'S TOP 100 YOUNG UNIVERSITIES

(Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2020)

5 STAR ★★★★★ TEACHING QUALITY

(The Good Universities Guide 2021)



*Terms and Conditions Apply
*BSc (Nursing Studies) excluded from Scholarship

Advertorial

Looking for a passive INCOME

Few decades ago parents wanted their son/daughter to become an Engineer/Accountant /Lawyer or in one of the traditional professions. With the Digital revolution during late 20th century computer became a very common equipment, first in offices and then in homes and everywhere as a personal device.

Many new professions related to the computer industry emerged with this revolution and those who joined this field were so fortunate to earn equal or better salaries in comparison to the traditional fields.

As there was a good recognition also for the jobs in this field, many school leavers/graduates opted to be qualified in the ICT industry and settle for a comfortable life style. As such there is a big demand from the youth to get qualified and become a Software engineer/Network engineer/Graphic Designer etc.

Today in Sri Lanka a trainee in this field draws an average salary of Rs 15,000 - 35,000 and after an years time if he/she is updated with the current technology trends, he/she may be able to draw a salary in the region of Rs 150,000.

But many in Sri Lanka are not aware that there are better opportunities in this field and the only thing needed is dedication and commitment to be a creative entrepreneur.

With the introduction of the computer, the speed of communication also has increased drastically. It's not



necessary to possess expensive equipments such as printing machines/transformers or complex networks such as postal/courier networks, but a person with a computer or a smart phone has the opportunity to disseminate information at a very high speed to anywhere in the world.

This was also changed in an unimaginable way when fb was introduced to the world in 2004 by Mark Zuckerberg and his friends while he was an undergraduate at Harvard University. The introduction of other social media networks such as you

tube in 2005 instagram and pinterest in 2010 also facilitated the people to have more speedy and comfortable communication system all over the world.

It is a common factor that many spend a considerable time with social media networks and waste resources such as time, money and do not gain much when compared to the resources that they spent. It is very sad to note that the facilities available in our country do not support much to educate people how they can earn through social networking systems.

As such Auxx Me Network Pvt. Ltd and POLYMATH College Pvt. Ltd. joined hands recently to provide the required knowledge to those who are interested in this area. This project is carried out with the collaboration of Skills Development Fund Ltd., an organization that comes under the purview of the Ministry of Finance.

This joint venture will introduce couple of courses and start with 'Social Media Monetizing' which will support the students to become successful entrepreneurs by empowering them with all the necessary



knowledge to sell their creativity. Once they gain the necessary knowledge and the skill, they will not only earn a good income but will also support Sri Lanka by bringing much needed foreign exchange.

"To earn money you need not to be a Hard Worker - but a Smart Worker. Many do not wish to be entrepreneurs as Return of Investment is too high. But anyone who follows one of these courses can earn an income more than what they could earn from a traditional job in the ICT industry in a very short time span if he/she uses ability and creativity in correct direction with commitment and dedication. My dream is to prepare 1000 such persons so that my motherland will automatically receive one million Dollars worth of foreign currency through them without sending an iota of resources from the country I was born" said Madushka Dissanayaka, Chairman/CEO of Auxx Me enlightened the audience at the signing ceremony of the partnership agree-



ment. Upali Gunasekara, Principal/Director of POLYMATH College welcomed that idea and pledged fullest support to conduct courses aiming specially the school leavers who seek higher education opportunities in Sri Lanka and overseas.

Madushka Dissanayaka is a pioneer in the Digital Entrepreneurship industry in Sri Lanka with more than 12 years experience in the field. He is one of the best content writers Sri Lanka has produced so far bringing lots of foreign exchange to his Motherland. Recently one of his contents earned him Rs 3.6 million which contained merely not more than 650 words. His total portfolio has reached more than 23 million all over the world and to bring lots of revenue to Sri Lanka.

This joint venture will introduce to Sri Lankans a new set of innovative professions and open the avenue for those who have a desire to sell their creativity and earn to lead a happy and comfortable life.

Metropolitan College

- Seven PhD Programmes

BY JAYASRI JAYAKODY

Metropolitan College, a reputed higher education institute in Sri Lanka, is offering seven PhD Programmes in partnership with Girne American University of North Cyprus (Turkey). Sunday Observer Education spoke with Dr. Siraz Meerasahib, Chairman, Metropolitan College and former Mayor of Kalmunai.

"Metropolitan College was started in the year 1999 as an overseas higher education consultancy in Colombo-3. Metropolitan College was launched in the year 2004 and gradually it came up to the level of a reputed higher education institute in Sri Lanka. Today, we are proud of the fact that Metropolitan College is offering seven PhD Programmes in collaboration with Girne American University. Metropolitan College offers educational programmes in management, leisure, psychology, teacher training, international relations, languages, and information technology in partnership with Girne American University, OTHM, NOCN, and ICDL. Metropolitan College has created state-of-the-art academic infrastructure, recruited the best of teaching talent and is equipped with every required learning aid to ensure that the students of Metropolitan College get the best in education, facilities, and faculty. Metropolitan College provides affordable, transferable and comprehensive programmes ranging from diplomas to the doctorate level that are recognised locally by the Tertiary & Vocational Education Commission (TVEC), the University Grants Commission (UGC), and Ofqual regulated programmes that are OTHM and NOCN in the UK" stated Dr. Meerasahib.

In addition, Girne American University (GAU) also holds memberships with the following prestigious bodies around the world; UK NARIC (The National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom) which is an agency for recognizing International Qualifications and skills, the International Association of Universities (IAU) of UNESCO, the European Association for Architectural Education (EAAE), the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD), The League by the International Scientific Committee of the Eduniversal, the Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED), The Council of International Schools (CIS),

has obtained the Tourism Education Quality (Ted Qual) Certification of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), and is recognized by University Grants Commission (UGC) Sri Lanka.

GAU currently has the highest PhD to student ratio. The PhD programmes are accredited by the Higher Education Council of Turkey and North Cyprus; they are internationally recognised and accredited by reputable international accrediting bodies, namely, The European Council of Business Education (ECBE) and the International Accreditation Council for Business Education (IACBE).

"Girne American University has campuses in the United States, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Turkey, Cyprus, Singapore, Moldova and Sri Lanka. GAU has a new Medical Faculty as well. Before partnering with Universities first of all we check whether that university is recognized by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka and other relevant local authorities. Then, we look for the UK accreditation of that university. In UK, the accrediting body is the National Recognition Information Center for the United Kingdom (UK NARIC). In the case of Canada, the recognizing body is World Education Services (WES). There are different recognising bodies for every part of the world. We always endeavour to enter into affiliations with universities that are recognized by such recognising bodies so our students have no problem in finding employment anywhere in the world. That way, our students can excel in their academic and professional careers," explained Dr. Meerasahib.

"There's a vast range of GAU PhD programmes offered at Metropolitan College which include PhD in Business Management, PhD in Marketing, PhD in Educational Administration and Supervision & Planning, PhD in Tourism and Hospitality, PhD in Politics and International Studies, PhD in Construction Management, and PhD in Psychology. For people interested in making a career in tourism and hospitality in a country such as Sri Lanka with its tourist hotspots and world class hospitality, a PhD in Tourism and Hospitality is



GIRNE American University (GAU) - Faculty of Business Economics



Dr. Siraz Meerasahib, Chairman of Metropolitan College, meeting the Chancellor of Girne American University Dr. Serhat Akpinar to sign the MoU to offer seven PhD degrees in Sri Lanka. Metropolitan College is the only private education institute to offer PhD in Psychology in Sri Lanka

invaluable. There is a plethora of local and overseas career opportunities for those with a PhD in Management, Marketing, Educational Administration and Supervision and Psychology. Once this COVID 19 pandemic is over, which will hopefully be accelerated with several vaccines

now available in the world, the construction industry is going to be booming in Sri Lanka and overseas, creating a huge demand for professionals with a PhD in Construction qualification. These seven PhD qualifications we are offering will pave the way for creating

professionals with a solid academic background" he further stated.

"PhD qualifications offered with partnership with GAU are rigorously monitored. Teams of evaluators from Girne American University regularly fly in to evaluate the progress of students aspiring for PhD degrees. A student

needs to submit a series of assignments, examinations and a Viva along with the thesis and meet the required criteria set by the university. Metropolitan College and Girne American University have to be satisfied of the eligibility of a student's suitability of being awarded a Doctorate," said Dr. Meerasahib.

"Metropolitan College has the privilege of offering certificates, diplomas and higher diplomas. The degrees, Master's degrees and PhD qualifications are awarded by Girne American University. Metropolitan College offers more than 100 programmes. We are focusing on teacher training and psychology, which are programmes that are in great demand at this stage. We have many students graduating in our Bachelor's Degree programmes who are looking forward to migrating to countries such as New Zealand, Canada and the United Kingdom so there is a huge demand for our educational programmes. We also offer the OTHM qualification. If any student wants to read for a degree, he or she has to get through OTHM Level 4 or Level 5. So, for any student struggling to follow a degree, we have a clearly defined pathway. The student has to do the OTHM Level 4 or Level 5, which is equivalent to two years of the degree programme, and continue studying for his or her final year of the degree programme. We have many educational pathways available for our students," he continued.

Dr. Meerasahib stated, "More than 1500 students are studying with us at present thus we have a long history more than 15 years in higher education. We also have a faculty of professionals with many years of industrial experience from various industries as faculty members. Our students have the option of completing his or her entire educational programme at Metropolitan College in Sri Lanka or to go abroad for higher studies, we have created pathways for them to go to whichever country they want to go, whether it is the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia or any other destination they select. We have relationships with universities in most countries reputed for higher education, where we could facilitate them to continue their higher studies," he said.

"The main campus of Metropolitan College is in Dehiwala. The College has another branch in Kalmunai. We are planning of expanding to other cities once this COVID 19 Pandemic is over. We at Metropolitan College, together with Girne American University, invite interested students to complete their PhD programmes in an environment highly conducive to learning," said Dr. Meerasahib in conclusion.

Contact telephone numbers of Metropolitan College are 0777 592 966 and 0112712700.



GIRNE American University

AMDT School of Creativity, a globally recognised Creative school in Sri Lanka

Education is the passport to the future; the tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. With so many students now seeking to enter the world of work, it is becoming more important for them to gain the right skills to secure a job when stepping into global careers.

AMDT School of Creativity, being the pioneering institution for Creativity in Sri Lanka, offers undergraduate courses in some of the most popular Creative disciplines in the world. These courses are awarded by Falmouth University (a university that's recognized as one of the top 50 Creative schools worldwide) and Pearson (UK's most recognized awarding body).

The most popular undergraduate courses

Graphic Design, Animation & Visual Effects, Fashion Design, Interior Design, Creative Advertising, Photography, Creative Multimedia, Web & App Development, and much more updated in the website (amdt.lk)

and projects to work on, sharpening their approach to solving real problems.

Taught by the finest minds in the Creative industries

AMDT's teaching techniques focus on improving the practical application of Creative thinking in addition to its internationally recognized course content delivered by some of the finest minds working in today's Creative industries with numerous years of experience collaborating with many brands and projects.

This makes learning very relevant to what's out there in real life. Students will be guided to develop talent, obtain skills, and build-up their personality to face their future careers confidently.

AMDT closely works with Creative talent, experts, academic teams, agencies, and industry leaders all around the globe to ensure its curriculum always meets the demands of the industry.

Class schedules are flexible: part-time and fulltime

Their class schedules are flexible. They offer part-time and full-time study options where classes are held during weekdays and weekends that allow you to study the courses without disconnecting from your work or family.

AMDT School of Creativity is a place for everybody!

Being well known for its diverse Creative communities, AMDT welcomes students from all around the world and believes that Creativity is not bound by any culture, religion, or cast, setting an example and showing the world that anyone can become Creative as long as they have the commitment to learn, explore, challenge, and experiment. Students do feel that AMDT is their second home. You get to meet people with original thinking and various perspectives helping you not only get inspired but also to collaboratively work with and network.



The annual "AMDT's Festival of Creativity" gathers local and international Creative industry pioneers to interact with students.



AMDT students graduate industry-ready in their Creative fields.

AMDT, shaping young talent to solve real-world problems

Through its presence in the Creative education sector in Sri Lanka for the past 15 years, AMDT School of Creativity has built its reputation in the Creative industry for shaping young talent to meet industry standards through modern strategic thinking and applying Creativity to solve real-world problems for people, communities, and brands. Guiding their students from the basics of Creative thinking to the most advanced techniques and processes in the relevant field, AMDT provides its students with the opportunity to engage in real industry briefs

The courses are well planned and custom-designed to fit every career in the respective Creative discipline; which is also a major reason why AMDT's students get hired by companies even before they graduate! With a good focus on helping build their best portfolios of work through individual and group projects, AMDT's students get exposed to a competitive learning environment that prepares them to harness the best of their skills and abilities. Students have submitted their work to international Creative festivals such as Cannes Lions, Spikes Asia, D&AD, and Animation film festivals, are some of them.

Falmouth University - opening doors to greater possibilities right here in Sri Lanka

Falmouth University, a 117-year-old truly Creative university rated Gold for teaching standards and among the top 50 Creative schools worldwide.

Falmouth University hones its reputation worldwide as one of the best Creative universities to study arts, design, animation, film, interior, games, and many more creative disciplines.

AMDT School of Creativity offers Falmouth University's degree courses right here in Sri Lanka opening doors to greater possibilities for students in Sri Lanka to collaborate and take part in international festivals, events, jobs, and much more exciting opportunities.

Falmouth University is recognized by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka. For more than 100 years, Falmouth University has been a hub of Creative thinking and design innovation. Today, their portfolio of undergraduate and postgraduate courses represents the breadth of the Creative Industries, from art, design and fashion, to gaming, music and film.

Falmouth University was listed under the 2020's Top 50 Creative Media & Entertainment Schools and Colleges in the World. Its specialisms of Creative innovation; Creative thinking, problem-solving, communication, and storytelling, will be key to future economic and cultural success both at a local and global level. Falmouth University's programmes are built on the principle of open innovation – the idea that the grand challenges of our age

can be addressed most effectively when tackled collaboratively across disciplinary boundaries. They focus on delivering impact for lives and economies through the development of new knowledge, solutions, services, and products.

Falmouth University is rated TEF Gold which is considered as the highest quality standard in the UK's higher education system by the British government based on its teaching quality,

learning environment, student satisfaction, and also the educational and professional outcomes achieved by its students.

The best facilities to bring out the best in you

With the desire to be at the forefront of technologies, AMDT ensures that its studios and digital labs are equipped with the latest software tech-

nologies and facilities. The practical teaching methods such as real projects and field visits combined with the classroom sessions make sure that the student gets an in-depth understanding of both theories and practical applications in the course they're interested in.

To learn more about AMDT School of Creativity, visit www.amdt.lk or call or WhatsApp 114-381-981. You can visit the premises at 317A, Galle Road, Colombo 04.



Students engage in extra-curricular activities that builds team work and soft skills through various annual event such as "AMDTian's Premier league".

Start your Creative degree right after O'Levels at AMDT

Our courses are awarded by Falmouth University (a UK university that's recognized as one of the top 50 Creative schools worldwide) and Pearson (UK's most recognized awarding body).

Creative Career Courses:

- BA (Hons) Graphic Design
- BA (Hons) Animation & VFX
- BA (Hons) Fashion Design
- Interior Design
- Web & App Development
- Creative Multimedia
- Film
- Photography
- Creative Advertising

Call or WhatsApp
11 4381 981
hello@amdt.lk

www.amdt.lk
317 A, Galle Road,
Colombo 04.

AMDT School of Creativity is a place for everybody!

we believe that Creativity is not bound by culture, religion, or cast but by the commitment to explore, challenge, and experiment.

The best facilities to bring out the best in you

AMDT's studios and digital labs are equipped with the latest software technologies and facilities.

Get hired even before you graduate as you start working, you can switch to part-time classes.

Friendly learning environment designed to bring the best out of your Creative thoughts.

Taught by the finest minds in the Creative industries with real-life briefs that focus on improving practical application of Creative thinking.

FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY

Pearson

BTEC
Approved Centre

AMDT
HELPING CREATIVITY THROU
School of Creativity

Advertorial

Only Sri Lankan to be featured in the excellent 100 admired people in Education 2021

Yasmin Mubarak, the founder of Modern Learning Studio, an educational organization specialized in providing personalized learning programs for children and building on their life skills transforming every child into confident and independent individuals. Mubarak has also worked with more than 300 schools and thousands of kids, parents and professionals internationally contributing towards educational progress for more than 10 years. His early childhood experiences and environment always motivated him and drove his vision. His Alma Mater being St. Anthony College, Kandy and Al-Manar National School, He is from the beautiful village of Galhinna in Kandy.

Twenty-first-century skills are a hot topic in education today; some even call them the new building blocks for learning.

The world is constantly changing however, when it comes to the Education system, it has unchanged for years

But no more: Modern Learning Studio is a Student Centered Personalized Learning Provider and is very much focused on enhancing the student's uniqueness. Their programs are created according to 21st Century Skills. If there is any requirement to restructure and create a new program for a child, it is done. They do not stay aligned to set program structures. The School system does not cater to developing



each child's creativity to provide a platform for learning. Such gap is bridged at Modern Learning Studio.

One of their main concept which is approached in all of their programs is GE4C.

- Growth of mindset
- Emotional intelligence
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Creativity
- Communication
- Collaboration

His vision is to instill and adapt the education system and schools to follow GE4C concept nationally.

"If you are looking for a quality future driven Educational organization, with an open mindset, quality facilities and service I have made this place to cater to grow our future leaders" -Yasmin Mubarak

Let's get deeper in on the root cause of the emergence of such an innovative concept through Mubarak's words.

Did your School life experiences push you in any way to change the concept of Education?

As a child, I felt studies to be boring, there was no edutainment of any sort. I also struggled with education at my early age. I was able to overcome such a challenge from the motivation and care I received from my teachers.

This led me to create the Holiday Camps and other after school programs. I also realized when parents approached me saying their child is well versed with languages but cannot communicate effectively kids require a basic foundation to language and skill development at their early years.

You also conduct various other seasonal life skill building pro-

grams. How do they help children?

As I mentioned earlier, children are always too focused on studying their syllabus with no time given for life skill building edutainment activities. Our seasonal programs work towards changing that mindset. We promote Growth of Mindset, Collaboration, Creativity and 21st century skills. We have various programs during school holidays such as Summer Camps, Halloween, Edutainment parties and Career and personality building Workshops.

How was your initial years of startup and a message for the youth?

It took me more than 3 years to stabilize the company. Once started, for a full year I had to survive and run with no revenue. I would like to pass a message to the younger generation. If you have a dream you want to achieve, you need patience.

Patience is the key to success. If anyone demotivates you saying your dream is unachievable, you need to realize that from their perspective it could be true but for you, you can do it. Someone else demotivating you can actually be taken as a stronger motivation for you to succeed.

With five star ratings from all their parents, Modern Learning Studio is a Haven where finally, kids are exposed to the magical art of learning.

Written By Aymen Razvy

"Distance Education is not an option for teaching inside a classroom"

Minister of Education Professor G.L. Peiris

Distance Education is in no way an option to teaching inside a classroom. But, the change of attitude that has surfaced owing to distance education is very important to us. Minister of Education Professor G.L. Peiris said that he sees the dawning of digital Libraries along with that is also very important. Minister made these observations while patronizing the launching ceremony of the Digital Library and the Website at the National Library and Documentation Services Board on February 17.

Speaking further, the Minister said, "At the time of any tragedy in life, we should try to find out the positive tendencies out of it. Covid - 19 is a tragedy in which it is very difficult to find anything positive.

I believe it is productive to try and obtain some sort of advantage even indirectly. We started to use 'distance education' in the face of Covid - 19 pandemic that surfaced at a time we never expected in an unexpected manner. We know it is very important and productive to give the children education linked with new technology.

However, I am aware through experience of the value of the relationship between a teacher and a student inside a classroom. That sort of physical connection is very important. Therefore, we never consider the distance education as an option. But, whenever such a physical connection cannot be maintained definitely there should be an option. We are also aware that everyone does not have the opportunity to obtain distance education owing to various difficulties. But, because of Covid - 19 pandemic the parents, teachers and the students have learned to think about distance education as never before.

In our Universities distance education method has taken the first place these days. It has been proved. Because of that there is a change of attitude on education, method of

thinking on education and education structure. Under this situation educational activities are being maintained continuously. But I do not see it as an option.

This Digital Library opened today with the help of few institutions is also very important to the society under these conditions.

By this it is possible to access the library via internet without physically visiting the library. But, however much there are e-books available in the digital library, the relationship with a book physically is very important.

E-book is not successful as physically touching and turning every page. There are scientific reasons for that. When I was serving as the Dean and the Vice Chancellor in the University of Colombo I worked with the Asian Association to promote books to promote the reading habit of children. Therefore, I studied about this thoroughly.

There should be a thirst for knowledge in the mind of a growing child. That is the foundation for a successful education method. There is a mutual connection between reading and writing. Our children authored 42000 booklets.

We will take steps to select the best 100 books out of them and will encourage them by awarding prizes and certificates. Our government launched this programme to promote the reading and writing habits among children. It is not easy for the government alone to do all these. These four institutions have rendered yeoman service in this regard. I wish to inform that the Ministry of Education is ready to provide maximum support", he said.

Chairman of the National Library Sonala Gunewardena, Country Representative of the Asian Association Dinesha de Silva, Director General of National Library General W.Sunil, Director of Globan Academic research Institute Sampath Abeywickrema graced the occasion.



UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

STUDY PROGRAMMES IN ECONOMICS – 2021 (English Medium)

MPhil/PhD in Economics

Duration: 3 years, by research under supervision
Course fee: Rs.800,000.00 payable in 3 annual instalments

Master of Financial Economics (MFE)

Duration: 1 Year by course work
Course fee: Rs. 180,000.00, payable in 2 instalments

Postgraduate Diploma in Economic Development (PgDED)

Duration: 1 year by coursework and minor dissertation
Course fee: Rs. 100,000.00, payable in 2 instalments

Diploma in Travel & Tourism Economics and Hotel Management (DTTEHM)

Duration: 1 year
Course fee: Rs. 125,000.00, payable in 2 instalments

Certificate Programme in Travel Tourism and Hospitality Management (CTTHM)

Duration: 6 Months, including on the job training
Course fee: Rs. 65,000.00

Masters in Economics (MEcon)

Duration: 2 years, by course work and research
Course fee: Rs. 275,000.00, payable in 2 instalments

Postgraduate Diploma Leading to Masters in Tourism Economics and Hotel Management: (PgDTEHM)

Duration: 2 years, as the 1st year for the Postgraduate Diploma with the provision for the 2nd year for the Master's degree
Course fee: Rs. 175,000.00 for Postgraduate Diploma, payable in 2 instalments
Rs. 200,000.00 Master's degree, payable in 2 instalments

Executive Diploma of Business and Financial Economics (EDBFE)

Duration: 1 year and 3 months
Course fee: Rs. 70,000.00, payable in 2 instalments

Diploma in Microfinance (DMF)

Duration: 1 year
Course fee: Rs. 60,000.00, payable in 2 instalments

* APPLICATION

For programme details and application, visit Economics Programme Management System at <https://arts.cmb.ac.lk/econ/study-programmes-in-economics-2021/>

* APPLICATION CLOSING DATE: February 28, 2021

* COMMENCEMENT OF TEACHING:

March/April 2021 All programmes are conducted in the weekends only.

CONTACT US Programme Management Unit (PMU)
Department of Economics
University of Colombo

Colombo 00300
Phone: +94 11 2596889
Email: pmu@econ.cmb.ac.lk URL: <http://www.cmb.ac.lk/academic/arts/econ/index.php>

Registrar,
University of Colombo

SUNDAY OBSERVER
Marriage Proposals
 E-mail your advertisements to,
classified@lakehouse.lk
FOR INQUIRIES :-
 Anusha - 077 7 278 948 Ramani - 011 2 129 347
 Piyumi - 011 2 429 383 Gayani - 011 2 429 342/343

SUNDAY OBSERVER
Marriage Proposals
Decades of Trusted Service

SUNDAY OBSERVER
Marriage Proposals
Best way to fulfil your Future Dreams
 The convenient way to make your payment
For 15 Words Rs. 560/-
 * For each additional word Rs. 23/-
 * Maximum number of words 65
 BOC - Acc.No. 00000377
 LAKE HOUSE BRANCH
 Green light for Online Transfer



Academically and professionally qualified partner preferably living in USA or Canada is sought by Sinhalese parents for their 25-year-old pretty, 5'7" daughter born and raised in North America. She has a Bachelor's Degree and presently studying for MBA while working in a leading Company in USA. Please reply to pkandana@gmail.com OB158913

About our daughter born in 1987, 5'3" Doctor MBBS presently serving in leading Government Hospital. She is pleasant Govi/Buddhist. Retired parents seek professionally qualified caring son. Please reply with a copy of horoscope family details and contact number. OB158896

About our search: slim and pretty (MBBS) Doctor GP daughter Australian born in 1988 and 5'8" Kandy/G Christian. Parents look for a professional son (prefer Doctor, Civil Engineer. Prefer Australian or NZ born citizen). Email : proposalgw2021@gmail.com OB158603

About 1970 born, Bodu Govi, 5'4", pleasant looking lady English Lecturer (private) seeks a suitable partner. 0112173670. OB158904

About 1981, 1985, 1990 MBBS Doctors very beauty and rich all castes family Western Province Doctors Engineers, Lecturers. Email: anurap1777@gmail.com, panuruddha77@gmail.com OB158925

Absolutely beautiful Lecturer daughter MSc. IT MBA 1986 August born Radala Buddhist, 5'2" height. Email : mangalasucess@gmail.com OB158922

Academically and professionally qualified below 37 years well mannered caring son is sought by respectable G/B parents from Colombo suburbs for their daughter born in May 1986. 5'3", pretty, fair with pleasing personality, educated at a leading girls' school in Kandy and graduated at a private University in Colombo. Please reply with family details, a copy of the horoscope and contact number. Email may79798@gmail.com OB158644

Academically and professionally qualified doctor son from a respectable family is sought by Govi/Buddhist parents living in Australia for their Australian born and raised pretty fair, slim, 5'6" tall, 34 years old daughter. She is a well qualified medical doctor employed in a leading hospital in Australia. She inherits substantial assets in Australia and Sri Lanka. Those living in Australia and the UK preferred. Reply with family details, horoscope and contact details to: a usproposall1@gmail.com. Emails only. OB158639

Academically and professionally qualified employed well mannered caring son is sought by retired G/B parents from Colombo suburbs for their pretty well accomplished only daughter. She is well employed with post-graduate qualification from UK University. Also a qualified UK Solicitor. Born in May 86. height 5'8". Kuja in 7th house but favourable. Prefer a son who can converse fluently in English and has a good personality. Please reply with horoscope to: manide.e.proposal@yahoo.com OB158911

Academically and professionally qualified employed, well mannered Kandyan or Govi Buddhist son is sought by respectable Kandyan parents for their pretty educated daughter born in November 1998 (22 years) height 4'9" and educated at Lyceum International, Gampaha. She is currently completing her Degree in Accounts and is in the 3rd year at the University of Jayawardanapura, while working as an Intern at John Keells Company. By the end of 2021, she will be completing her external Accounts Degree (at ACCA). She is the eldest daughter and has family assets. Prefers someone willing to migrate and settle abroad (for further studies) in the same field (Accounts). Please reply with family details and a copy of the horoscope to r avindra999100@gmail.com OB158731

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered partner sought by B/C Govi parents for only child born 1980. She is medium complexioned attractive accomplished down to earth lover of nature and animals and a wide range of other interests. Wildly traveled educated mostly abroad while living with parents. Graduated and postgraduated from highly prestigious university abroad. Partly qualified CIM. Licentiate Piano forte Trinity College, London was employed in Sri Lanka and abroad, presently employed in Senior position abroad will inherit substantial assets. Please reply giving family details, copy of horoscope and telephone No. E-mail: tit yvone@hotmail.com OB158831

Academically and professionally qualified kind-hearted similar caste son is sought by B/G retired parents from Colombo, for their 33 yrs., 5'2" very fair extremely pretty slim young looking daughter Postgraduate qualified, working as an Assistant Director at Central Bank of Sri Lanka, having attractive remuneration fringe benefits, owns substantial assets. pr opksk2016@yahoo.com OB158672

Academically and professionally qualified kind-hearted son with a fixed income is sought by B/G parents for their daughter 1982, 5'2" Principal in an International School in Colombo. Reply with family details and horoscope. meghadodanwala@gmail.com OB158953

Academically and professionally qualified partner is sought by B/Bodiwansha respectable parents from Kandy for their daughter well mannered 25 yrs., 5'3" Management Degree Holder employed in Private Sector, Caste immaterial. 20 21tn25@gmail.com OB158589

Academically and professionally qualified son is sought by Sinhala parents living in USA for their daughter grown up according to Sinhala Buddhist values. 5'8" born in July 1990, Graduate BSc (IT) currently working as a Vice-President in worldwide bank. Please reply with full family details and contact numbers. Email: srilank a1194@gmail.com OB158886

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered partner sought by B/C Govi parents for only child born 1980. She is medium complexioned attractive accomplished down to earth lover of nature and animals and a wide range of other interests. Wildly traveled educated mostly abroad while living with parents. Graduated and postgraduated from highly prestigious university abroad. Partly qualified CIM. Licentiate Piano forte Trinity College, London was employed in Sri Lanka and abroad, presently employed in Senior position abroad will inherit substantial assets. Please reply giving family details, copy of horoscope and telephone No. E-mail: tit yvone@hotmail.com OB158831

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered son from a respectable family is sought by Sinhala B/G parents living in Colombo suburb for their fair, slim and pretty daughter born in 1993 December, 5'6" well brought up who studied in a leading Girls' School in Colombo. Completed her Management Degree from foreign university, currently managing her small business, father is an Engineer and mother also working, only younger brother is an Undergraduate. Please reply with complete family details, contact numbers and a copy of horoscope. OB158595

Academically and professionally qualified, a well-mannered son who is willing to migrate is sought by B/G parents from Colombo suburbs for their 29 yrs. old, 5'3" tall daughter. She holds a MSc and currently employed as a Software Engineer in the UK. Kindly reply with full details and a copy of the horoscope. E-mail: prop9110@gmail.com OB158801

Academically and professionally qualified, well mannered and caring son sought by respectable B/G Doctor parents in Colombo, for their only daughter - a Doctor who recently completed her internship. She is 5'7", pretty, well-mannered, honest and decent, and born in November 1992. Would prefer a son established in Australia. Please email psan jana2021@gmail.com OB158956

Academically and professionally qualified, kind hearted and well mannered son from a respectable family is sought by B/G retired parents for their pretty fair, younger daughter born in 1991 Nov. 5'1" well mannered and well brought up with Sinhala Buddhist values. She holds a BSc (Special) degree from State University and reading for PhD in USA from 2017 and inheriting valuable assets in Western Province. Reply with family details and horoscope Email: ssnanayake6@gmail.com OB158648

Academically and professionally qualified, preferably medicine, engineering and other, caring son sought by Bodu Govi parents from Sri Lanka South. Our only daughter, age 27 years, height 5'6", BSc and Masters qualified and permanently residing in the UK and she is currently working. We are looking for Shani, Sandu, Kuja 7. If you wish to contact please email to prop.marriage698@gmail.com with horoscope. OB158665

Academically and professionally qualified, well mannered and caring son sought by respectable B/G Doctor parents in Colombo, for their only daughter - a Doctor who recently completed her internship. She is 5'7", pretty, well-mannered, honest and decent, and born in November 1992. Would prefer a son established in Australia. Please email psan jana2021@gmail.com OB158956

Academically professionally qualified smart caring son from respectable family is sought by B/G parents for their daughter MBBS MSc in health administration pretty girl 5'4", 34 young looking. Please respond with horoscope T/P No. and email address. m perera49@yahoo.com OB158870

Academically professionally qualified son is sought by Buddhist parents. Our daughter is beautiful, 34 yrs., 5'4" academically qualified. Please reply with horoscope, family details. E-mail: m atrimonyjaya@gmail.com OB158815

Academically professionally qualified son is sought by S/B parents for their only child, U.S.A. born, 29 +, 5'2", very fair, slim, fluent both Languages. She has Degrees in Biology (BSc. and MSc.) from reputed Universities in USA and currently she is working as a Scientist in a reputed Company. Email all the details to bluepin118@gmail.com OB158660

Academically professionally qualified son is sought for Central Province Kandyan Radala, 1994 August born height 5'2" pretty degree holder daughter by parents with similar family background. Please reply with family details and horoscope. OB158770

Academically professionally qualified son with religious values is sought by G/B parents for 43, 5'4", pretty charming daughter with excellent character, a qualified Chemistry Teacher in a leading School (BSc, MSc, PGDE) new house and other assets available. sal usri123@gmail.com OB158681

Academically qualified partner sought by R/C Sinhala parents (dual citizen father is businessman in Sri Lanka, living in Australia, she is 31 yrs. Australian qualified Doctor (MBBS, FRACGP) working in Australia, only child in the family, bears an impeccable character height 5'. Very fair slim and pretty substantial assets in Australia and Sri Lanka. Please reply with details, contact email s fnt2020@yahoo.com OB158729

Academically & professionally qualified caring well mannered son from a respectable family is sought by retired B/K parents from Colombo suburb for their slim & attractive daughter born in 1994, 5'7", studied in a leading Buddhist School graduated and presently employed. She inherits assets. Reply with family details and horoscope to rm proposals21@gmail.com OB158684

Academically / professionally qualified caring, well-mannered son is sought by B/G mother from Colombo suburbs for daughter 1992 May, 5'6", pretty and pleasant. She was educated at a leading School in Colombo, has completed her Business Management Degree and MBA, currently employed as a Learning Specialist in an International Education Company. Married elder sister is employed in Australia after completing her PhD. Please reply with family details & horoscope. Email - k proposal77@gmail.com OB158590

Academically & professionally qualified employed well mannered BG son from a respectable family is sought by parents from Kalutara District for 1983 Nov. born fair pretty youngest daughter 5'1" in height BSc., MSc. qualified in IT teaching at a Lyceum International School. All the elder brother and sister are married and well off, possess assets. Please reply with a copy of horoscope and family details. be rtusmasinghe@gmail.com OB158728

Academically & professionally qualified locally employed son is sought by B/K parents for their elder daughter BSc (Eng) PhD qualified Senior Lecturer in state university 1989 Sep. 5'3" Deta Nekatha, non-malefic H/C. Reply with family details H/C (without Kuja Dosh). Contact numbers. Karawa & Govi only. mprop1 989sep@gmail.com OB158866

Academically & professionally qualified son is sought by Roman Catholic, Sinhalese parents for their daughter born 1985, height 5'5", completed her Postgraduate Studies & currently working in a private bank in managerial grade. She inherits assets. Please reply : email : negombo789@gmail.com 031-2235016. OB158596

Academically, professionally qualified caring son from respectable family sought by Catholic mother for her daughter born 1992, 5'6", fair, pretty, slim, studied at reputed international school graduated in Business Management reading University UK, completed CIM postgraduate, employed as a Manager at reputed private bank in Colombo. Reply to: partne rfg2021@gmail.com OB158619

Academically, professionally qualified, well brought up son with Sinhala Buddhist values and sober habits is sought by Kandyan G/B Australian citizen parents to be introduced for our younger daughter leading to a marriage. She is 31 yrs, 5'5" fair, pretty, slim, Specialist Medical Doctor in Australia. Ideally, he should be G/B with similar background. Reply with full details and horoscope. Email only: metta89@outlook.com OB158897

An academically qualified, handsome, above 5'8" virtuous son is sought by Govi Buddhist professional parents in Canada for their 24 years old, very pretty, fair, slim well-mannered daughter for a relationship leading to future marriage. She is a MSc student in a Canadian university. Canada / US/UK professional or a medical intern is preferred. Responded with the horoscope if your son is 28 or below. bgfd aughter@gmail.com OB158862

An accomplished son (preferably living in Australia) is sought by U.B.G. parents for their slim, fair, attractive, well-mannered, 1989 June, 5'3" tall, Australian citizen, registered Nurse. Reply with FB details / HC / family details. j lanprop89@gmail.com OB158579

An educated partner sought by BG parents for their pretty daughter 38 years, completed MSc. (UK), BSc. (SL/UK). Studied girls' School, Colombo 07. Worked Colombo, with substantial means. Malefic H/C. Email : propoalmarriage167@gmail.com OB158960

Attractive slim fair professional in fifties (looks much younger) differences immaterial if compatible. t niui@gmail.com OB158608

A partner sought by a B/G family, software engineer daughter, 1985, 5'6", well-mannered girl with assets. Pls reply with family details, horoscope. pr oposals.dds@gmail.com OB158635

A suitable partner is sought by parents in Colombo suburbs, Buddhist for their fair pleasant slim daughter born in 1979 July 5 (five) ft. in height educated at a leading school in Colombo. She is an academically qualified as a Doctor in Indigenous Medicine with Post-graduate qualification permanent staff of the Department of Indigenous Medicine of the Ministry of Health. Inherits a valued property in the same residential area. She grew up in a Sinhalese Buddhist background and respects Sri Lankan cultural values. Email : wdbp iyatunge@gmail.com OB158677

A suitable partner (living in USA / Canada) sought by B/G mother for her academically and professionally qualified daughter, 5'2", born in October 1988. Currently employed in USA with a Masters from a US University and Bachelors from University of Colombo. Please reply with horoscope and FB details to : jsweera3@gmail.com OB158735

BG Colombo suburb parents seek suitable partner for their well educated pleasant daughter born in 1991, height 5' studied at Colombo leading Buddhist School, reading for her Masters Degree while working as a Manager at a reputed private company, inherits substantial assets. Reply with the copy of horoscope. OB158740

Bodu Durawa parents from Colombo seek academically or professionally qualified partner for their daughter born in May 1987, 5'1" fair educated at a leading Buddhist School in Colombo. Presently employed in a bank almost completed her banking exams and Management Degree. Inherits substantial assets including an upstairs house in Colombo. Kindly reply with family details, horoscope and contact numbers. dayaratnew@gmail.com OB158743

Bodu Govi Durave parents seek qualified partner above 5'8" for their 29 years, slim, tall, academically, professionally qualified well mannered daughter brought up with Sri Lankan values. Educated at leading school in Colombo. Employed in leading bank, inherits assets properties in Colombo. Reply with family details and horoscope. mpyg kk2018@gmail.com OB158813

Continued on page 46

SUNDAY OBSERVER
Marriage Proposals
CHARGES
DOMESTIC MARRIAGE PROPOSALS
 1st 15 words Rs. 560.00 } inclusive of VAT
 Each Additional Word Rs. 23.00 }
DISPLAY MARRIAGE PROPOSALS
 One Column Centimeter Rs. 475.00 (Inclusive of VAT)
 Care of Paper Charges Rs. 200.00 (Minimum size: 3cm x column)
INTERNET EDITION
 Domestic - Rs. 400.00 } Cost of the Sunday Observer Advertisements
 Display - Rs. 400.00 }
 Deposit exact amount in Account No.000 000 377 of BOC Lake House Branch and forward the slip via email or fax
 Green light for ONLINE TRANSFER
 Email : classified@lakehouse.lk
 Fax: 011 2429 375/ 2 429 380
REPLIES
DOMESTIC MARRIAGE PROPOSALS
 OB OR OG
 P.o.Box 2226, Sunday Observer, Lake House Colombo
DISPLAY MARRIAGE PROPOSALS
 OB
 C/o Sunday Observer, Lake House Colombo 10
 Please forward all replies by ordinary post only
 Please indicate Advertisement Number on the top left corner of the envelope.
Hotline 1949 Inquiries 2 429 342, 2 445 343, 2 429 347, 2 429 383

The easiest & convenient way to send your Marriage Proposal Ads, classified@lakehouse.lk
for 15 Words - Rs. 560/- The convenient way to make your payment :- BOC - Acc.No. 00000377 Green light for Online Transfer
 For each additional word Rs. 23/-
 For Inquiries - Anusha - 077 7 278 948 | Piyumi - 011 2 429 383 | Ramani - 011 2 429 347 | Gayani - 011 2 429 342 / 343

SUNDAY OBSERVER
Marriage Proposals
 E-mail your advertisements to,
classified@lakehouse.lk
FOR INQUIRIES :-
 Anusha - 077 7 278 948 Ramani - 011 2 129 347
 Piyumi - 011 2 429 383 Gayani - 011 2 429 342/343

SUNDAY OBSERVER
Marriage Proposals
Decades of Trusted Service

SUNDAY OBSERVER
Marriage Proposals
Best way to fulfil your Future Dreams
 The convenient way to make your payment
For 15 Words
Rs. 560/-
 For each additional word Rs. 23/-
 Maximum number of words 65
 BOC - Acc. No. 000000377
 Green light for Online Transfer

Continued from page 45



Bodu Govi Horana 1984, Agri Science BIS complete MSc height 5'4" smart parents pensioned she working government in Kandy looking for educated person specially Kandy. She inherits substantial assets. Email: anurap1977@gmail.com panuruddha77@gmail.com OB158927

Bodu Govi parents seek educated son for their Graduate daughter born in 1989/12, 5'8" employed in private sector and inherits house. OB158742

Bodu Govi retired parents from Gampaha (father Senior Engineer, mother Vice Principal) seek an educated, professionally qualified, well mannered sons for their pretty, fair and slim, 5'4" two daughters. Elder 1991/7 born, Moratuwa University BSc Engineering Graduate employed in Private Sector as Engineer, earning six figure salary. Younger daughter 1992/9 born, graduated with Finance and Management Degree from Wayamba University, CIMA qualified, ACCA partly. Both daughters inherit substantial assets. Please reply with full details, copy of the horoscope, tele Nos. Email: udara1954@gmail.com OB158929

Bodu Govi retired respectable parents from Galle suburbs seek an academically and professionally qualified well-mannered, caring son for their pleasant, pretty and kind-hearted youngest daughter born in 1989, height 5'4". BSc (Hons) in IT. Currently employed in a Government Institute. Inherits properties. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Email: nsdproposal@gmail.com OB158945

Bodu Govi, very respectable family from Colombo, professional parents, seek an educated son of similar family background, for their B.Eng, qualified Engineer daughter, pretty, slim, fair, kind hearted with excellent character, 5'3", born in 1990, currently working in an international firm in Colombo. Further she received her MSc from a State University. She inherits large modern upstairs house in Colombo and a luxury vehicle, savings and many more. Please send your family details with a copy of horoscope. email: rprop69@gmail.com OB158643

Bodu Karawa / Govi parents with very respectable family background seek an educated son from a respectable family below 31 years for their daughter 25 years pretty 5'6" tall Hon. Graduate in Business Management working as an Executive in a well-recognized organization, inherits substantial assets. Non-malefic horoscope. Please send horoscope and family details in first letter. Email: marriagepro1996@gmail.com OB158587

Bodu/Govi respectable parents from Colombo seek a well-mannered kind-hearted academically & professionally qualified son for our daughter. She is fair pretty kind hearted bought up with Sinhala Buddhist values. Born 1996, 5'4" qualified with Business Management Degree from a leading USA University recently. Now living in USA. Please reply with family details and horoscope. subaabey55@gmail.com OB158652

Buddhist Govi Kiri bathgoda 1991 July 5'2" B.Sc. Assistant Finance Manager, fair & younger daughter, parents seek suitable son specially living abroad. Reply with horoscope & family details. niranjalaa@yahoo.com 0112-909116. OB158860

Buddhist Govi mixed parents seek suitable partner for their well brought up daughter 28 years, 5'3", pretty, slim, graduated with BA and Masters Degrees working in Government. dprop4572@gmail.com OB158708

Buddhist Govi/ Durawe parents seek a professionally/academically qualified partner for their 26 years pleasant well mannered elder daughter Final Year Medical Student in a State University for a relationship leading to marriage after studies. Parents from South currently in Colombo having substantial assets. Father Chartered Accountant. Only sister is IT Graduate currently employed. Send full details with a copy of the horoscope. Email: massm@sltnet.lk OB158964

Buddhist parents living in Colombo suburbs looking for a smart, qualified son preferable below 30 years with a very good family background for marriage with their younger daughter 26+ years, 5'3", working as an Accountant in Australia, academically / professionally qualified, smart well-disciplined girl with pleasing personality. Please send details of your son / family to mpr1994sl@gmail.com OB158738

B/G mother from Colombo seeks an educated well employed son with sober habits for her LLB/AAL Graduate daughter age 42 - 5'3" fair slim and very pretty & young looking. She inherits assets including a motor car. Please reply with full family details and copy of horoscope. Email: expo7070@gmail.com OB158601

B/G parents from Colombo suburbs seek professionally qualified well mannered son with sober habits from a respectable family for their pretty, slim, daughter born in 1995, 5'5", LLB, MA graduate, reading for Attorney's at present, with substantial assets pursue further studies overseas. Those living overseas or planning to migrate preferred. Reply with family details, horoscope & recent photographs to propo3796@gmail.com OB158641

B/G parents from Gampaha seek professionally and academically qualified well mannered (teetotaler/non-smoker) son for their only child born 1993, 5'3" slim & fair brought up with Sinhala Buddhist values. She holds BSc. Special Degree in Chemistry. LL.B (Lond) (Hons). Attorney-at-Law and hopes to engage in further studies. Reply with family details and horoscope. propo3796@gmail.com OB158937

B/G respectable and educated family living in Canada seeks academically and professionally qualified son from a respectable family for their daughter who is 29 years old (1991) 5'1" pretty, well educated, professionally qualified Engineer currently employed in the Canadian Government sector. Preference to those who live in Canada / USA. Please reply with family details along with horoscope to sapu mala21@gmail.com OB158650

B/G 1985 truly attractive very young looking fair, slim government English Teacher Polonnaruwa seeking a good looking, loving educationally qualified well employed partner height above 5'7". Dont reply age above 39. Kuja Sikuru in 7th house Kaala Sarpayoga. er nm9366@gmail.com OB158839

B/G/K respectable parents seek academically qualified son below 45 for their pretty fair daughter born 1980 educated Colombo prestigious college CIMA partly employed Colombo leading International Bank, Senior Executive. Kuja Shani 8. Horoscope family details. proposal2a2@gmail.com OB158766

Catholic parents residing in Melbourne seeking an academically & professionally qualified son preferably employed in Melbourne with a good family background for their pretty, fair, well mannered graduate daughter 25, 5'4" brought up with Sri Lankan values. Employed for a few years and presently studying. Reply with family details to: propfern95@gmail.com OB158916

Christian Sinhala parents seek a professionally qualified well brought up son for their fair pretty and well mannered daughter 28 years old, 5'4" height. She is practicing at a Government hospital as an intern house doctor. She will inherit substantial assets. Please email to: pproposal0901@gmail.com OB158854

BRIDE
 Academically and professionally qualified daughter from Colombo suburbs wishes to find a qualified, smart & tall son from similar family background for marriage. She possesses LLB, CIMA, MBA (J'pura) and reading for DBA. She is currently working as a directress in the well-established family business. Mother (Govi, Buddhist) / Father (Karawa, Catholic)
 Please reply to.
 proposal19863@gmail.com
 Tel - 011 4 897 363

Close to Colombo, Govi, Buddhist, mother seeks, well-mannered son/groom, a Doctor / Engineer / Lecturer / Accountant / Auditor / Lawyer / state / private sector Executive / Manager, educated businessman, with sober habits and kind-hearted for her daughter, height 5'1", born in 1981, pretty, fair in complexion, B.Sc (Hons), special, nutritionist, graduate, completed her M.Sc. degree employed as a Nutritionist, in the Ministry of Health. Elder sister in an Engineer and brother-in-law also an Engineer. Telephone: 038-2292307. OB158606

Colombo B/G retired parents seek professionally qualified son below 30 years for only daughter 5'3", attractive, born 1997, educated, holding BBA & MSc. in HR from foreign Universities in Sri Lanka, currently reading for CIM. Brought up with Buddhist values. Kuja in 7th house and Shani in 1st house. Migrating possible. Reply with horoscope. mpropo534@gmail.com OB158714

Colombo Govi Buddhist parents seek a suitable son, preferably a Doctor, for their beautiful Doctor daughter. 27 years, 5'5" tall. Please communicate with the horoscope. 61malee@gmail.com OB158932

Colombo Govi Buddhist well connected affluent family seeks suitable groom, she is 23, 5'1", slim fair, pretty having a Bachelors Degree, educated here and Australia, prefers overseas partner similar background. kannap99@gmail.com OB158673

Colombo G/B parents seek academically and professionally qualified son for their daughter in USA. Postgraduate, born December 1990, 5'3" fair and beautiful. Preferably in USA. Respond with T.P. No: 0112862665 deal wishchandrika@yahoo.com OB158914

Colombo G/B parents seek independent educated established gentleman for daughter 39 fair slim 5'4" well employed separated with one child. Self reply. shanig21prop@gmail.com OB158930

Colombo, Govi, Buddhist, parents seek, well-employed partner, of similar caste, for their daughter, 96, fourth year Medical College, in the Republic of China, Kuja 7, Shani in 8th house in the horoscope. OB158719

Colombo, 40, 5'2" Executive fair daughter, seeking well-mannered son. Reply full details and horoscope. Assets 35M. sethewewa@gmail.com OB158924

Colombo G/B parents seek a partner for their daughter, 1991 Nov. 5'2" fair, pretty, agriculture honours graduate, Research Assistant in State University, completing Masters, June 2021. Reply with family details and horoscope. ppsn2021@gmail.com OB158855

Colombo G/B parents seek a partner for their daughter, 1991 Nov. 5'2" fair, pretty, agriculture honours graduate, Research Assistant in State University, completing Masters, June 2021. Reply with family details and horoscope. ppsn2021@gmail.com OB158855

Colombo G/B parents seek a partner for their daughter, 1991 Nov. 5'2" fair, pretty, agriculture honours graduate, Research Assistant in State University, completing Masters, June 2021. Reply with family details and horoscope. ppsn2021@gmail.com OB158855

Colombo G/B parents seek a partner for their daughter, 1991 Nov. 5'2" fair, pretty, agriculture honours graduate, Research Assistant in State University, completing Masters, June 2021. Reply with family details and horoscope. ppsn2021@gmail.com OB158855

Colombo G/B parents seek a partner for their daughter, 1991 Nov. 5'2" fair, pretty, agriculture honours graduate, Research Assistant in State University, completing Masters, June 2021. Reply with family details and horoscope. ppsn2021@gmail.com OB158855

Colombo G/B parents seek a partner for their daughter, 1991 Nov. 5'2" fair, pretty, agriculture honours graduate, Research Assistant in State University, completing Masters, June 2021. Reply with family details and horoscope. ppsn2021@gmail.com OB158855

Colombo G/B parents seek a partner for their daughter, 1991 Nov. 5'2" fair, pretty, agriculture honours graduate, Research Assistant in State University, completing Masters, June 2021. Reply with family details and horoscope. ppsn2021@gmail.com OB158855

Gampaha B/G, mother from a respectable family seeks suitable partner for daughter born in 1990, 5'3" height, MIS, graduate, fair, slim, presently working as a teacher. Send details with horoscope and contact No. email: mprop562fst@gmail.com OB158843

Govi Buddhist parents from Western Province seek an educated and well-mannered son for their Graduate daughter born in 1984, height 5'7". She is presently working as a Government Executive (Sri Lanka Administrative Service). Please reply with horoscope and family details. 84mp roposal@gmail.com OB158690

Govi Buddhist respectable parents from Colombo seek a well-mannered educated son for smart accomplished daughter Graduate Teacher in an International School, she is 45 yrs. old slim 5'6" tall, she inherits substantial assets including a luxury house in Colombo. Please respond with family details and contact numbers. ariyaratne321@gmail.com OB158582

G/B mother from a respectable family seeks a well educated, caring partner with good personality for her daughter, 32, 5'2", she is good looking and well brought up, she has a Degree in Economics (Colombo) and MBA (PIM). She works as an Assistant HR Manager at a reputed IT Company. She inherits substantial assets. Reply with family details and horoscope. Email: marriagepro1988@gmail.com OB158621

G/B respectable parents from Gampaha District seeks a suitable partner for their daughter, 1993/02 5'4" educated from a leading Buddhist School in Colombo, graduate in BSc (Physiotherapy), awaiting Government service, graduate teacher, graduate in Medical laboratory Science of graduate in Pharmacy preferred. Write with horoscope. Email: sriyainikapugenth@gmail.com OB158847

G/B respectable parents from Gampaha District seeks a suitable partner for their daughter, 1993/02 5'4" educated from a leading Buddhist School in Colombo, graduate in BSc (Physiotherapy), awaiting Government service, graduate teacher, graduate in Medical laboratory Science of graduate in Pharmacy preferred. Write with horoscope. Email: sriyainikapugenth@gmail.com OB158847

G/B respectable parents seek academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son for their daughter 34 yrs, 5'3" in height BSc (IT) MBA currently working in a multi-national company in Colombo as a Senior Consultant. Reply with family details and phone number. Only malefic horoscopes please. Email: proposals01@gmail.com Phone No. 0112806049. OB158615

G/B respectable parents seek an educated son for their beautiful daughter, in Australia, brought up with Sinhalese values, 1997/1 born 5'3" obtained a degree in international business management in Sri Lanka and Master of Commerce in Australia. Please reply with horoscope, contact details to: proposal.drbs@gmail.com OB158623

G/B respectable retired parents from Colombo seek suitable smart partner for 1989 born 5'4" pretty fair daughter. She is a Manager of a reputed private firm. Kataka Lagana, Kuja 4. Please reply with family information. Email: abp roposal1@gmail.com OB158797

Kandyan Buddhist lady of 55 yrs, unmarried, 5'2", seeks a NS/TT partner with no family incumbrances. proposalk21@gmail.com OB158877

Kandy G/B parents seek an academically and professionally qualified caring son for 1989 born, 5'2" slim, fair, pretty, Engineer daughter. Willing to migrate if necessary. Please reply with family details, horoscope and contact number. Reply p ropoanr2020@gmail.com OB158873

Kurunegala district Bodu Govi retired teacher parents seek a suitable partner for their slim and pretty daughter of 29 years (born in 1991 May) MBBS Doctor from a Sri Lanka university. Preferably a Doctor of similar or higher academic qualifications. OB158510

Looking for a knid, caring, well-mannered educated partner (43-52) living in Australia for a 44 year old well established lady in Australia. She is very well-settled in her career with a good income, financially stable, from a respectable educated family (S/G/B), Australian citizen, divorcee (no children or encumbrances), 5'3" tall. Caste and religion immaterial. Email: mprop20205@gmail.com OB158951

Malay Muslim mother seeks a caring, understandable, smart, respectable professionally and academically qualified kind hearted son under 35 years for her only daughter (lawyer), 28 years 5'4" height pretty upper middle class family. Please reply with family details. 037-2224801. OB158853

Moor parents from Colombo seek a partner for their daughter 24 years old, 5'5", pretty, fair, charismatic and well-mannered. Educated at a leading school in Colombo. Completed Bachelor's Degree from a top University in Melbourne and presently intend to do Masters in Melbourne. We are seeking an educated professionally qualified groom, tall, slim, handsome with good character and a teetotaler. Hailing from a good compatible family background. Preferably living in Australia. Please reply with full family details to: groomprop2020@yahoo.com OB158837

Moor parents from Colombo 05, seek professionally qualified partner for fully qualified Chartered Marketer (CIM) UK daughter born in 1992, 5'3", fair, pretty, slim moderate religious background working as (employer branding) corporate communication Senior Executive at a reputed international IT firm in Colombo draws six figure salary. Owns house in Colombo. E-mail: f.p roposal169@gmail.com OB158747

Continued on page 47

SAVE YOUR PRECIOUS TIME...!

NOW YOU CAN PLACE YOUR MATRIMONIAL AD AT THE SUNDAY OBSERVER THROUGH E-MAIL OR FAX & MAKE PAYMENT TO NEAREST ANY BOC BRANCH

STEP 1
PAY CORRECT AMOUNT IN CASH TO ANY BOC BRANCH
 Name of Account Holder : ANCL
 Account No : 000 000 377
Green light for Online Transfer
 Write your Name Address & ID No. : X. X. Xxxxxxxx - Xxxx Xxxxxx, Xxxxx.

STEP 2
E-MAIL OR FAX YOUR ADVERTISEMENT WITH THE BANK SLIP TO
 E-Mail : classified@lakehouse.lk
 Fax No. : 011 2 429 375, 011 2 429 320, 011 2 429 330

STEP 3
For Confirmation & Rate Inquiries :-
 Anusha/ Piyumi - 011 2 429 383, 011 2 429 342, 011 2 429 343



SUNDAY OBSERVER

Marriage Proposals

E-mail your advertisements to, **classified@lakehouse.lk**

FOR INQUIRIES :-
 Anusha - 0777 7278 948 Ramani - 011 2 129 347
 Piyumi - 011 2 429 383 Gayani - 011 2 429 342/343

SUNDAY OBSERVER

Marriage Proposals

Decades of Trusted Service

SUNDAY OBSERVER

Marriage Proposals

Best way to fulfil your Future Dreams

The convenient way to make your payment

For 15 Words **Rs. 560/-**
 For each additional word Rs. 23/-
 Maximum number of words 65

BOC - Acc.No. 00000377
 LAK HOUSE BRANCH
 Green light for Online Transfer

Continued from page 46

Bride

Ms Chathurika : 1990 August born only daughter, 5'4" in height, non-malefic horoscope. Holds an MSc. in Information Systems and presently employed as a Graduate Teacher in a Government School. She inherits a house in Athurugiriya (in Colombo District), brought up with Buddhist values and a good Baker. Elder brother is a Civil / Structural Engineer, married and living separately. Father deceased and retired mother seeks an academically qualified, caring son from a cultured family. Please respond with family details and a copy of the horoscope to : Up ropose90@gmail.com OB158737

Panadura, Buddhist, Vishwa Kula parents, father Teacher, mother Nursing Officer, seek an Executive Grade employed son/groom for their only daughter in the family, aged 25 years, BSc. Graduate, well-employed in Executive Grade in private sector institution, pretty, fair, height 5', with dowry. Differences immaterial. OB158571

Parents seek a suitable professional for their 26 year old daughter finishing Law school this summer. She is 5'1" tall, pretty and accomplished. We are a Sinhalese Buddhist family living in the United States. Please respond to: 032-2223234. E-mail: lotusam123@gmail.com OB158820

Professionally qualified well-mannered son with sober habits & preferably willing to settle down in Australia / UK is sought by B/K parents of a respectable family in Colombo suburb for their daughter with postgraduate qualifications in Finance & Accounting in a leading Australian University currently living in Melbourne born in July 1994, 5'2" pretty & fair. Please reply with family details FB link & copy of horoscope to: proposal2020ks@gmail.com OB158899

BRIDE

This Prominent Space is Available for Your **BRIDE** ad.

Box Size - 6cm x 6.3cm

Contacts - **0777 27 00 67**
0777 27 08 45

Professional parents in Sydney Australia Sinhala, Buddhist, Vishwa educated pleasant partner is sought for their daughter 1997, 5'7", slim, fair and pretty, final year Medical Student in a major University in Australia. Please reply with family details, horoscope. mangala1997u@gmail.com OB158686

Respectable family of Indian Origin Hindus seek suitable partner for their youngest sister working in Colombo born in June 1970. Christians too are welcome to reply. Contact gmslanka7@gmail.com OB158680

Respectable G/B parents from Colombo, seek a well-mannered, caring and educated son for their 30 years old MBBS Doctor, pretty, smart and well brought up daughter, respectable family background expected. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Email: ancapro21@gmail.com OB158772

Respectable Roman Catholic Sinhala parents seek suitable partner for their youngest daughter. She is 26 years, educated at St. Bridget's Convent Colombo, graduated from Kelaniya University with a degree in Management. She is accomplished, well employed and will inherit assets. Please contact via email: reptoprop@gmail.com OB158760

Roman Catholic respectable Colombo Tamil parents seek academically / professionally qualified, religious well-mannered son for their pretty well-mannered accomplished daughter born in 1984, 5'4", educated in a leading convent in Sinhala medium. Employed as an Executive in a leading firm. Please reply with full details and contact number. Email - wije4219@gmail.com OB158592

Roman Catholic, Sinhala, and English speaking Tamil Barths parents living in Canada looking for a partner for daughter very well-mannered, pretty and caring born in 1996 and her height is 5'2". She has obtained a Bachelors of Science Degree from a prestigious University in Canada. Currently is working full time in Toronto, Canada, looking for an academically qualified son, preferably a nonsmoker with sober habits, between the ages of 25 - 30, from a Roman Catholic family that is already settled in Canada or the US if not willing to migrate. If you are looking for dowry or horoscope please do not reply. p atm19@gmail.com OB158844

Sinhala Bodu/Govi mixed. Professional father from USA looking for a suitable partner for their only daughter pretty 5'5" 31 yrs with a MBA Degree from a reputed university in US. She will inherit a significant wealth. The future son should be educated smart around 36 or less. 5'10" or taller with a good physical build. Caste, wealth or family background immaterial. But US born or raised md.engineer, lawyer or similar professions preferred. pl.respond to: pjayakody12@gmail.com OB158920

Sinhala Buddhist parents seek a suitable partner for their 26 yrs. old, 5'2" tall, Doctor daughter living in the United States prefer someone either living in the US or willing to migrate. She is well accomplished, fair and pretty and free of encumbrances. Please call:- 032-2223234 for details. E-mail: lotusam123@gmail.com OB158821

Sinhala Catholic mother seeks academically and professionally qualified kind son for her pretty daughter born in 1990, 5'2" height studied in a leading Convent in Colombo, completed masters, presently employed as an Assistant Manager. She is divorced from a short incompatible marriage with no encumbrances. Please respond with family details. rogerald58@gmail.com OB158868

Sinhala Roman Catholic parents from Moratuwa seek a pleasant and academically qualified partner for their daughter, educated at a leading convent. She's 1995 born, 5'3", tan in complexion, qualified music teacher at a leading International school in Colombo 07. Currently reading for her BSc in Psychology & Counseling (Final semester). She inherits substantial assets. Please reply with details to: propsans21@gmail.com OB158827

Sinhala, Buddhist parents seek a decent educated marriage partner for 25 years old daughter, Visakhian, 4th year Medical Student in a Foreign University. Presently in Sri Lanka continuing with online studies. Only daughter, possess all assets. sm abay58@gmail.com OB158947

Southern Sinhala Buddhist Galle suburb secured all exams upto postgraduate serving as an Executive Officer in a State Bank, attractive all inherited by parents residing at her own house born in 1985 January only daughter in the family invited to an educated suitable virtuous son expected all details with the copy of horoscope. OB158941

Southern, Govi, Buddhist, 1992.11, 5'2", MBBS intern Doctor, owning house, motor car, only daughter in family, retired parents (seek virtuous son 5'5" 31 yrs with a MBA Degree from a reputed university in US. She will inherit a significant wealth. The future son should be educated smart around 36 or less. 5'10" or taller with a good physical build. Caste, wealth or family background immaterial. But US born or raised md.engineer, lawyer or similar professions preferred. pl.respond to: pjayakody12@gmail.com OB158920

Sri Jayawardanapura Bodu Govi, 5', 29, fair, pretty, IT Engineer her father also Engineer. OB158751

UK citizen parents seek 33-42 years old a professional (prefer a Doctor/Engineer), fair and handsome partner (preferably residing in the UK, Europe, USA or Canada) for their 35 years old younger looking daughter. She resides and works as a qualified Senior Engineer in a renowned Pharmaceutical company in Republic of Ireland and has been brought up with Buddhist & Catholic values. She has got a younger sister (Aircraft Engineer) and a younger brother (Doctor). She holds assets in the UK and Ireland. Please reply to: biyanka36@yahoo.co.uk with your details. OB158560

Wadduwa, Christian, 33 years, height 5'3", MBBS (SL) Doctor, pretty, kind daughter, parents seek educated Christian partner. OB158725

Wattala area, Govingama, Catholic, Govt. Medical Officer (Lady), Born in 1986, January, height 4'9", seeks partner (groom), Medical Officers / Engineers / Accountants preferred. Religion, caste, creed, horoscopes immaterial. Contact: Telephone: 0112-235210 (after 7.00 p.m.). OB158598

Well established Bodu Govi parents from Canada seek an academically and professionally qualified Bodu Govi son for their daughter. A Product Manager with a Masters Degree in Engineering. She is pretty, 26 years old, 5'2" height and was brought up well-mannered and respecting Sri Lankan Buddhist Culture. Please send family details and horoscope to: wijayakeerthi2018@gmail.com OB158949

Well-mannered caring son is sought by Gampaha B/G parents for academically and professionally qualified, pretty, religious, daughter, 44, 5'4". Owns properties. No migration. kmkme nike7@gmail.com OB158906

Western Province Buddhist Govi parents seek for their daughter who is a Doctor having a Doctorate born in 1978 October 5'6" tall, very pretty a partner - Engineer, Lecturer, Accountant, Executive (Graduate). proposal sforduwa@gmail.com OB158594

Western Province B/G respectable parents seek a kind hearted educated son with good character for their daughter born in 1993, 5'8" in height, educated from a leading Buddhist School in Colombo holds of Master Degree and Attorney-at-Law currently employed in a state institution. She inherits substantial property from her parents. Reply with horoscope and family details to: proposal.rhpd@gmail.com OB158769

Western Province, Retired Graduate Teacher Parents (couple), (origin in the country), seek a well-mannered, good charactered, son, groom Medical Officer, (Doctor), for their eldest daughter, unmarried, MBBS, Medical Officer (Doctor) 1980 very young cooking, pretty, fair in complexion. OB158642

1986 Doctor working in UK 5'4" very fair pretty Sinhala / Buddhist professionally qualified partner sought currently working in UK preferred. email: proposal elanka2020@gmail.com OB158822

1996 Negombo Roman Catholic Govi 5'2" Software Engineering daughter business parents seek a well educated son. She inherits valuable assets. marriage96b ride96@gmail.com OB158852

Groom

About our son born in 1983, height 5'8", academically professionally qualified, NS/TT, never married, working as IT professional in managerial position. Migration can be considered for the right partner. Bodu Govi Buddhist parents from Colombo suburbs, looking for educated, fair, pretty, slim, kind hearted daughter. Family status, wealth, caste, religion immaterial. Respond with full details of the daughter, family, horoscope and FB link. Email: bridegroom2021@gmail.com OG158817

Academically and professionally qualified kind and pretty daughter is sought by respectable B/G parents from Colombo suburbs for their 6 feet tall, fair and handsome younger son born in 1993 November, graduated from University of Moratuwa and working as an Electrical Engineer at a leading government sector company in Sri Lanka. Planning to migrate to Australia for a PhD in this year. Please reply only those willing to migrate or those who are in Australia. Send all the relevant details with horoscope to: m arppropson@gmail.com OG158629

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered daughter is sought by Catholic Govi business family parents residing in Negombo for their fair son 1989 March born 6'2" in height, He studied in a leading catholic school in Colombo and continued his higher education in the UK up to Masters. Currently he is reading for his PhD while heading the family business as an entrepreneur. He inherits substantial assets. Pls reply - chinthi33@gmail.com OG158849

Academically qualified or an undergraduate fair pretty well-mannered daughter is sought by G/B parents for their handsome N/S, T/T 5'5", 1994, March born son studied at leading school in Colombo works as a Project Engineer in Australia, non-malefic horoscope. Reply family details with horoscope. adprop2021@gmail.com OG158954

Academically qualified pretty matching daughter (willing to go abroad) is sought by Catholic / Karawa parent for very fair, handsome, 6' tall, in mid-forties (very much young looking), non-smoker, sober habits, son, educated at a leading school in Colombo and presently employed as an Engineer Drawing a five figure salary in a multinational firm. Email: mprop20212@gmail.com OG158631

Academically qualified, pretty, fair, well-mannered daughter is sought by Sinhala B/G respectable parents from Southern Province for their 1991 born son. He is a Doctor (MBBS), Lecturer in a government medical faculty, 5'5", slim, fair, NS/TT, music lover. No migration plans. Reply to: proposals1991april@gmail.com OG158908

Academically & professionally qualified good looking daughter is sought by Sinhala Govi Buddhist/Catholic parents from Kandy well settled in Colombo for their professionally qualified Accountant son born in 1989 handsome, BSc, CIMA, working for a leading Bank in Colombo with six figure salary. Canadian PR Holder owns a car and inherits a two storeyed house in Colombo suburbs. Height 5'6", consider migration as an option only. Differences immaterial. prop1467@gmail.com OG158774

Age 43 years 5'8" tall fair good looking well educated and financially well established me looking for a good looking lady. Elders are also considered and self replies preferred. romeshprop@gmail.com or messenger : romesh prop OG158733

An academically and professionally qualified, kind-hearted daughter below 30 years is sought by Buddhist Govi mother from Colombo suburbs for her well-mannered son 1986 July, 5'10", working as a Software Quality Assurance Engineer at a Multinational Software Company. He is pursuing his professional qualification certification currently. He inherits assets. Please reply with family details and contact number along with the horoscope. Email - mproposal201906@gmail.com OG158934

An accomplished daughter (preferably living in Australia) is sought by U.B.G. parents from their son born in 1985 December, 5'10" tall, Australian citizen, and working as a Project Estimator. Reply with FB details / HC / Family details. aq12sw23sec@gmail.com OG158577

Academically / professionally qualified slim, pretty, religious well-mannered daughter is sought by Roman Catholic respectable Colombo Tamil parents for smart handsome well-mannered son, academically / professionally qualified, educated in a leading Catholic College in the Sinhala stream. Working as an Officer in a leading Bank. Born in 1982, 5'5", NS/TT. Please reply with full details and contact number. Email - mproporc@gmail.com OG158593

Academically qualified, pretty kind hearted daughter is sought by respectable B/G parents living in the USA for their one and only son, born in 1986, well brought up Sinhala Buddhist values, with sober habits. Non-smoker and non-alcoholic. 6'1" in height and handsome holding BSc in Chemistry. Currently working as a Pharmacy Lab Technician in the USA and also owns a house. Mother is an Assistant Teacher of the USA Board of Education. (was a Science and Maths Teacher in Sri Lanka) and the father is a retired Photo Lab Technician. Please respond with family details with the copy of the horoscope including the date, time and place of birth (city or town) with contact number to: rathnath@gmail.com OG158884

A famous business family Managing Several Private Enterprises in Gampaha District, seeks extremely pretty daughter under 29 years for Govi, smart, handsome younger son 35 years 5'11", MBA qualified, studied at a leading college in Colombo. He owns several well-established business entities, substantial properties and other assets. Caste, Creed, dowry immaterial. Please respond with full details. wasantha gamagae@gmail.com OG158771

A pleasant tall daughter is sought by G/B mother for PhD qualified, healthy son, 6ft tall, born in 1973 with sober habits, employed in USA. Legally separated after very brief marriage with no encumbrances. Reply with horoscope and details. usaproposal333@gmail.com OG158080

A pretty educated daughter, fluent in English below 24 yrs, sought for a son, 26 years, 5'10", Catholic, Govi, non-smoker & teetotaler, handsome, a US citizen, living in Los Angeles with his parents, employed as an Aerospace Engineering in Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Seal Beach, California, earned his BSc in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering from UCI California and pursuing a Master's Degree in Astronautical Engineering from USC in Los Angeles being our only son, He inherits valuable assets in Sri Lanka & USA. Please reply in English or Sinhala with family details and a copy of the horoscope. Email: mproposal1972@yahoo.com. OG158850

A suitable partner, preferably living in the USA is sought by Sinhala parents from Colombo for their son who is a very qualified and a well-accomplished professional holding a Senior Managerial position in a prestigious company in Colombo. He frequently travels to the USA on work and is well-acquainted with the life and culture in the USA. A teetotaler, non-smoker. He is 46 years old but looks much younger than that. Divorcees are also considered. Please send your daughter's details. sudafer@gmail.com OG158824

A well-mannered, educated & pleasant, working or non-working, Sinhala Buddhist girl with a good character, is sought by well-connected respectable Sinhala Govi Buddhist parents for the eldest son. He is presently managing the family Business Companies, 46 years, 5'9" tall, educated at a leading School in Colombo, and will inherit valuable assets. He is a non-smoker & teetotaler with excellent character and managerial skills and no family encumbrances. Reply in English or Sinhala with full family details and a copy of horoscope and contact telephone numbers, in the very first letter. Email: mpgoal@gmail.com. All information treated strictly private & confidential. OG157911

An educated pretty and well-mannered daughter is sought by respectable Govi Buddhist parents for 1982 December born 5'9" handsome son holding a PhD in Engineering and working as a Post-doctorate fellow for a leading University in Malaysia email - proposal sg1982@yahoo.com OG158819

An educated well-mannered daughter is sought by retired Bodu Govi mother for her Bodu Govi Durawo son with assets born in 1980 5'8" in height NS/TT BSc (Engineering) MBA (UK) C.E.O. of an International Engineering Consultancy Company. Unemployed similarly educated also considered. OG158942

A Buddhist Govi professional parents living in the US seek a kind daughter below 35 yrs. academically and professionally qualified for Engineer son Co-owner of an engineering firm with MSc, 5'7" 35 yrs. born and lives in the USA reasonable wealth in the US and in Sri Lanka, those who are living in the US or outside and willing to relocate. Please reply with family details and horoscope a riyanalak@gmail.com OG158646

Bodu Govi parents looking for a small-built, pretty daughter who truly appreciates Sinhalese heritage and Buddhist way of life, as future partner for our son who is a dual citizen based in Sydney Australia. He is 31 years old. 5'7" NS/TT, Manager in IT Field. Reply in Sinhala or English with horoscope and family details to email only: mproposal1289@gmail.com OG158841

Bodu Govi parents seek a partner for their handsome NS/TT son born in 1989, height 5'11" studied at a leading school in Kandy graduated with a BSc (Hons) Software Engineering Degree. He was attached to a Software Firm in Colombo as a Software Engineer. At present he manages his own Software Company which provides services to the International market. He owns a modern house, luxury SUV and properties. Educated, pretty, well-mannered caring daughter is sought. m arpprop2019@gmail.com OG158958

Continued on page 48

Have Your

SUNDAY OBSERVER

Marriage Proposal

Advertisement in **Silumina Paper** too for just **Rs. 200/-**

E-mail your advertisement to, **classified@lakehouse.lk**

Anusha - 0777 278 948 Piyumi - 011 2 429 383
 Ramani - 011 2 429 347 Gayani - 011 2 429 342 / 343

SUNDAY OBSERVER
Marriage Proposals
 E-mail your advertisements to,
classified@lakehouse.lk
 FOR INQUIRIES:-
 Anusha - 077 7278 948 Ramani - 011 2 129 347
 Piyumi - 011 2 429 383 Gayani - 011 2 429 342/343

SUNDAY OBSERVER
Marriage Proposals
Decades of Trusted Service

SUNDAY OBSERVER
Marriage Proposals
 Best way to fulfil your Future Dreams
 The convenient way to make your payment
 For 15 Words **Rs. 560/-**
 For each additional word Rs. 23/-
 Maximum number of words 65
 BOC - Acc.No. 000000377
 LAKE HOUSE BRANCH
 Green light for Online Transfer

Continued from page 47



seek daughter for employed son born 1992, height 5'8", qualified BSc (J'Pura), CIMA. Email: marri ageproca@gmail.com
 OG158633

Bodu Govi respectable family Doctor father seeking for only son, slim 5'8" fair, very young looking handsome 1987, non-smoker, teetotaler, Anandian from grade 1, graduated in International Business Management, successful Businessman engage in direct importation of motor vehicles (own company) with assets worth over 400 million including a tea estate seeking a fair, slim really beautiful well mannered daughter. p ropose7788@gmail.com
 OG158966

Born 1965, divorcee, 5'8" height, handsome (very much young looking) established, seeks a pleasant kind hearted partner from a respectable family for early marriage. Please reply with full details including contact number to: lifewj@gmail.com
 OG158890

Bride is sought for professional son only child well employed well established having means and properties, age 39, 5f 11 inch fair in complexion medium built legally separated divorcees without children considered. Reply with horoscope. don howpage27@gmail.com
 OG158829

Buddhist parents residing in Colombo suburbs seek an academically professionally qualified daughter for their Australian citizen son graduated from a leading Australian University and employed in an MNC as an Electrical Engineer, born in 1984 September 5'9", N/S, T/T, fair and handsome. Please respond with the horoscope. m .proposal7512@gmail.com
 OG158939

B/G business parents from Colombo suburb seek a kind fair pretty daughter for their younger son born in 1991, 5'6" fair handsome studied in a leading Colombo School, presently managing his own business after graduating from Australian University. Please reply with horoscope and family details.
 OG158869

B/G business parents from Colombo suburb seek kind fair pretty daughter for their son born in 1987, 5'8", fair handsome studied in a leading Colombo school presently managing his own business. Please reply with horoscope and family details.
 OG158872

B/G Kandyan highly respectable parents seek a fair, pretty, slim, tall, educated daughter with a good character, not willing to migrate from respectable family for our youngest son, 37, 6'0" Lawyer by profession, practising in Colombo, studied in a leading private school. Legally separated after a short incompatible marriage and without encumbrances. Owns a luxury car, inherits family residence and other family assets. Reply with family details, horoscope and contact details. Shani Mangala Yoga favourable. Others also considered. marriageproposal000@yahoo.com
 OG158675

B/G mother from Kurunegala seeking a suitable pleasant fair daughter (with or without a job) for her son engaged in business born in 1980, 5'8", handsome, looks much younger, never married, BSc IT, owning modern house. pr opo9800@gmail.com
 OG158864

B/G parents from Colombo seek an educated, well-mannered daughter from a respectable B/G family for their handsome son, 1993 Dec. 5'3", BSc, MBA, working as an Executive in reputed company. Please reply with family details and horoscope to; proposal2020yr@gmail.com
 OG158807

B/G professional parents living in Canada are seeking a suitable partner for their well-mannered handsome, fair 5'7" son, born in 1993 and raised with Buddhist values. He completed his Engineering Degree from a leading University in Canada and currently working as a Software Engineer for a Global Tech Company in Canada. We are looking for an academically and professionally qualified, well-mannered, pleasant daughter below 27 years preferably living in Canada or USA, or willing to migrate to Canada. Reply with family details to: mproposal820@gmail.com
 OG158970

B/G respectable parents in Colombo seek for an educated well mannered daughter for their son studying for Masters in IT (Enterprise Management) at a leading University in Australia (last semester) height 5'5" 1992. He is handsome well mannered brought up with good qualities under Buddhist values. Only sister is a final year Medical Student. Reply with horoscope. palika322@gmail.com
 OG158776

B/G respectable parents seek a suitable daughter for their son, born in 1988, 6'3" very handsome well educated and kind hearted, currently working in UK as an Engineering Manager and owns, private company. He inherits valuable properties. Business family preferred. Please reply with horoscope to : p roposals2021@hotmail.com 011-2290775.
 OG158683

B/G 34 yrs, 6' tall graduate handsome son from a respectable family, well employed in a multinational company returned to Sri Lanka after placement overseas. Inherits assets and resides in Colombo suburbs. Mother seeks a well-mannered (above 5'3") pretty daughter from a good background. Please reply with family details & horoscope to: mrsdis sanayake@gmail.com
 OG158935

B/G, business family in Colombo seeks an educated, well-mannered, daughter from a respectable family for their son. He is 1994 born, 5'10", handsome, fair, completed his studies in foreign & local Universities, completed his MSc. in Colombo Uni and reading for his MBA, while working as the Manager - In Cyber Security Solutions in a reputed Company. He inherits properties and assets. Caste immaterial. Horoscope needed.
 OG158931

B/V parents from Colombo suburbs seek an educated, pretty and well-mannered daughter for their son who's an Engineer, born in 1986, 5'11". Pls. reply with family details and HC copy to: prop10065@gmail.com Kuja 1 and Caste immaterial. OG158658

Catholic parents from suburbs of Colombo seek a caring daughter for their son born in March 1970. He is caring, young looking, working abroad as an Accountant. Presently he is in Sri Lanka. Please reply with family details. m rgproposals21@gmail.com
 OG158858

Catholic / Buddhist Sinhala parents from Colombo seek virtuous, pretty daughter from respectable family for their Engineer son, 1990 October born, 5'11", smart, good looking, studied at Royal College, Colombo. BSc. & MSc. Degree Holder from Monash & Swinburne University. Working in Australia capacity of Project Manager. Owns property in Sri Lanka. Elder is a BSc. Degree Holder (Peradeniya Campus), married to an Engineer and living in Australia. 0714089795 / suniland56@gmail.com
 OG158605

Educated professional partner is sought for an academically and professionally qualified Graduate with Postgraduate qualifications BSc. Hon., PG.Dip., CFA, PRM, G/B TT & NS. 5'8", 41, assets over 50 million including a 2 storeyed house in Colombo suburbs and a new SUV. propconect@outlook.com
 OG158667

Father leading Lawyer Colombo seeks bride for his only son 35 yrs 5'9" CIMA, LLB (Lond). qualified Senior Manager at a Private Organization drawing a six figure salary. Studied at a leading school in Colombo. Owns a house in Colombo and with substantial assets. Kuja at 4th house. Only sister is a CIMA Finalist teetotaler. m nsdv678@gmail.com
 OG158968

Father seeks a bride with an unblemished character, below 30 yrs., for his British citizen sporty Musician Dr son, towards the end of consultant training in the UK, 39 yrs. and 5'7". Reply with a photo. virginproposals@yahoo.com
 OG158962

Colombo Bodu Durawa 1983 November 6'0" in height teetotaler educated at reputed Colombo School IT Graduate from University of Colombo and following Masters currently employed in Semi Government organization as an Assistant Director owning two storeyed house and other assets in Colombo, parents seek suitable partner. Please contact with horoscope. OG158768

Colombo Buddhist Durawa, Senior Software Engineer at a reputed company. IT graduate. Owns vehicle and property. 1985 November. Height 5'8". Parents seek pretty, educated daughter for their only child. Please forward horoscope and family particulars. Email: sreemedura@yahoo.com OG158761

Colombo B/G 34 (1986) Australian/SL dual citizen Royalist, Bachelor (computer) Master of Accounting - Monash University, smart handsome eldest son. Wealthy medical professional parents looking for a beautiful daughter from a wealthy business family. He is willing to settle permanently in Sri Lanka and pursue business. Separated from short term marriage, no encumbrance. Only emails. business scolombo69@gmail.com
 OG158799

G/B respectable parents from Colombo seek educated pretty slim daughter below 38 yrs. for their educated well-mannered handsome son studied at Royal College Graduate in Business Administration height 6 ft. 46 yrs. engaged in property development and advertising. Inherits properties and assets worth millions in Colombo and suburbs. Please reply with family details and contact number. ariyaratne321@gmail.com
 OG158583

Kandyan G/B retired mother (deceased father was a bank manager) seeks an academically & professionally qualified slim, fair, pretty daughter below 31 above 5'2" for her only son 34, 5'9" well-mannered TT/NS Australian qualified Software Engineer dual citizen works in a leading Australian Software company, lives in Melbourne. Only sister married settled abroad. Please reply with family details HC via marriage8628@gmail.com 081-2219365. OG158613

Gampaha District Bodu / Govi mother a retired Government Servant seeks a suitable partner, a qualified pleasant looking girl for her only son, born in 1987, height 5'7", studied at Ananda College Colombo, employed in apparel company as an IT Manager, only sister gone overseas for her highest studies. Please send your family details and contact details. mail hilinaat@gmail.com
 OG158848

Kandy parent seeks a pretty educated employed daughter for her younger son who is / Buddhist / Vishwa born in 1992 August 5'6" tall graduated in Australia working as an Asst Manager post in a leading Software Company. Caste immaterial pl reply with family details and a horoscope to: perade niya1992@gmail.com
 OG158662

Moor parents from Colombo seek a bride for son 25 years teetotaler doing own business, details. hussaincader57@gmail.com
 OG158566

Moor parents from Colombo (District) seek religious pretty educated and kind-hearted bride for their son who is government employee 28 years, 5'6" and pursue higher studies. Email: colombo1961@yahoo.com
 OG158568

Moor parents seek bride for son only child, 27, 6', Accountant, employed. 011-2370390, 077 6256568. OG158794

Professional parents in Sydney Australia Sinhala, Buddhist, Vishwa educated pleasant partner is sought for their son 1993, 5'7", very considerate, handsome, Graduate Engineer Commerce / Engineering with double Degree UNSW, well employed in Sydney. Please reply with family details, horoscope. mangala1997u@gmail.com
 OG158688

Looking for a bride for a B/G 38 years old groom. Working as a Doctor in Western Europe. 5'10", handsome with sober habits. Never married. From an upper middle class family in Colombo. Please reply to: proposal010118@yahoo.com OG158892

Looking for a partner to start a new journey with a person who is born in 1974 and work as a Consultant in Socioeconomic Sector. Partner should be kind, out of box thinking, willing to help other and nature loving person. Religion, race, caste, horoscope and such things are immaterial. She should be willing to reside in Colombo 7. Genuine contacts only. mahendrapera74@yahoo.com
 OG158575

Malay parents from Colombo seek a simple and pleasant looking marriage partner for their only son 43 years. He is a private sector employee in a stable position and has his own house. Outstation parties could also be considered. OG158611

Moor family from Colombo seeks for their son 31 years employed as Senior Merchandiser, International Garments Office in Sri Lanka, a suitable religious working/non working partner from respectable Colombo/ immediate suburbs based family. Please call: 011-2555586 (after 8 p.m.) or email full details to: nrnsf@gmail.com
 OG158918

Moor parents from Colombo seek a bride for son 25 years teetotaler doing own business, details. hussaincader57@gmail.com
 OG158566

Moor parents from Colombo (District) seek religious pretty educated and kind-hearted bride for their son who is government employee 28 years, 5'6" and pursue higher studies. Email: colombo1961@yahoo.com
 OG158568

Moor parents seek bride for son only child, 27, 6', Accountant, employed. 011-2370390, 077 6256568. OG158794

Professional parents in Sydney Australia Sinhala, Buddhist, Vishwa educated pleasant partner is sought for their son 1993, 5'7", very considerate, handsome, Graduate Engineer Commerce / Engineering with double Degree UNSW, well employed in Sydney. Please reply with family details, horoscope. mangala1997u@gmail.com
 OG158688

Looking for a partner to start a new journey with a person who is born in 1974 and work as a Consultant in Socioeconomic Sector. Partner should be kind, out of box thinking, willing to help other and nature loving person. Religion, race, caste, horoscope and such things are immaterial. She should be willing to reside in Colombo 7. Genuine contacts only. mahendrapera74@yahoo.com
 OG158575

Malay parents from Colombo seek a simple and pleasant looking marriage partner for their only son 43 years. He is a private sector employee in a stable position and has his own house. Outstation parties could also be considered. OG158611

Moor family from Colombo seeks for their son 31 years employed as Senior Merchandiser, International Garments Office in Sri Lanka, a suitable religious working/non working partner from respectable Colombo/ immediate suburbs based family. Please call: 011-2555586 (after 8 p.m.) or email full details to: nrnsf@gmail.com
 OG158918

Moor parents from Colombo seek a bride for son 25 years teetotaler doing own business, details. hussaincader57@gmail.com
 OG158566

Moor parents from Colombo (District) seek religious pretty educated and kind-hearted bride for their son who is government employee 28 years, 5'6" and pursue higher studies. Email: colombo1961@yahoo.com
 OG158568

Moor parents seek bride for son only child, 27, 6', Accountant, employed. 011-2370390, 077 6256568. OG158794

Professional parents in Sydney Australia Sinhala, Buddhist, Vishwa educated pleasant partner is sought for their son 1993, 5'7", very considerate, handsome, Graduate Engineer Commerce / Engineering with double Degree UNSW, well employed in Sydney. Please reply with family details, horoscope. mangala1997u@gmail.com
 OG158688

Professional parents seek marriage proposals for their son (only child) born in 1992 (Sep), 5'8", NS/TT. Studied overseas from middle school, he has completed his BSc / MSc (Mathematics/Economics) and now completing his Ph.D (Economics) from prestigious Universities in the USA. We are a Buddhist (Govi) family living in a Colombo suburb with a simple lifestyle. Our son prefers an educated and down-to-earth girl as his future partner. Send family details with the horoscope (caste immaterial). Email: djab6612@yahoo.com
 OG158901

Respectable Govi Buddhist parents both professionals from Colombo suburbs seek a suitable daughter for their son 29 years, 5'7", fair, handsome, studied at a leading Colombo School. He is a graduate in Finance, professionally well qualified, holding Canadian PR. Migrated to Canada recently. Well established and presently working as a Financial Analyst in Toronto. Having assets including house and property. Elder sister is married. Replies to: kanthi.s@bell.net. OG158894

Seeks religious Muslim bride above 50 years old for widower living in Gampaha District. Gampaha, Kegalle, Kurunegala, Kalutara, Matale Districts preferred. OG158638

Sinhala R.C. parents seek very fair (fairness is essential), educated attractive daughter for their handsome son 1983, 5' 4 1/2", highly educated with several post graduate degrees, employed as Asst. Director in permanent Government Service with good salary.
 OG158857

Sinhala / Buddhist / Govi professional business family is looking to introduce an educated slim beautiful daughter, not less than 5'5" in height, age below 25 with a good family background and essential qualities, to our only son - a Civil Engineer, 5'9", currently working overseas with a 6-figure salary and owning luxury vehicles and property, inheritance worth over 180 million. Only sister is an Attorney. Kindly send all particulars to : srilankad99@gmail.com including a scanned copy of the horoscope and links to social media. Information will be treated with utmost confidentiality. OG158712

1986, Eheliyagoda, Roman Catholic, Burgher, permanent employee, private sector security officer, groom with own house, legally separated, no encumbrances. No children, only son. Parents seek partner, bride. OG158721

1996, Pilimathalawa Town, only son of the family of leading Businessman in the city, mother and father, reputed Businessman, seek, daughter, from a reputed business family, up country, Buddhist "Kumbal" kula caste, with Shani Mangala horoscopes, preferred, Central, Sabaragamuwa, North-Western Province, preferred. OG158617

49 years, divorced for 15 years. Looking for a bride age below 45 years, two daughters. Looking for a Christian pretty bride. mproposals935@gmail.com
 OG158919

Southern Buddhist Dewa parents seek pretty daughter for their son foreign qualified Executive Chef, Businessman 1980, 5'5" inherits valuable properties. Reply with details. No differences. 0912294054.
 OG158861

Well educated company Director working for a multinational company, 40 yrs old, 6ft tall and athletically built. Looking for a modern, mature, good looking partner to travel, enjoy life and marriage. Divorcees/Widows welcome, self reply only/no brokers. I do not believe in horoscope so pls don't request. Email: desilvawinston888@gmail.com 011-2886915. OG158232

1986, Eheliyagoda, Roman Catholic, Burgher, permanent employee, private sector security officer, groom with own house, legally separated, no encumbrances. No children, only son. Parents seek partner, bride. OG158721

1996, Pilimathalawa Town, only son of the family of leading Businessman in the city, mother and father, reputed Businessman, seek, daughter, from a reputed business family, up country, Buddhist "Kumbal" kula caste, with Shani Mangala horoscopes, preferred, Central, Sabaragamuwa, North-Western Province, preferred. OG158617

49 years, divorced for 15 years. Looking for a bride age below 45 years, two daughters. Looking for a Christian pretty bride. mproposals935@gmail.com
 OG158919

BRIDEGROOM
 A respectable, very wealthy, well-connected Sinhala Buddhist family is searching for a daughter between the age of 24 and 31 for 34-year-old, 6'2", responsible, kind, very handsome son with Buddhist values. He has an excellent personality, is highly educated (3 degrees from prestigious universities including a Ph.D.), interested in fitness and animal welfare, and does not drink alcohol or smoke. He is a successful businessman who owns two companies and is a shareholder and director of another company in Colombo and hopes to continue to live in Sri Lanka. He owns a house in Colombo 3 and will inherit a considerable amount of wealth, including very valuable income-generating commercial buildings in Colombo and many other assets. Please email relevant details, which will be treated as confidential to **marprocp@gmail.com** or write to **158969, C/O Sunday Observer - Lake House, Colombo 10.**



BRIDEGROOM
 This Prominent Space is Available for Your **BRIDEGROOM** ad.
 Box Size - 6cm x 6.3cm
 Contacts - **0777 27 00 67**
0777 27 08 45

Grab Matrimonial Display Ad Space to Promote Your Business...

Contact :- **Umanga - 0777 270 845 / Anusha - 0777 278 948**
 classified@lakehouse.lk

Immediate Vacancies

Site Engineers required for Galle Site.
 Experience : NDT / HNDE / TII / NCT or equivalent
 More than 03 years experience.

Site Supervisor required for Piliyandala Site
 NCT, more than 01 year experience.
 swarnaconstructions.sl@gmail.com
 0718709961/62

Accounts Assistants

Minimum one year experience.
 Forward your CV's to
rajabojunhr@gmail.com

Director General Manager
 Raja Bojun (Pvt.) Ltd.
 Liberty Arcade,
 282, R.A.De Mel Mawatha
 Colombo 03.

VACANT POSITION FOR 'A4 PAPER CUTTER MACHINE OPERATOR & POLAR PAPER CUTTER MACHINE OPERATOR'

- Individual should be well versatile & adopt to the working environment
- Willing to work additional working hours if needed and will be paid accordingly.
- The position wants to fill for the long term contract and will be taken care if needed upon interview
- A well-remuneration package awaits for the right candidate.

For further call us / Email us your CV:
Mr Ahamed - 0752 279 279
info@riomarketing.lk

Note: Position to be filled at earliest.

Vacancy

PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Colombo seeks suitable candidates for the position as Project Management Specialist. The job holder serves as a Project Management Specialist for the Office of Economic Growth (OEG) in USAID/Sri Lanka & Maldives. As a Project Management Specialist, the job holder will serve as Agreement Officer Representative (AOR) / Contracts Officer Representative (COR)/Activity Manager (AM) for Mission-based / Washington-based projects and is responsible for all the major responsibilities associated with those positions. The OEG portfolio currently consists of projects in the following sectors: private sector development, public financial management, trade facilitation, business enabling environment, energy efficiency, climate change adaptation, and vocational training. The job holder also gathers market information, provides guidance in the preparation of statements of work, concept papers and evaluates bids for major projects, unsolicited proposals and programs. The job holder is expected to coordinate economic growth activities with other U.S. Government Agencies, donor counterparts, and the Mission's Office of Governance and Vulnerable Populations. S/he reports to the Director of the Office of Economic Growth.

Remuneration for this position will be between Rs. 4,017,389/- to Rs. 6,649,174/- per annum (plus allowances as per the Mission Compensation Plan).

Please visit our website <http://www.usaid.gov/sri-lanka/careers> for detailed information on the vacancy announcement and on how to submit your individual application packet.

All applications must be submitted via e-mail to hrcolombo@usaid.gov Before you continue with the application process, please carefully read the instructions available on our website.

Your application should reach us on or before **March 07, 2021 at 05.30 p.m. Sri Lanka time.** Please note, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Join a team driven by excellence

CBL Group Management Trainee Program 2021/22

About CBL Group

The CBL Group is home to some of the nation's best loved brands and manufactures a diverse range of biscuits, chocolates, cakes, textured soy, cereals, nutrition products, organic fruits and spices and coconut products. With over 11 companies in Sri Lanka and overseas, the group is one of Sri Lanka's largest food conglomerates with presence in over 60 countries worldwide.

The ideal candidate

- Holds a degree (preferably with a 1st or 2nd class degree in Engineering, Food Science equivalent or Marketing from a recognized university)
- Is a team player with effective leadership and communication skills
- Aligns with our purpose, core values and behaviours

About the program

A comprehensive 12 month program
 Aimed at developing technical, behavioural and leadership potential to create caring, high performing leaders.

Hands on experience and on-the-job learning
 You will gain in-depth exposure across our value chain working in Supply chain, HR, Finance, Sales and Marketing.

A well structured path of progression
 You'll have access to coaching and mentoring from our functional specialists and senior leaders to kick-start your career.

Send us your CV to recruitment.cblgroup@cblk.com on or before 26th of February 2021

OPPORTUNITIES AT SOUTH ASIA GATEWAY TERMINALS PORT OF COLOMBO

South Asia Gateway Terminals (SAGT) the first public private partnership container terminal in Sri Lanka, commenced operations in 1999, launching the Port of Colombo as global trade's preeminent gateway hub to South Asia. Today, the terminal is one of three operators in the Port of Colombo and continues to offer the international container shipping community a competitive best in class service as a Global Container Terminal.

The company is a Board of Investment flagship entity with majority Sri Lankan shareholding, and is backed by John Keells Holdings, the Maersk Group of Denmark, the Sri Lanka Ports Authority and Evergreen Marine of Taiwan.

SAGT has attracted multiple independent globally recognized "best practice" awards consecutively in the recent past.

TERMINAL MANAGER

As a Senior Leadership position in the Company, the Terminal Manager is responsible for managing a team of executives and other operations staff efficiently, by providing them with tactical leadership and direction in order to achieve and deliver service levels meeting customer expectations. The incumbent is responsible for managing the overall Terminal Operations within the shift assigned, covering Quayside, Gates and the Yard in coordination with all stakeholders to ensure all services are delivered with adherence to the highest level of safety, in compliance with stipulated procedures, guidelines, standards, measurements and commitments. This position is operationally responsible and accountable for the entire terminal whilst on duty and is the key focal point for all stakeholders such as Customers, Statutory Authorities, other Terminal Operators, Service Providers and all other relevant agencies.

Main Responsibilities of the Job:

- Assume overall responsibility for Terminal Operations for the specific shift/group assigned.
- Execute Vessel, Yard and Gate operation plans and achieve expected results.
- Constantly monitor Quayside, Yard, Gate operations to ensure processes are carried out as planned.
- Communicate verbally and in writing, regularly and promptly with relevant stakeholders and make dynamic decisions in order to minimize disruptions during service delivery.
- Coordinate with all relevant functions, customers and external stakeholders and ensure berthing and sailing activities are executed efficiently as planned meeting service level commitments.
- Lead, Allocate and Supervise a team of staff for Vessel, Yard and Gate operations and ensure achieving the expected service levels in a consistent manner.
- Continuously collaborate, Coach and Counsel members of the team in order to build and maintain a high-performance culture and ensure the wellbeing of all team members.
- Manage and Appraise staff performance.
- Track operational performance regularly, analyze data and determine opportunities for continuous improvement.
- Manage emergency situations as per the Company Emergency Response plan and carry out comprehensive damage assessments, accident/incident investigations and produce accurate reports in coordination with relevant external agencies such as insurance, regulators, fire brigade, police and others.
- Ensure full compliance with company Health, Safety, Security and Environment policies.

Candidates Profile:-

- Have a minimum of 10 years of experience as a Manager or a Senior Executive in a Container Port Terminal or any recognized Shipping, Transport and Logistics or Manufacturing organization.
- Be good at managing people and driving performance.
- Be an excellent communicator with a high proficiency in the English and Sinhala languages (written and spoken).
- Be able to work on a Roster/Shift basis (12 hours Roster covering Day/Night shifts including Holidays/Weekends assigned in advance).

Preference will be given to candidates with a degree in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics or relevant professional qualifications or industry/technical qualifications obtained from recognized universities or institutions.

An attractive and competitive remuneration package awaits the selected candidate. Please email your comprehensive CV with details of five non-related referees, within 10 days of this advertisement, addressed to General Manager - HR through ceo@sagt.com.lk

SAGT
 PORT OF COLOMBO SRI LANKA

IGNITE THE FIRE WITHIN YOU

PEOPLES BANK SPARK

People's Spark is an Entrepreneurship Development Programme including a collateral-free loan scheme for Young Graduates and Young Persons who have acquired National Vocational Qualifications NVQ Level-5 equivalent or above

- 3 month internship programme in successfully developed businesses
- Mentorship under industry leaders
- Up to Rs. 2.5 million collateral-free loan

The applicant should be

- A citizen of Sri Lanka.
- Age between 18-35 Years
- A graduate from a university accepted by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka or a person who has successfully completed vocational training, NVQ level-5, equivalent or above
- Not a defaulter of People's Bank or any financial institution
- Willing to undertake internship and training programmes arranged by the Bank on a need basis from time to time
- Should have a passion to venture into a business

Eligible Sectors

- Agriculture (farming, livestock, fisheries, agro produce collectors and intermediaries, small rice millers)
- Manufacturing Industries
- Food and Beverages
- Innovation and technology-based businesses.
- Essential Services (Health, Education, Logistics, Communication)
- Tourism

The applications can be submitted online via www.peoplesbank.lk/peoples-spark or call: 011 2 481 356 for more details

*Conditions apply

AA+ (Ika) Fitch Rating, AAA- Brand Finance Rating
 Peoples Bank is a licensed commercial bank supervised by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

PEOPLES BANK
 The Bank of the People



SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

VACANCY

POST OF REGISTRAR

Applications are called from suitably qualified persons for the Post of Registrar in the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka up to **24.03.2021**.

The Registrar is a full time Officer of the University, Ex-officio Secretary of the Council and the Senate and the Assistant Accounting Officer of the University. He/She shall be the custodian of the property of the University and, subject to the direction and the control of the Vice Chancellor, be responsible for the general administration of the University.

The University is searching for dynamic individual to join the top management of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka and charter the future direction of a leading national institution and contribute to the socio-economic development of the country through improvement of quality and relevance of higher education.

Reference will be given to applicants possessing experience in modern management practices, proven leadership skills, creative and innovative approaches to problem solving competency in English and excellent interpersonal and communication skills. Academics with Management / Administrative experience may also apply.

Qualifications :

(a) Should possess a Degree with First or Second Class and a Postgraduate Degree at the level of Ph.D in Administration or Management from a recognized University / HEI with not less than ten (10) years of administrative experience after obtaining the first Degree.

OR

(b) Should possess a Degree with First or Second Class and a Postgraduate Degree of not less than two (02) years duration at Masters' level in Administration or Management from a recognized University / HEI with not less than twelve (12) years of administrative experience after obtaining the first Degree.

OR

(c) A holder of the post of Deputy Secretary / Deputy Registrar of the Commission/a Higher Educational Institution / Institute who has completed three (03) years of satisfactory service in that post with a Degree and a Masters' Degree in Administration or Management of not less than one (01) year's duration from a recognized University/HEI with not less than fourteen (14) years of administrative experience after obtaining the first Degree. At least five (05) years of such experience should be at the level of Deputy Secretary / Deputy Registrar and/or Senior Assistant Secretary / Senior Assistant Registrar in the U-EX 2(II) grade of the Commission/a Higher Educational Institution / Institute.

OR

(d) A holder of the post of Deputy Secretary / Deputy Registrar of the Commission/a Higher Educational Institution / Institute who has completed three (03) years of satisfactory service in that post with a Degree and a Postgraduate Diploma of not less than one year's duration in Administration or Management from a recognized University/HEI with not less than fifteen (15) years of administrative experience after obtaining the first Degree. At least five (05) years of such experience should be at the level of Deputy Secretary / Deputy Registrar and/or Senior Assistant Secretary / Senior Assistant Registrar in the U-EX 2(II) grade of the Commission/a Higher Educational Institution / Institute.

OR

(e) An Attorney-at-Law with a Degree from a recognized University / HEI who has completed three (03) years of satisfactory service in the post of Deputy Secretary / Deputy Registrar of the Commission/a Higher Educational Institution / Institute with fifteen (15) years of administrative experience after obtaining the first Degree. At least five (05) years of such experience should be at the level of a Deputy Secretary / Deputy Registrar and/or Senior Assistant Secretary / Senior Assistant Registrar in the U-EX 2(II) grade of the Commission/a Higher Educational Institution / Institute.

OR

(f) A holder of the post of Deputy Secretary / Deputy Registrar who is a Graduate from a recognized University / HEI with eighteen (18) years of administrative experience of the Commission / a Higher Educational Institution / Institute out of which at least three (03) years should be in the post of Deputy Secretary / Deputy Registrar and confirmed in that post.

Notes :

- "Administrative Experience" means, experience gained in a post in Sri Lanka Administrative Service or in a comparable post in a State or in a Private Sector Organization in Human Resource Management or General Administration or Overall Management after obtaining the first Degree from a recognized University / HEI. Experience gained in specialized fields such as Finance / Engineering or other Technical fields are not considered for this purpose.
- Employees of Government Departments, Corporations and Statutory Bodies with the requisite qualifications who wish to serve on secondment / release are also eligible to apply.

Salary Scale :

Rs. 104,000 - 3x2,170 ; 11x2,700 - 140,210 p.m. (U-EX 3 (I) - 2016).

In addition to the abovementioned salary, the Cost of Living Allowance and other allowances approved by the Government would also be paid.

Age : Not more than 45 years.

- Age limit does not apply to the employees in the service of the Government Departments, statutory boards and state corporations.

Other benefits :

- The holder of the Post of Registrar will be eligible for sabbatical leave of one year duration with pay or two years duration without pay, after completion of seven years of service. Those proceeding abroad on such leave shall be entitled to receive full passage for himself/herself as well as for spouse.
- Residential facilities will be provided in a University Bungalow located at the University premises at a nominal rent.
- Appointee to the Registrar, will be provided with an assigned vehicle and monthly fuel allowance in accordance with the current regulations.
- A residential telephone and internet facilities will be provided, and bills of same will be paid by the University subject to a ceiling and other conditions as per current regulations.
- Further training where appropriate will be supported by the University.
- Opportunity to live and work in an intellectually stimulating environment set in idyllic surroundings.

General Information :

1) Method of Recruitment :

Selection by structural interview.

2) The employees of the Government Departments / Corporations should forward their applications through the Heads of respective Departments / Corporations along with a certified statement of the present salary particulars. They may send an advanced copy of an application to the University directly. The applications which are not received through the proper channel on or before the closing date will not be considered.

3) The selected candidates will become contributors to the Universities Provident Fund and the Universities Pension Scheme. The appointee is required to contribute 10% of the salary to the Provident Fund while the employer will contribute a sum equivalent to 18% of the salary of which 8% is credited to the Pension Scheme, 7% to the Provident Fund and 3% to the Employee Trust Fund.

"The employees who will not be able to serve twenty years or more in the University System from the date of appointment to the compulsory age of retirement (Academic - 65 years, Non-Academic - 60 years) will not be contributed to the Universities Pension Fund and such employee will not be a member of the Universities Pension Fund".

4) Application Form, Scheme of Recruitment and other relevant information could be obtained from the Assistant Registrar (Vice Chancellor's Office), Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, P.O. Box 02, Belihuloya either by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope 23x10 cm in size or personally calling over at the Office of the Vice Chancellor of the abovementioned, with a letter of request up to 15.03.2021. The application form could also be downloaded from the University Website : www.sab.ac.lk

5) The duly perfected application together with detailed Curriculum Vitae and certified copies of the relevant certificates of educational and experience should be forwarded in a confidential cover by the Registered Post, indicating the name of the post on the top left-hand corner of the envelope to reach the Vice Chancellor, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, P.O. Box 02, Belihuloya, on or before 24.03.2021.

Please be informed that as per the decision taken by the Council at its special meeting, our earlier advertisement dated 05.07.2020 calling applications for the above post and steps taken thereafter on the matter have been nullified and process on the appointment of the post of Registrar begins afresh based on the said decision. Kindly note, applicants who have applied earlier are required to re-apply as per this advertisement if they wish to re-apply for the above post.

Incomplete or late applications will be rejected.

Vice Chancellor
Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka
P.O. Box 02,
Belihuloya.

Our client, a specialized Bank listed under Securities & Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka with an island wide branch network is seeking the services of an individual with relevant exposure to the Banking & Finance industry to take up duties as

CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR

Key Responsibilities

- Evaluate historical transactions, analyzing trends and giving suggestions to improve the efficiency of processes to minimize transaction costs of the Bank.
- Establishing and maintaining systems and controls in order to ensure policy and operational decisions are correctly implemented.
- Ensuring the establishment of effective and efficient information systems based audits covering all aspects of organizational systems.
- Supervise regular audit in the bank operations as per the annual / monthly audit plan within the audit scope.
- Reviewing the internal controls and systems established to ensure compliance with policies, procedures, approved budget, key Management decisions, internal circulars and all other regulatory requirements and produce reports.
- Developing internal audit control systems to prevent frauds and misappropriation of funds.
- Establishing and maintaining accounting and auditing standards in bank operations.
- Ascertaining the reliability of accounting and other data developed within the Bank.
- Reviewing and appraising sound and adequacy of accounting applications, financial and operational controls.

Eligibility criteria

- Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
- Full professional membership of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka or Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and
- A degree from a recognized university, in the fields of Commerce, Management, Mathematics or full professional qualification in Banking.
- A postgraduate qualification in a related field would be considered as an added qualification.

Experience

- Minimum 10 years' Managerial experience in a reputed Bank or Financial institution of which at least 5 years should be at senior managerial level in internal audit function.
- IT based auditing experience will be an added advantage.

Terms & conditions relating to the position

This position will be subjected to a probationary period of one year and confirmation in the post will be based on the satisfactory performance. Short-listed applicants based on the stipulated qualifications and experience will be called for an interview

An attractive remuneration package awaits the right candidate.

Please forward your complete resume in PDF format with contact details of two non-related referees to mslr@slt.net.lk within 10 days of this advertisement quoting **MSL Ref. No. 7583** in the subject line of your e-mail.

MSL Management
Systems (Pvt) Ltd.

No: 08 Tickell Road, Colombo 08.
mslr@slt.net.lk
www.bposrilanka.com



INSTITUTE OF BIOCHEMISTRY, MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

POST OF DIRECTOR

Applications/Nominations are invited from suitably qualified persons for the Post of Director, Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IBMBB), University of Colombo. Applicants/Nominees must be Citizens of Sri Lanka and shall be less than 63 years of age at the time of closing of applications.

The IBMBB-University of Colombo with a vision to "Initiate, promote and facilitate advance research and human resource development in Molecular Life Sciences to achieve National and International Development" is involved in training of students and Research & Development with the Industry.

The Director shall be the Principal Executive Officer, the Principal Academic Officer, and the Accounting Officer of the Institute. The Post of Director is a Full-Time post and will be responsible for providing academic leadership, formulating instructions, implementing streamlined management policies and executing the decisions of the Board of Management. The Director will be responsible for the administration of the Institute, by adhering to the principles of transparency, accountability and good governance.

The applicant/ nominee is expected to be a person of high academic caliber and integrity with a record of outstanding achievements with excellent communication skills, possessing a Doctorate or equivalent academic qualification with research in the fields of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Genetics, Biotechnology, Immunology, Microbiology, Agro technology or a related field. Also, the applicant must have proven leadership qualities and interpersonal skills to foster relationships with the University - Industry Research programs together with ICT based technology compatibility of modern management systems.

Term of Office: Three (03) years from the date of appointment or until she/he completes sixty-five (65) years of age, whichever occurs earlier. Preference will be given to the candidates who will be able to serve in the Post of Director at least one full term.

Remuneration and Other Benefits: The Director will receive the salary of a Professor and other allowances applicable to the post. The Director is entitled for Official Transport. If a Senior Professor is appointed to the Post of Director, he/she will continue to receive the salary and other allowances applicable to the post of Senior Professor together with the allowances applicable to the Post of the Director.

Following documents should accompany a self-prepared Application/ Nomination form

- A complete Curriculum Vitae
- A statement of their vision for the development of the institute
- A brief account of their plan and strategy for the development of IBMBB (not exceeding 500 words)
- A letter of consent from the nominee, in case of a nominee

Applicants/Nominees from higher educational and government institutions are required to forward their applications/ nominations through the respective Heads of Institutions.

All applications/ nominations should reach the Senior Assistant Registrar, Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, University of Colombo, No.90, Cumaratunga Munidasa Mawatha, Colombo 03, under registered post on or before 20th March 2021. The envelopes containing Applications/ Nominations must be marked "Post of Director" on the top left corner.

Note: The selection procedure will be conducted as per the provisions of the UGC Commission Circular No. 7/2020 dated 11.09.2020. The circular can be downloaded from www.ugc.ac.lk

Senior Assistant Registrar,
Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology,
University of Colombo,
No.90, Cumaratunga Munidasa Mawatha,
Colombo 03.

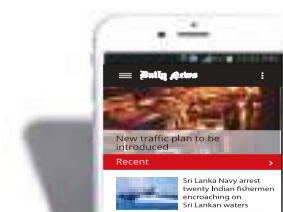
21.02.2021

BE BETTER INFORMED!

News you can trust now free on your mobile phone.



AVAILABLE AT



Visit - apps.lakehouse.lk

DOWNLOAD TODAY!

LAKE HOUSE



Explore the World of LOLC with a Global Mindset

**OPPORTUNITIES IN THE BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR
- AFRICAN REGION -**

We are one of the largest Conglomerates in the country to have conquered multiple sectors in the Sri Lankan business arena and are looking forward to expanding our presence across the globe with a unique Sri Lankan identity.

In our quest to become a true multinational in Sri Lanka, we need enthusiastic, dedicated and hardworking individuals to be part of our fun and energetic team and willing to take up foreign assignments in the following disciplines whilst residing in those countries for a few years initially. Vacancies exist in a number of countries in the African Region.



COUNTRY HEADS

- Overall administration of the Company operation in terms of development of business strategies, Administration and performance management
- Employee will be responsible for implementing the business plan in order to meet the KPI's set by the management.
- Responsible for recruitments and expansions
- Conducting research on the assigned country/ region thoroughly and adapting strategies in order to achieve company growth plans and expansions
- Monitoring performance at all levels and ensuring that optimal contribution is made by all stake holders
- Implementing an effective brand strategy and maintaining a solid image of the organization in the country/region
- Building a strong rapport with all internal and external parties of the organization to have their support
- Actively engage in dealing with funding partners, local banks, regulators and other government institutions to support the smooth operation of the business

FINANCE MANAGERS/EXECUTIVES

- Being responsible for the overall finance functions of the company.
- Maintain financial records in compliance with accounting standards, statutory and legal requirements.
- Preparation of budgets and strictly monitor performance and report back to parent company periodically.
- Handle all the treasury functions and coordinate with the funding partners/bankers for smooth operation of treasury activities.
- Liaise with external auditors and provide the information required to facilitate the audit process.
- Develop policies, procedures pertaining to internal controls as required by the parent company.
- Work along with senior managerial team to establish monitor activities to ensure compliance at every level.
- Gather, analyse and interpret numerical information and reporting to the Board and Parent Company within stipulated time frame.
- Liaise with other departments to implement financial management process.

MARKETING MANAGERS/EXECUTIVES

- Ensure All KPI's set by the management in terms of lending, deposit mobilization, collections and cross selling are met efficiently and effectively.
- Manage, Enhance the quality & growth of the client portfolio in the region.
- Evaluate credit effectively and prepare credit appraisal reports accurately.
- Carry out periodic promotional campaigns to further the brand awareness in the region.
- In the event a team is assigned ensure that the team objectives are met with high level of efficiency.
- Establish and manage a budget for marketing programs.
- Identify new and innovative business developments along with potential market segments to carry out business.
- Being responsible for the development and implementation of marketing strategies to promote and expand the business.
- Execute all delegated authorities with high level of responsibility and accountability.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGERS/EXECUTIVES

- Liaise with business units and IT teams to ensure the system/infrastructure requirements are delivered on time with the required quality.
- Be responsible for all ICT project management liaising with vendors to implement the required IT infrastructure in the respective country.
- Implement ICT policies and procedures on disaster recovery, ICT security, compliance with local regulatory authorities.
- Be responsible for first level of support for troubleshooting hardware, software and network operating system issues.
- Be responsible for IT asset management, licensing compliance, system administration and maintenance.
- Manage the IT team in the respective country of operation and train them.
- Present and report the status of the IT operation to the management team and group IT on a periodic basis.
- Evaluate and recommend ICT systems and technologies that support the business strategies of the company.

BUSINESS OPERATIONS MANAGERS/EXECUTIVES

- Monitor / Overlook customer satisfaction.
- Verify documents and system data.
- Quality check standard of all files.
- Introduction process to Monitor Operations staff performance on a daily basis with SLA.
- Introduction process for File Tracking for monitoring the movement of files.
- Analyse and develop the system in line with the Business Operations.
- Set up a process for the management of customer complaints.
- Prepare the Operational Manual for all products.
- Prepare documents for new products to be launched.
- Monitor the services for internal and external customers.
- Conduct trainings on new product improvement.
- Identify the suitable / experienced personnel to work at the proposed branches.
- Prepare work flow process prior to commencing the branches for a smooth operation.
- Arrange training for new staff and monitor.
- Visit branches and observe all processes aligned with the Head Office processes.

OUR REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor's degree, MBA or other educational qualifications in relevant field from a recognized university.
- 5 years' experience preferably in a Financial Institute or Commercial Bank with exposure to above described duties and responsibilities.
- Knowledge and experience in financial domain especially in a lending and banking environment.
- Excellent communication skills in English and documentation skills including ability to use Microsoft Office.
- Dynamic personality to convince ideas perceived and the ability to negotiate with stakeholders.
- Good understanding of SME Finance / Micro Finance business model.
- Willingness to commit a minimum of 3 years in the selected country and lead a local team of experts.

IN RETURN WE WILL OFFER YOU

Selected candidates will be given an attractive package, a handsome bonus based on company performance, return air tickets, accommodation, local transportation, living expenses, utility payments and excellent career growth to lead the business operations in the selected countries.



Please forward a detailed CV with two non-related referees to careers@lolc.com on or before 1st March 2021
*Indicate your interested country and the position on the subject line of the email



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

VACANCIES

Applications will be received by me up to 12.03.2021 from suitably qualified persons for the following Posts. Applications should be made in the prescribed form obtainable from the Open University.

Posts

Post	Medium	Basic Qualifications	Preferable field	Department/ Centre
Senior Lecturer Gr.I/II / Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/ Lecturer (Probationary) in Mechanical Engineering	English	Honours Degree in Engineering from a recognized University.	Mechanical/Mechatronics (specialized in Power Electronic and Motor Drives, Signal Processing, Modern Control Systems or Artificial Intelligence).	Mechanical Engineering
Senior Lecturer Gr.I/II / Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/ Lecturer (Probationary) in Basic Sciences	English	Special / Honours Degree in Human Biology / MBBS Degree	Human Anatomy/ Human Physiology	Basic Sciences
Senior Lecturer Gr.I/II / Lecturer (unconfirmed)/ Lecturer (Probationary) in Health Education and Research	English	BSc Special/ Honours Degree in Health Education field or MBBS Degree	Health Education/Medical Education	Health Education and Research
Senior Lecturer Gr.I/II / Lecturer (unconfirmed)/ Lecturer (Probationary) in Medical Laboratory Sciences	English	Special Degree in Medical Laboratory Sciences	Hematology	Medical Laboratory Sciences
Senior Lecturer Gr.I/II / Lecturer (unconfirmed) / Lecturer (Probationary) in Nursing	English	Special Degree in Nursing	Nursing Information Psychiatry and Mental Health Nursing Management and Leadership in Nursing Oncology Nursing	Nursing
Senior Lecturer Gr.I/II / Lecturer (unconfirmed)/ Lecturer (Probationary) in Pharmacy	English	Special/Honours Degree in Pharmacy or other relevant qualifications	Pharmaceutical Technology Pharmacology Therapeutics Pathophysiology	Pharmacy
Temporary Lecturer in Special Needs Education	Sinhala and English	Special degree in Special Needs Education or other relevant qualifications	Special Needs Education	Special Needs Education

* Note : Those who applied for our advertisement published on 22.09.2020 need not reapply for the same post.

SALARY SCALES :

Senior Lecturer Gr.I	U-AC3(I)	- Rs.91,310-7x2170-106,500/-p.m.
Senior Lecturer Gr.II	U-AC3(II)	- Rs.79,360-11x1630-97,290/-p.m.
Lecturer (unconfirmed)	U-AC3(III)	- Rs.69,580-5x1630-77,730/-p.m.
Lecturer (Probationary)	U-AC3(IV)	- Rs.54,600-10x1335-67,950/-p.m.
Temporary Lecturer	U-AC 2	- Rs.49,860-p.m. (fixed)+ Cost of Living Allowance

Note

In addition to the above salary,

- The following allowances will be paid for permanent appointees in the percentage of the basic salary.
 - Academic allowance
 - Senior Lecturer Gr.I/II - 151%
 - Lecturer (Unconfirmed) - 131%
 - Lecturer (Probationary) - 115%
 - Additional monthly allowance – 20% of the basic salary
 - Research allowance – 35% (based on the research activity)
- Cost of living allowance of Rs. 7800/-

QUALIFICATIONS - Please refer OUSL Web site for more details. (www.ou.ac.lk)

SABBATICAL LEAVE :

The holders of Post of Senior Lecturer Gr.I/II are eligible for one year sabbatical leave with pay or two years without pay on completion of seven years of service. Those proceeding abroad on sabbatical leave are eligible to receive full passage for self and spouse.

HOW TO APPLY :

Application forms can be obtained from Senior Assistant Registrar/Establishments, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda either by sending a self addressed stamped envelope 23X10 cm size to reach the University on or before 05.03.2021 or calling over at the Office of the Senior Assistant Registrar/Establishments. Application form (Academic) may also be downloaded from the University Web Site (<http://www.ou.ac.lk.vacancies>)

Applicants from Higher Educational Institutions, Government Departments and Government Corporations should apply through the Head of the Institution/Department/Corporation. Applications which do not conform to the requirements, applications received after the closing date and incomplete applications will be rejected. Please attach certified copies of birth certificate, relevant certificates of confirmed results to prove qualifications, professional qualifications and experience.

Duly filled applications should be sent under registered cover to reach the Senior Assistant Registrar / Establishments (Academic), The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda on or before 12.03.2021. The post applied for should be indicated on the top left hand corner of the envelope. The University reserves the right to shortlist the candidates.

Registrar
The Open University of Sri Lanka,
Nawala, Nugegoda
21.02.2021.

University Web site : www.ou.ac.lk



UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENCE UNIVERSITY

VACANCIES

NURSING ASSISTANT (ON HOURLY PAYMENT BASIS)

Vacancies

- Nursing Assistant

Qualifications

- Details can be obtained from the web site www.kdu.ac.lk

Salary:

- Rs. 250.00 per hour will be paid for the post of Nursing Assistant.

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

- Duly completed applications with certified copies of relevant certificates shall be submitted under registered cover to reach "Executive Director, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Hospital, Werahera" on or before 03.03.2021. The post applied for shall be indicated on the top left hand corner of the envelope.
- General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Hospital reserves the right to shortlist prospective applicants.
- Incomplete, late and applications which do not comply with the prescribed format will be rejected.
- Applications and other relevant details could be downloaded from the KDU web site.

www.kdu.ac.lk

MINISTRY OF PLANTATION



SRI LANKA TEA BOARD VACANCY

Sri Lanka Tea Board, the Apex Body of the Tea Industry in Sri Lanka is looking for dynamic and result oriented individuals who possess the following qualifications to be recruited for the post of Administrative Officer.

The Post of Administrative Officer Grade II - JM (1-1)

Job Description :

All administrative and human resources / personnel activities, specially delegated in a manner supplementary to and facilitating the discharging of duties by an Authorized Officer of the Board.

Qualifications & Experience :

- External (a).** A Degree preferably in Business/Public Administration or Human Resources Management or Commerce or Economics or Law from a University recognized by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka
AND
At least One (01) year post qualifying experience in the relevant field in a public or reputed private sector organization.
- Internal (a).** A minimum of Five (05) years satisfactory service in the capacity of Management Assistants - Grade I - Non Tech Category of Sri Lanka Tea Board with G.C.E. (A/L) Examination in three subjects in one sitting.

Note : Computer literacy and English Knowledge are essential.

Salary Scale : JM 1-1 -02/2006 : Rs. 42,600 - 10xRs.755 - 18 x Rs. 1135 - Rs.70,580

The applicable initial salary step is Rs. 42,600/= p.m. In addition, cost of living allowance of Rs. 7800/= p.m. as per the Department of Management Services Circular No. 02/2016 will also be paid.

Age :

Should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years. Upper age limit will not apply to Internal Candidates.

Selection : by a Structured Interview.

BENEFITS :

- Medical benefits according to the prevailing rules of the Board.
- Provident Fund: the selected candidates will be required to contribute 10% of his/her salary to the Employees' Provident Fund. The Board will contribute 15%.
- The Board will contribute a further 3% of the Employee's salary to the Employees' Trust Fund.

GENERAL CONDITIONS :

- Every applicant should be a Sri Lankan citizen.
- Every applicant should be physically and mentally fit to discharge the duties of the post well and to serve in any part of the island.
- Every applicant should have an excellent character.
- The selected external candidates will be appointed on probation for a period of three (03) years from the date of assumption of duties. Internal candidates who are already confirmed will be subjected to an trial period of one year.
- Persons recruited externally will be placed on the initial salary step of the applicable salary scale and internally appointed persons will be placed in salary scale in terms of the provisions of Clause 4 of the Chapter VII of the Establishment Code.

APPLICATIONS :

Applications should be made on prescribed forms obtainable from this office or downloaded from our website <http://www.srilankateaboard.lk> and sent together with a copy of Birth certificate, copies of educational and professional qualifications and experience under registered cover indicating the post applied for on the top left-hand corner of the envelope to reach the undermentioned address on or before **10th March 2021**.

Applicants presently employed in Govt. Departments / State Corporations / Statutory Boards should send their applications through the Heads of the respective Departments / Institutions. Non conformity with this requirement may cause the rejection of such applications.

**DIRECTOR GENERAL
SRI LANKA TEA BOARD
574, GALLE ROAD,
COLOMBO 03.**

it's what you want

www.adz.lk

Hotline: 0112 429 369 | Email: adzsu@gmail.com

PLACE YOUR AD ON **ADZ MAGAZINE & GET FREE AD** ON WEBSITE

Vacancies for a farm project @ Kotugoda.

R & D Executive
Male applicant with food related graduation and a minimum of 3 years' experience

Supervisor
Male supervisors with suitable qualifications.
kgunawardena18@gmail.com

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION SITE VACANCIES IN COLOMBO.

Technical Officer (2 Nos.) - NCT (Civil) plus 10 years experience in buildings or equivalent.
Interviews from 8.30 to 12.00
Call 0701919199 for an appointment

CONSULTANT PROJECT ENGINEER REQUIRED

Looking for an Engineer with BSc. with minimum 3 years or NDT / HNDE / NDES with over 5 year experience required. Technical knowledge & understanding of QA/QC is essential. Experience in construction of multi storey building with basement works, post tension slabs are added advantage.
Attractive financial package offered.
Pls. Email CV to arshadazmi@eol.lk

IMMEDIATE VACANCY

A well established **Shipping Company** and their associate companies with well reputed dealers in Sri Lanka seeks to fill the Following categories for immediate hire

- Showroom Manager - Hardware & Tools
- Showroom Manager - Tiles & Bathware
- Cashiers Cum Clerk
- Sales Assistant

- Account Executives
- Account Assistant/Clerks
- Drivers
- Helpers

- Marketing Executives (Showroom Sales)
- Marketing Executives (Whole Sale)
- Shipping Executives - Imports
- Shipping Executives - Exports

The ideal person whom we are looking for should have relevant qualifications, two years working experience with a good team player

Trainees are also considered



US GROUP OF COMPANIES
COLOMBO 14.

E-mail: hr@usscs.net

Salary Negotiable
Apply
Male & Female



VACANCY

PROJECT MANAGER, GIANT FRESH WATER PRAWNS

Market Development Facility (MDF) is an Australian Government funded multi-country initiative which promotes sustainable economic development, through higher incomes for women and men, in our partner countries. MDF connects individuals, businesses, governments and NGOs with each other, and with markets at home and abroad. This enhances investment and coordination and allows partnerships to flourish, strengthening inclusive economic growth.

MDF is funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). It is implemented by Palladium in partnership with Swisscontact. In Sri Lanka, MDF's focus is on promoting resilient tourism and supporting authentic Sri Lankan products which promote the country.

Background

MDF identifies Giant Freshwater Prawns (GFWP) as a niche product with high export potential for Sri Lanka. The abundance of freshwater reservoirs in Sri Lanka gives the country a potential competitive advantage, where the prawns naturally grow twice the size of the global average. Despite the opportunity available, Sri Lanka's GFWP market is currently underperforming. MDF is seeking a Project Manager to work on a series of activities on improving the productivity of GFWP. The Project Manager will work with communities and organisations to conduct research and provide guidance on GFWP best practices.

Responsibilities:

- Manage the implementation of MDF activities in the GFWP sector.
- Oversee the activities of organisations contracted by MDF; monitor and manage sub-contractors, NAQDA and stakeholders working with MDF.
- Frequently monitor field work and record progress, identify gaps and sector needs.

Required qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in Aquaculture (or related field) / Diploma in Aquaculture and at least five years of experience as a project manager / field officer.
- Work experience in the GFWP sector and a good understanding of community engagement.
- Competency in English and at least one local language - Sinhala or Tamil. Fluency in both would be an added advantage.
- Willingness to travel extensively within Sri Lanka.
- Previous experience in conducting fieldwork, research and data collection.

Interested candidates can view the full Terms of Reference and apply via the Palladium Website or the following link under current vacancies (select SL):
<https://marketdevelopmentfacility.org/opportunities/#opportunities>

The position is open to Sri Lankan nationals and permanent residents with authority to live and work in Sri Lanka. The chosen candidate will be required to provide a police clearance certificate. Rates of pay are based on local labour standards. **Applications close on Sunday, 7 March 2021.**

MDF is committed to creating a creative and diverse workforce. In addition to competitive pay and benefits, we offer internal and external learning and professional development opportunities.

Funded by the Australian Government, managed by Palladium
www.thepalladiumgroup.com



MANAGER / ASSISTANT MANAGER MAINTENANCE

David Pieris Holdings (Private) Limited, is the holding company of the David Pieris Group, one of the largest conglomerates in Sri Lanka. The Group has diversified interests in automotive products, financial services, logistics, agribusiness, information technology, racing and leisure.

We are looking for an individual who has the experience and expertise in Maintenance activities.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Implement effective preventive and corrective maintenance of commercial and industrial premises including plant & machinery.
- Introduce solutions based on rational analysis of requirements adopting appropriate technology and best practices.
- Plan and implement budgets with set goals ensuring transparency.
- Develop optimal strategies, processes and procedures.
- Train and develop subordinates and manage technical teams with strong leadership.

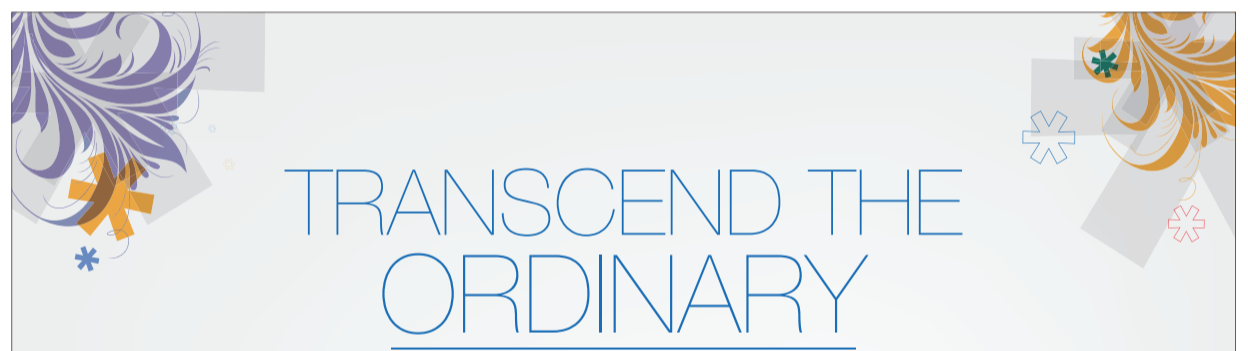
REQUIREMENTS

- A Degree in Civil Engineering / Electrical Engineering / Mechanical Engineering or equivalent qualification from a recognized institution.
- 6 - 8 years' experience with minimum of 3 years in a managerial position in the field of maintenance.
- Advanced knowledge in maintenance of buildings, subsystems and plant and machinery.
- Strong analytical and troubleshooting skills.
- Knowledge and hands on experience in industry standards including ISO 9001 and 14000.
- Good communication and training skills.

If you feel that you measure up to our expectations, apply in confidence by email or post, within ten (10) days of this advertisement, providing contact details of two non-related referees and indicating the position applied for, in the subject line or top left corner of the envelope.



Divisional Manager – Human Resources,
David Pieris Holdings (Private) Limited
No. 120, 120A, Pannipitiya Road, Battaramulla.
Email: careers@dpmco.com



TRANSCEND THE ORDINARY

Re-write your future across the world's best interiors

The leader in the surfacing industry in Sri Lanka and a pacesetter in the international arena, Royal Ceramics Lanka PLC (Rocell) is now inviting highly driven individuals to expand their mission to the next level. In just two decades we have redefined design paradigms; through an uncompromising passion for perfection, quality and innovation. With two top-of-the-line tile factories and the country's only bathware manufacturing facility - which is one of Asia's leading resources - our success precedes our ambitions at any given time. Already our conquests have accomplished 20 foreign markets, but our aspirations do not rest so simply. We have an intent that will mould the interior design landscape of the world. We want you in that future.

WAREHOUSE MANAGER

Responsibilities

- Ensure that operations at the warehouse are carried out at peak efficiency by supervising, organising, directing, and training warehouse employees as well as establishing, monitoring and managing operation goals. Customer satisfaction must be the primary objective for every task.
- Maintain a safe and healthy work environment by establishing, following and strictly enforcing standards and procedures of the company while complying with legal regulations.
- Supervise daily activities of the warehouse, including quality assurance, inventory control, space management, floor productivity and customer service.
- Schedule and oversee the warehouse team in order to meet the demands of the fulfillment centre and manage the flow and quality of work to maximise efficiency.

Skills and Qualifications

- A relevant Management Degree.
- A minimum of 5 years' experience in a warehouse in a similar capacity.
- Proficiency and sound knowledge of warehouse procedures and policies.
- Excellent problem-solving skills and leadership qualities.
- The ability to work with company staff across all levels.

An attractive remuneration package commensurate with the position applied for is on offer.

Apply within 10 days of this publication, with an updated, complete CV and names and contact details of two non-related referees. All applications forwarded by post must clearly indicate the post applied for on the top left corner of the envelope. Those applying by e-mail must indicate the post applied for in the subject box.

The Head of Human Resources
Royal Ceramics Lanka PLC
No. 20, R. A. De Mel Mawatha, Colombo 03.
Tel: 011 4 799 400 Fax: 011 4 617 997
Email: recruitment@rcl.lk Website: www.rocell.com



**The Housewives' companion
Classifieds on
Daily News**

COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC

With an enduring vision of being the most technologically advanced, innovative and customer friendly, financial organization, we, the most awarded Bank in Sri Lanka, continue to progress steadily while being listed amongst the Top 1000 Banks in the world for the tenth consecutive year. Our unparalleled record of success over the past decade is supported by a network of 268 branches and superior standards in service, stability and performance. We are poised to ascend to even greater heights in the near future.

SYSTEM OPERATOR

We are looking for a highly motivated, enthusiastic and dynamic individual for our Information Technology Department as "System Operator" at the grade of Junior Executive Assistant.

Job Profile / Main Responsibilities :

- Perform daily check list including End of the Day processing.
- Monitoring of ATMs, IT Products/Services, Systems, Communication links and Data Center facilities and resolution of issues.
- First level troubleshooting and escalation and follow-up.
- Obtain periodic and scheduled backups, perform restorations and offsite storage of data.
- Generation and archival of system and MIS reports.
- Maintenance of logs at Data Centers.
- Active involvement in system upgrades, system migrations and periodic switching between primary and DR sites.
- Adhere to Bank and IT policies, procedures and standards.
- Shift work covering 24 x 7 x 365 at primary and DR Data Center sites on roster basis.

Applicant's Profile :

- Diploma or higher qualification in Information Technology from a recognized institution.
- Working experience as a System Operator in a Data Center is preferred.
- Experience in iSeries (AS/400) administration/operation is advantageous.
- Certification in Windows and Linux operating systems is an added advantage.
- Willingness to work long hours where necessary.
- Sound communication, interpersonal skills and organizational skills including attention to details.
- Results oriented team player.

The successful candidate will be provided with an attractive remuneration package, including fringe benefits commensurate with benchmarked financial institutions.

Applications with all relevant information should be submitted to reach the under-mentioned within 10 days of this advertisement with the respective post marked as the subject by e-mail.

Deputy General Manager – HRM
Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC
Email : dgm_hrm@combank.net
Web site : www.combank.lk



All applications will be treated with strict confidence. Canvassing in any form will be an immediate disqualification.

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.

01. Senior Accountant

Job Description :

Responsible for supervision and management of all finance functions of the Tea Research Institute on CF, CESS, and other donor funded projects in consultation with the Director.

External :

Intermediate level qualifications of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (ICASL) **OR** Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) **OR** Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants (ACCA) with a postgraduate degree in a relevant field.

AND

At least fifteen (15) years post qualifying experience in a public or a recognised private sector Organisation.

Note :

Exposure to computerized accounting environment is a distinct advantage.

Internal :

Intermediate level qualifications of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (ICASL) **OR** Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) **OR** Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants (ACCA)

AND

Should have a minimum of five (05) years satisfactory service as an Accountant or Internal Auditor, in Grade I of the Manager Category (MM)

Salary Scale :

HM 1-3 (2016) Rs. 86, 865 - 15x 2,270 - Rs.120,915/- p.m.

Age :

Should not be less than 35 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.
- Free transport will be provided for urgent medical treatment according to the Institute's guidelines.
- 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.
- One domestic labour unit will be provided.
- Other fringe benefits applicable to employees 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, 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 08th March 2021**.

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 web site : www.tri.lk for information.

The Director
Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka
St. Coombs, Talawakelle.



Institute of Indigenous Medicine University of Colombo

VACANCIES

The Institute of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo will entertain applications from suitably qualified Sri Lankan candidates for the following posts up to 20th March 2021.

Lecturer (Probationary)/Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/Senior Lecturer Grade II / Senior Lecturer Grade I

Fields : Ayurveda / Unani / Allied Sciences

(Preference will be given to those who possess MD/Mphil/PhD in the Mouluka Siddhantha Samhita/Shalakyaswasthavritta & Yoga/Agadatantra/Rasashastra & Bhaishajya Kalpana/Shareera Rachana/Shareera Kriya/Dawa Sazi (Saidla)/Ilmul Jarahat/MBSS with PG qualifications in the relevant field)

Salary Scale (as at 01.01.2020) :

- U-AC 3(IV) : Lecturer (Probationary) : Rs. 54,600 - 10x 1,335 - 67,950 p.m.
- U-AC 3(III) : Lecturer (Unconfirmed) : Rs. 69,580 - 5 x 1,630 - 77,730 p.m.
- U-AC 3(II) : Senior Lecturer Grade II : Rs. 79,360 - 11 x 1,630 - 97,290 p.m.
- U-AC 3(I) : Senior Lecturer Grade I : Rs. 91,310-7 x 2,170 - 106,500 p.m .

Other Benefits :

- Senior Lecturer Grade I / Grade II will be entitled for sabbatical leave of one year duration with full pay on completion of seven years of service.
- Gratuity payment at the retirement/end of the service, in accordance with the provisions of the payment of Gratuity Act No. 12 of 1983.
- Contributions by the employer, to the University Provident Fund and the Pensions of the employee in 7% and 8% of the salary by the employee, respectively.
- Employees Trust Fund benefits of 3% of the salary, by the employer.

How to Apply : Further information can be obtained from the Assistant Registrar/ Establishments Branch of the Institute during office hours (Inquiries- 0112687063). Application forms can be downloaded and qualifications required for the Post can be viewed and downloaded through the Institute web site: www.iim.cmb.ac.lk

Duly completed applications should be forwarded by registered post to the **Assistant Registrar/ Establishments, Institute of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo, Rajagiriya** and email (recruit@iim.cmb.ac.lk) soft copy of the applications (PDF & WORD) to reach **on or before 20th March 2021**.

The Post applied for should be stated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. Application without attached copies of certificates, incomplete and late applications will be rejected without intimation.

Employees in Public Service, Corporations and Statutory Boards should forward their applications through the respective Heads of the Departments.

"Note: The Institute reserves the right to shortlist the candidates who are over and above the required basic educational qualifications and/or experience in the event applications are received more than the number of vacant positions."

Director
Institute of Indigenous Medicine
Rajagiriya

16.02.2021

To Buy Your Dream Vehicle within your Budget

If it is a vehicle you want,

**YOU NAME IT,
WE HAVE IT**

Sunday Observer

ADZ Auto Focus



**THE ONLY PLACE TO
BUY YOUR
DREAM CAR!**



Suzuki Ertiga 2013
White, Manual Gears, Alloy
Wheels, Original Fog Lamp,
Crystal Headlight, Central
Locking with Remote Key,
Power Shutters, Power Mirrors,
Reverse Sensors, Original
Carpets, Power Steering,
Second Owner, Home use.
077 7 657 40



- Auto Focus

- Vehicle Rent / Wanted

Sunday Observer

ADZ Magazine Issued with
Sunday Observer

Hot Line - 011 2 429 369/ 011 2 429 368

E-mail - adzso@gmail.com



Suzuki Swift
1.6L, A/C, C/Lock, 4
Spek. Alloy, in very good
condition, C/Lights, rotat-
ing seal, highest offer
1188888

Toyota KB42, JIC
Alloy Wheel, Adit
seats, 3C Engine, Air
ditioned, Full Opti
Door, 0775 xxxxx

- Photo Classifieds

Management Trainee.

(Young Males)

A long established BOI Company exporting to the U.S. is looking to hire Management trainees for production and Quality.

If you a Science graduate, Please apply with your biodata to:-

mona_tissa@eureka.lk

Human Resources Manager,
No.70, Attidiya Road, Ratmalana

RESIDENT MANAGER

King's Court Luxury Apartment Complex

Candidate should be between the ages of 40 and 55 years, in good health and be able to administer and supervise security, housekeeping outsourced operations and the general management of the Residential Complex.

- Fluency in spoken and written English required.
- MS Office proficiency is a must.
- Prior experience in a similar position or considerable administrative experience in a public or private sector organisation.

Please apply within 7 days to:

CHAIRMAN
King's Court Management Corporation,
15, Havelock Road,
Colombo 5.
Email : hr@realty.lk



Scan & Apply



අමත් කමිසි අමත් රසයි

Looking for a

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

REQUIREMENTS,

1. Chartered Qualified
2. Having Experience in Manufacturing sector
3. Hard Working
4. Planning and Forecasting Skills

Send Your Application : lakmee.expor@gmail.com

www.lakmee.lk

TRAINEE MULTY DUTY CLERKS

VACANCY IN AN ONGOING OFFICE IN COLOMBO 08.

Female below 22, passed A/L commerce. Knowledge in computers. Registered with an Accredited Accounting Body. Training period one year.

Email your CV with referees to :

biocosmics@gmail.com

Sales Executive/Coordinator

We are looking for a charismatic, experienced and skilled salesmen preferably with pre-existing network of clients requiring offset packaging of cartons to join as Sales Executive/ Coordinator.

He must be between 20-40 Years of age, holding a valid riding licence,with capability in Communicating in English and Sinhala. Additionally he must be good with Numbers and in keeping records and studios in recovering collections. An attractive package with commissions is on offer to the selected candidate.

Apply with in 07 days

Send Applications to:
The Manager Marketing,
Consolidated Printing (Pvt) Ltd.,
144/B/6, Attidiya Road,Dehiwala,
or mail us to
inquiries@consolprinting.com

CONSOL

Immediate Vacancy

Vacancy

JCK Construction (Pvt) Ltd, Invite Young, dynamic & qualified candidates at construction sites. ICTAD C3 qualified company.

Technical Officer

NCT/NDT/NDES Civil qualifications with at least 2-5 years' experience in construction of multi storied buildings.

We are looking for competent, dynamic personal with excellent knowledge of construction background. Selected candidates will be offered an attractive remuneration package with benefit.

Please E-mail your CV with contact details to us within 7 days and the post applied for should be mentioned on the subject line of your e-mail.

info@jck.lk
Indika@jck.lk
Tele: 038-2288559



Immediate Job Opportunities

LAB ASSISTANT (male)

GCE (A/L) in Science preferably with a Credit pass for Chemistry.

ACCOUNTS & ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT (male/female)

Age between 18 - 25 years with 1 year experience

Please e-mail your applications with two non-related referees to:

GB Coatings (Pvt) Ltd.,
536/A, Thalagama North,
Battaramulla.
E-mail: ks@gbcoating.net

NEGOMBO SOUTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL Piliyandala Branch

- ▶ Education Administratrix
- ▶ Spoken English Instructress
- ▶ Local Secondary
 - Science •History •Computer
 - English Literature •Mathematics (Gr.9/10)
- ▶ London O/L
 - English •Biology • Chemistry
- ▶ Primary • Elocution • Gr 2 class teachers
- ▶ Local A/L • General English

Director,
No.304/10,Wawanawatta,Piliyandala
Tel : 0114382080 / 0773328312
Email: nsispiliyandalahr@gmail.com

DRIVER WANTED

The selected candidate will be expected to work directly for a top management executive of a prestigious conglomerate.

He should fulfil the following criteria.

Minimum requirements:

- Should be below 45 years of age
- Possess a valid driving license
- Should have a pleasant personality and positive attitude.

Send the WhatsApp text "DR" to **071 556 4495** or Send your CV to Sherumal@abansgroup.com

COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC

With an enduring vision of being the most technologically advanced, innovative and customer friendly, financial organization, we, the most awarded Bank in Sri Lanka, continue to progress steadily while being listed amongst the Top 1000 Banks in the world for the tenth consecutive year. Our unparalleled record of success over the past decade is supported by a network of 268 branches and superior standards in service, stability and performance. We are poised to ascend to even greater heights in the near future.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER – INFORMATION SECURITY OPERATIONS

We are looking for a highly motivated, enthusiastic and dynamic individual as "Executive Officer – Information Security Operations".

Job Profile :

The selected candidate will be responsible for,

- Develop / maintain the vulnerability management program of the Bank including devising policies, planning and conducting the system security compliance reviews/ security assessments as mandated by regulations, compliance standards and Bank policies. Critically analyze assessment results and act as an information security consultant for correcting identified gaps.
- Operate a hands-on role involving penetration testing, vulnerability / configuration assessment, etc activities of operating systems, wired and wireless networks, applications including mobile applications, etc.
- Define/ validate system security requirements and baselines necessary to protect systems (OS/ DB), applications, networks, hardware, etc.
- Formulate meaningful security metrics / reports to reflect the true posture of the environment allowing the organization to make educated decisions based on risk. Produce actionable, threat-based, reports on security testing results.
- Support ongoing eligibility for annual recertification of all applicable standards including ISO 27001:2013 and PCI DSS and conformance to regulatory (eg: Baseline Security Standard) and other mandatory requirements imposed by relevant bodies such as SWIFT, etc.
- Evaluating the information security risks and vulnerabilities involved in system changes and launching of new technologies/ products/ business activities and make appropriate recommendations.
- Working with the CISO and relevant stakeholders to build on the existing information security programme and manage security projects that address information security risks and compliance requirements.
- Independently review/ analyze/ investigate the security alerts/ events via sophisticated cyber security / event management tools to identify areas for improvement and provide recommendations and support for incident response/ recovery where necessary.
- Support security operations functions which include but not limited to SIEM, EPP, DLP, and other security implementations and administration as required.
- Research, recommend and provide guidance on mitigating information security vulnerabilities and enhancements for information security related technologies, including developing business cases for security investments.
- Stay abreast on latest information security threats / vulnerabilities, regulations/ legislation, advisories and alerts pertaining to the business and make recommendations to the Management as applicable.

Applicant's Profile :

- Bachelors or Masters Degree in Information Security or Computer Science / Computer Engineering / Information Technology by a university or a degree awarding institute recognized by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka.
- Professional qualifications such as CISSP, GISP, SSCP, CPISI, CEH, CCNA Security, RHCSA, MCSA would be an added advantage.
- Minimum 03-04 years proven work experience in information or system security engineering / technical security assessment and / or related functions / areas. Hands on experience in vulnerability assessments and log correlation technologies are a must.
- Understanding of information security concepts, information security and risk management frameworks, standards and regulations (ISO 27001, ISO 27005, PCI DSS, NIST, BSS, etc).
- Thorough technical knowledge of IT infrastructure components such as commonly used operating systems, databases, application languages / platforms for application development and security technologies such as SIEM, DLP, firewalls, IDS / IPS, end-point security, VPN, etc.
- Strong knowledge of network and application protocols and their associated security implications (TCP / IP, HTTP, TLS, SSH, DNS etc) and web architectures and technologies.
- Exposure on system and network security administration - exposure on various networking products, security products, databases and operating systems.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills including technical report writing. Strong analytical skills are a must.
- Ability to prioritize work and design schedules to meet the desired requirements under pressurizing timescales.
- Ability to work collaboratively with other team members as well as work independently with minimum supervision.

The successful candidate will be provided with an attractive remuneration package, including fringe benefits commensurate with benchmarked financial institutions.

Applications with all relevant information should be submitted to reach the under-mentioned within 10 days of this advertisement with the respective post marked as the subject by e-mail.

Deputy General Manager - HRM
COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC
Email : dgm_hrm@combank.net
Web site : www.combank.lk



All applications will be treated with strict confidence. Canvassing in any form will be an immediate disqualification.

Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Agency (Pvt) Ltd.

Post of Air Ticketing Officer

Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Agency (Pvt) Ltd is fully state-owned organization comes under the purview of Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment seeks to recruit a dynamic, pro-active, suitable qualified and experienced person to fill the post of Air ticketing Officer.

Candidates should have:

A Diploma in Air ticketing
And

A Minimum of 03 years experience is required in the relevant field & to be able to operate Amadeus Global Distribution system.

Nature of Appointment:

- Contract basis with entitlement to Employees provident Fund and Employees Trust Fund.
- Salary: - Negotiable.
- Age should be not less than 22 years and not more than 40 years.

Every Applicant:

- Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
- Should be physically & mentally fit to discharge the duties of the post well.
- Should have executive Knowledge need in the Aviation industry.
- Knowledge of computer & typing skills and fluent in English Language is required.

Please forward your duly filled CV to the address given below within 14 days of the advertisement.



Chairman,
Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Agency (Pvt) Ltd,
No. 12, Narahenpita Road,
Nawala.



Institute of Human Resource Advancement University of Colombo

VACANCY

Post of Instructor in Computer Technology – Gr. II

The Institute of Human Resource Advancement, University of Colombo invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for the above permanent post.

- Applications must be submitted only through online by login to IHRA website www.ihra.cmb.ac.lk.
- Please carefully follow the instructions provided in the information sheet given in the website.

Relevant documents should be scanned and uploaded with the application (All the documents should be uploaded as PDF files)

Hard copy of the submitted application should be forwarded **with the copies of relevant educational (with transcripts), professional and service certificates** under registered post to reach "The Deputy Registrar, Institute of Human Resource Advancement, 275, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07" on or before 15th March, 2021. The post applied for shall be indicated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

Only short listed candidates will be acknowledged.

Applications received after the closing date and incomplete applications will be rejected.

Director
Institute of Human Resource Advancement



We are looking for highly motivated individuals with right attitudes to fill the following vacancies

Air Traffic Safety Electronics Engineering Officer

Job Scope : Air Traffic Safety Electronics Engineering Officer is responsible for corrective and preventive maintenance of Air Traffic Safety Electronics (ATSE) Systems operated for providing Communication, Navigation and Surveillance services to Aircraft and for the maintenance of Aviation Security equipment. The role of the candidate extends towards achieving serviceability targets for these ATSE and associated systems to ensure safety of Aircraft operations and associated services.

Air Traffic Safety Electronics Engineering Officer will receive ab-initio training in ATSE Systems and should have the ability to work under pressure and should be willing to work on roster basis. The successful candidate shall be committed to AASL's core objectives, adheres to Company policies, works well in co-ordination with others and shall be a motivated, self-starter who would be in a position to handle multiple tasks within a fast paced environment

Qualifications : i. The National Diploma in Technology in Telecommunication/ Electronics Engineering field awarded by the University of Moratuwa

OR

ii. The Higher National Diploma in Engineering in Telecommunication/ Electronics Engineering field awarded by the Technical College/ Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education

OR

iii. The National Diploma in Engineering Science in the Telecommunication/ Electronics Engineering field, awarded by the Institute of Engineering Technology

OR

iv. Diploma in Technology in the Telecommunication/ Electronics Engineering field awarded by the Open University of Sri Lanka

OR

v. Technician Certificate, Technician Diploma & Advanced Technician Diploma (Parts I, II & III of Old Syllabus) in Telecommunication / Electronics of City & Guilds of London Institute Examination

AND

vi. A minimum of 3 years post qualifying experience in a reputed organization.

Other Requirements :

- Selected candidates should successfully complete a course of training in Electronics Engineering for a period of one year provided by the Company.
- They should enter into an agreement and also furnish a Bond with sureties undertaking to serve the Company for a period of three years on successful completion of the said training.

Age : Should be less than 35 years on the closing date of applications

Salary : The remuneration package offered for the above post will be attractive. In addition the selectees will receive attractive fringe benefits.

General:

The selected candidates will have to perform duties at any Airport in any part of the Island as and when necessary.

If you are interested and possess the relevant qualifications and experience, please send in your resume prepared according to the specimen applications given in our Website www.airport.lk > **CORPORATE > CAREERS**, with copies of the relevant certificates to the following address on or before **March 05, 2021 only by Registered Post**. Please indicate the post applied for on the Top Left Hand Corner of the Envelope.

Please note that the applications without copies of the relevant certificates and forwarded in other modes and not in accordance with the specimen given on our Website will be rejected.

Please note that only the short listed candidates will be notified.

CHAIRMAN
AIRPORT & AVIATION SERVICES (SRI LANKA) (PRIVATE) LIMITED
BANDARANAIKE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
KATUNAYAKE



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

STATISTICAL OFFICER GRADE II

Applications will be received by me up to 12.03.2021 from suitably qualified persons for the above Post. Applications should be made in the prescribed form obtainable from the Open University.

QUALIFICATIONS

(i) Should possess a Special/General degree with first Class or second Class Upper Division from a recognized University/HEI with Mathematics or Statistics as a subject.

OR

(ii) Should possess a General degree with a postgraduate Diploma in one years' duration in Statistics with at least 30 credits in Mathematics/Statistics.

OR

(ii) Should possess an equivalent qualifications in Statistics.

Note : Preference will be given to candidates with experience in Statistical work.

Method of Recruitment - Selection by an aptitude test and a structured interview.

SALARY SCALE

Statistical Officer Grade II U-EX I(II) - Rs. 50625-3x1125-54000 (EB) 55335;12x1335-71355 p.m.

BENEFITS

All permanent appointees will become contributors to the Universities Provident Fund, contributing 10% of their monthly earnings and the University contributing an amount equivalent to 7%. In addition, they will become contributors to the Employees Trust Fund and the University Pension Scheme under which the University will contribute 3% and 8% of the monthly earnings of the employee respectively.

HOW TO APPLY

Application forms can be obtained from the Senior Assistant Registrar/Establishments, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda either by sending a self addressed stamped envelope 23X10 cm size to reach the University on or before 05.03.2021 or by personally calling over at the Office of the Senior Assistant Registrar/Establishments. Application form (Academic) may also be downloaded from the University Web Site (<http://www.ou.ac.lk>/vacancies.)

Applicants from Higher Educational Institutions, Government Departments and Government Corporations should apply through the Heads of their Institutions. Applications which do not conform to the requirements, applications received after the closing date and incomplete applications will be rejected. Please attach certified copies of birth certificate, relevant certificates of confirmed results to prove qualifications, professional qualifications and experience.

Duly filled applications should be sent under registered cover to reach the Senior Assistant Registrar / Establishments (Academics), The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda on or before 12.03.2021. The Post applied for should be clearly indicated on the top left hand corner of the envelope. The University reserves the right to shortlist the candidates.

Registrar
The Open University of Sri Lanka,
Nawala, Nugegoda.
21.03.2021

University Web Site : www.ou.ac.lk

The Housewives' companion
Classifieds on
Daily News

it's what you want

www.adz.lk

Hotline: 0112 429 369 | Email: adzso@gmail.com

PLACE YOUR AD ON **ADZ MAGAZINE & GET FREE AD ON WEBSITE**

SALES VACANCIES

We are one of the leading (PREMIER) Brand MINERAL WATER, Pet bottle, Fruit drinks and consumer products manufacturing and distributing company. We are Planing (NEW) to expand our Marketing Network

- * SALES MANAGER
- * AREA SALES MANAGER
- * SALES SUPERVISOR

We Request

- + Capability of free Marketing Company sales target achievements
- + Ability to increase sales on innovative ideas

We Provide

Company maintained Car/ Bike, attractive salary, Commissions, Incentives & other benefits to you.

PLEASE APPLY IMMEDIATELY

Managing Director
 Premier Water Marketing (Pvt) Ltd.
 Sirisanda Estate, Puwakpitiya, Avissawella.
 Email -premierbrandfirst@gmail.com

Trainee Supervisor.
BOI Company

We are a BOI company in the Ratmalana area exporting 100% of our products to the U.S.

We wish to hire **TWO TRAINEE SUPERVISORS.** If you have advanced level (Science) qualifications,

please forward your CV to:-
mona_tissa@eureka.lk

Human Resources Manager,
No.70, Attidiya Road, Ratmalana



VACANCY FOR CURATOR @ PSARA OVAL.
 (Tamil Union Cricket & Athletic Club.)

Country's oldest test venue has an amazing opportunity for a candidate looking to pursue a career in managing cricket grounds. As the curator you will head the ground staff and be responsible for preparing and maintaining all match and practice wickets and the outfield to international standards during pre and post cricket season.

The ideal candidate should have experience in a similar role with knowledge in preparation of wickets and playing surfaces. Educational qualifications in this area would be an advantage.

The terms and conditions are negotiable and those aspiring for the job could look forward to a stable career at the club.

Please forward your CV within 7 days of this advertisement to
gm@tamilunioncac.com
 or address to the
General Manager, Tamil union C&AC, 301, Leslie Ranagala Mawatha , Colombo-08.

Vacancy for Project Manager
 for Road in Vauniya area. BSc. or equivalent 3 years experience.
 Send CV **bimalsha92@gmail.com**
 Tel. 0741956390

Vacancy for a Lawyer
 A Law Firm in Gampaha seeks **Junior Lawyers** for Civil and Criminal Cases. No experience required.
Contact : 0718562370

Wanted Jewellery Salesman
 Good remuneration with accommodation.
Contact by Email
jewelstar@lakgems.net
0112440050

VACANCIES
3D Designer - (With 2D Knowledge)
Site Supervisor
 Male/Female
 Age 23 -35 Years
 Two Years Experience
MN HOMES DEVELOPER PVT LTD
 No. 507/4, Nawala Road, Rajagiriya.
 0773200615, 0114343880
 mn.homes@gmail.com

AutoCAD Draughtsman
 Candidates should possess Certificate of Draughtsmanship or Diploma from a recognized technical institute or equivalent qualification and minimum of 02 years experience in Mechanical / Civil draughting.
 Salary and other perks are negotiable.
 Apply within 07 days.
 Manager - Administration,
 Civimech (Private) Limited
 118, Dutugemunu Street, Kohuwala.
 E-mail : **jobs@civimech.com**

TEACHER ASSISTANTS
MATHEMATICS
 An Institution providing after school study support with pre prepared study materials has immediate vacancies for Teaching Assistants to teach Mathematics to Advanced Level students.
 Working hours 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.
 Salary negotiable.
Call 0779844804

VACANCIES IN PARAGON DEVELOPMENTS (PRIVATE) LIMITED
 Following vacancies exist for immediate employment in our Paragon Developments (Pvt) Ltd, Apartment Complex Project in Colombo.

MARKETING EXECUTIVE (FEMALE ONLY)

- Preferably a Degree in marketing from a recognized University or any other professional qualification in Marketing (CIM/SLIM)
- At least minimum 02 years working experience in a similar capacity
- **Fluency** in both verbal and written communication in English Language.

ACCOUNTS CLERK (FEMALE ONLY)

- Handling petty cash
- Data entry operator Stock maintaining
- Ability Good computer knowledge.
- At least minimum 01 year experience accounts

RESTRICTED ONLY EXPERIENCE CANDIDATE.
 Forward your CV within 07 days to **buvani.stk@gmail.com**
DIRECTOR, STK GROUP
 7/4, ISIPATHANA MAWATHA, COLOMBO 05.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC

With an enduring vision of being the most technologically advanced, innovative and customer friendly, financial organization, we, the most awarded Bank in Sri Lanka, continue to progress steadily while being listed amongst the Top 1000 Banks in the world for the tenth consecutive year. Our unparalleled record of success over the past decade is supported by a network of 268 branches and superior standards in service, stability and performance. We are poised to ascend to even greater heights in the near future.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER – INFORMATION SECURITY GOVERNANCE, RISK & COMPLIANCE

We are looking for a highly motivated, enthusiastic and dynamic individual as "Executive Officer – Information Security Governance, Risk & Compliance".

Job Profile :

Key duties and responsibilities of the selected candidate would include the following;

- Developing/ maintaining and recommending changes to information security policies in line with the organizational security strategies, standards and evolving threat landscape.
- Ensuring continual compliance of the Business Units to Bank's Information Security Management System (ISMS) and ongoing eligibility for annual recertification of all applicable standards including ISO 27001:2013 and PCI DSS, and conformance to regulatory (eg: Baseline Security Standard) and other mandatory requirements imposed by relevant bodies such as SWIFT, etc.
- Coordinating the periodic information risk assessment exercise across the Bank including reviewing of risk assessment and treatment plans, compiling the organization risk register, guiding the Risk Owners on the risk treatment plans/ risk mitigation activities.
- Evaluating the information security risks involved in system changes and launching of new technologies/ products/ business activities and make appropriate recommendations.
- Working with the CISO and relevant stakeholders to build on the existing information security programme and security projects that address information security risks and compliance requirements.
- Effectively manage the data classification and data loss prevention initiatives of the Bank and the related functions.
- Conducting periodic compliance audits, reviews and security assessments on business processes/ systems and provide advisory support for correction of identified gaps.
- Coordinating and facilitating audits/ assessments on information security by internal and external auditors/ regulators. Follow-up on gaps and corrective action.
- Formulating, monitoring and reporting of information security metrics/ information security risk profile of the Bank and other security updates/ reports for Risk Owners/ Management/ Board/ Regulators at specified intervals.
- Initiate, facilitate and promote activities to foster information security awareness within the organization and related entities.
- Research, recommend and provide guidance on fixing information security vulnerabilities and information security related technologies, including developing business cases for security investments.

Applicant's Profile :

- Bachelors or Masters Degree in Information Security or Computer Science/ Computer Engineering/ Information Technology by a university or a degree awarding institute recognised by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka.
- Professional qualifications such as CISSP, GISP, SSCP, CISM, CISA, ISO 27001 Lead Auditor/ Implementer, CPISI, CEH would be an added advantage.
- Minimum 03-04 years work experience in information security management and/or related functions/ areas.
- Understanding of information security concepts, information security and risk management frameworks, standards and regulations (ISO 27001, ISO 27005, PCI DSS, NIST, BSS, etc).
- Knowledge of IT infrastructure components such as commonly used operating systems, databases, application languages/ platforms for application development and security technologies such as SIEM, DLP, firewalls, end-point security, VPN, etc.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills including technical report writing. Strong analytical skills are a must.
- Ability to prioritize work and design schedules to meet the desired requirements under pressurizing timescales.
- Ability to work collaboratively with other team members as well as work independently with minimum supervision.

The successful candidate will be provided with an attractive remuneration package, including fringe benefits commensurate with benchmarked financial institutions.

Applications with all relevant information should be submitted to reach the under-mentioned within 10 days of this advertisement with the respective post marked as the subject by e-mail.

Deputy General Manager - HRM
COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC
Email : dgm_hrm@combank.net
Web site : www.combank.lk



All applications will be treated with strict confidence. Canvassing in any form will be an immediate disqualification.

We are a leading Electrical Engineering Company engaged in Trading & Installations. We represent world renowned manufactures of Circuit Breakers, Power Contractors, Power Capacitors, Lightning/Surge Protection Equipment and wide range of other industrial electrical equipment.

SALES ASSISTANTS

To work in our Show Room with minimum 1-2 years sales experience in electrical material with "Can Do" working style. Working knowledge of MS office. Submitting & follow up of Quotations/Tenders.

SALES COORDINATORS

Should possess minimum one year experience, ability to work on MS office, E-mail with good communication skills.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Will be responsible for providing administrative and clerical work in an effective and efficient manner to ensure operations are maintained. Computer/ MS office, good communication and inter personal skills essential.

School leavers are also encouraged to apply. For immediate employment.

Forward CV by post or E-mail within 7 days indicating post applied for & contact number

EMPIRE TRADING AGENCY (PVT) LTD
No.110, Layards Broadway, Colombo 14.
Tel: 0702 823174 / 2433047
E-mail: vacancies@empiretradingagency.lk
Web: www.empiretradingagency.lk

VACANCY - TEA FACTORY MANAGER

Sanrose Teas (Pvt) Limited, Yara Valley (Pvt) Limited and Harangalla Plantation (Pvt) Limited, well reputed Organizations managing several Tea Factories and other business enterprises, proudly announce that a Vacancy for a Tea Factory Manager is existing in one of the Factories in Kandy Region and those who are meeting the following criteria are welcome to submit their Curriculum Vitae to e-mail address **sampath.dartry@gmail.com**

- Minimum of Ten (10) years Planting experience as a Manager, Deputy Manager, Senior Assistant Manager or Assistant Manager
- Good knowledge and experience in Tea Manufacture
- Age between 27-37 years
- Attractive salary & other benefits

Contact No.: 076-3595192 / 077-2278140

**WE ARE HIRING!
RECOVERY OFFICERS**

We are a leading BPO solution provider specialized in recoveries, currently we are servicing leading banks & finance companies to meet their Recovery Goals.

We have Immediate Vacancies for Dynamic & Result Oriented Individuals to serve as RECOVERY OFFICERS in Colombo, Kalutara, Gampaha, Kandy, Kurunegala, Monaragala. Forward your CV to **HR@tandtgrouops.com** Please mention the position you are applying for in the subject of the email.

THE CANDIDATES SHOULD POSSESS THE FOLLOWING SKILLS & QUALIFICATIONS

- Age Limit 21 - 35
- Possess 2 years experience.
- Valid Motor Bike Riding License.
- Sound Verbal Communication Skills



T AND T Holdings (Pvt) Ltd.
No. 380/7, Sarana Road,
Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7.
Contact: 0117 585 100



SÄGA IMMEDIATE VACANCY
We build tomorrow

SITE ENGINEER/ SITE MANAGER

Bsc. Eng. (Civil) with 5 years experience
NDT/HNDE/NDES/ (Civil) with 8 years experience.

QUANTITY SURVEYOR

NCT (Civil) with 5 years experience

Work Station :
Building Project, Katunayaka
Salary negotiable

Apply within 7 days of this advertisement
E-mail your CV to **info@sagalanka.com**
Contact Tel: 0777 69 44 50/ 041 22 30 000



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

IOM, a related Organization of the United Nations, and the leading UN Agency in the field of migration, is looking for a prospective candidate for the following position on **Special Short Term Contract (Graded)**. Deadline for the applications is **07th March 2021**.

Vacancy Number : **SVN-03/2021**
Position : **PROGRAMME SUPPORT COORDINATOR (ER)**
Duty Station : **COLOMBO**
Salary Per month : **LKR 117,224.08 (G4)**

The candidate must have a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations, Development Studies, Political Science, Human Rights, Social Sciences or a related discipline from an accredited academic institution with Two (2) years of professional experience in the related field; or minimum Four (04) years of related work experience with High School Diploma. Experience in the provision of project implementation and management is desired. Previous experience in a migrant support set up and liaising/working with Governments, Donor Agencies, UN partners and international organizations in a multi-cultural setting will be advantageous.

For more details on job description & instructions on how to apply for the position, please visit **https://srilanka.iom.int/careers**

Only short-listed applications will be acknowledged.

POST OF MINING ENGINEER

We are a leading company of Quarrying and Mining in Kalutara. For the post of Mining Engineer applications are expected and sent to the following Email address on or before 15th March 2021.

fm_ugp@yahoo.com
Tel : 034-4939831/2

IMMEDIATE VACANCIES

LECTURERS

ICT Lecturer
E-business lecturer
ICT Instructor
English Language lecturer

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

RQ: (Female Only) A/L and suitable professional qualifications
Good PR & communication skill
Prior experience in similar capacity will be an added advantage

**RECEPTIONIST
CALL OPERATOR**

Nugegoda/ Kiribathgoda
Kandy/ Kegalle & Matara

To apply, please email your CV to **unisdti@gmail.com**

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Needs Lady/Gent should be responsible for management/ development of properties of a group of companies qualifications & experience knowledge of Civil and Maintenance repairs ability to work on-time minimum five years experience. positive attitude. UNITEC PLACEMENTS (PVT) LTD., Able to arrange lease agreements. Email: **realcoomestate@gmail.com**

Repeat Your Ad For Better Offers

Head of Bancassurance & Leasing



The ideal candidate for the above position should be highly ambitious, result oriented individual with proven leadership & negotiation skills, exceptional management abilities and excellent interpersonal skills.

Minimum Requirements

- Qualified in CIM/SLIM or equivalent qualification from a recognized institution
- Minimum 05 Years' experience in Corporate Sales, out of which a minimum of 03 years' should be in a supervisory capacity
- Clear and continuous track record in performance.
- Excellent communication skills which includes Sinhala/Tamil and English
- Proven capability in building effective interpersonal relationships.

If you think you are fit for the above position please forward us your Curriculum Vitae with two non-related referees to the address given below, or to **careers@sgic.lk**



Manager - Human Resources
SANASA General Insurance Company Limited
No.172, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08.

Head of Agency Channel Development



Job Role

- Managing existing Corporate Agency channels
- Monitor the day to day activity, planning & execution of Agency team.
- Planning and developing strategies, to achieve targets in the Agency Channel
- Ensure adherence to all statutory and compliance requirements
- Identifying and reporting business opportunities in target markets
- Maximizing new business development opportunities

Minimum Requirements

- Qualified in CIM/SLIM or equivalent qualification from a recognized institution
- Minimum 05 Years' experience in Corporate Sales/Agency Channel Business Development, out of which a minimum of 03 years' should be in a supervisory capacity
- Clear and continuous track record in performance.
- Excellent communication skills which includes Sinhala/Tamil and English
- Proven capability in building effective interpersonal relationships.

If you think you are fit for the above position please forward us your Curriculum Vitae with two non-related referees to the address given below, or to **careers@sgic.lk**



Manager - Human Resources
SANASA General Insurance Company Limited
No.172, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08.

ARE YOU A GO-GETTER
ON THE LOOK OUT FOR AN OPPORTUNITY ?

Here's a golden opportunity to join the MOST dynamic lighting showroom in town.

SHOWROOM SALES PERSON (MALE)

- Age between 25 - 35 years.
- Communication skills in Sinhala & English. (Tamil would be an added advantage)
- Flair in handling customers.
- Passionate about customer service.
- Minimum 2 years experience in showroom sales.
- Team player with independent & self-motivated personality.

SHOWROOM EXECUTIVE (MALE)

- Age between 30 - 40
- Fluency in Sinhala and English. (Tamil would be an added advantage)
- Must have useful connections with and contacts of architects and contractors.
- A minimum of 2 year experience in sales at a designated showroom.
- Computer knowledge is mandatory.
- Must be a team player, that's self-driven and motivated.
- A valid rider/driving license.

Interested & suitable Candidates please forward a completed resume in word/PDF format with two non-related referee contact details and indicating the applying position in the subject of the e-mail to **careers@lgl.lk** within 10 days of this advertisement.

LGL ELECTRIC | **Home depot** | Studio 213, Nawala Road, Nawala | 0775 823 726 / 0774 775 102

The British School in Colombo

We are looking for energetic, self-motivated and hardworking individuals to join our team for the following position in our school:

Teaching Assistants - Junior School -

- Relevant teaching qualifications and experience.
- Teaching Assistants to work supporting the learning in a primary class.
- A very positive attitude and willingness to work with any pupils and all staff.
- Exceptional level of English and sound knowledge of IT.

Please email your CV to **humanresources@britishschool.lk** or send them to **Head of Human Resources, The British School in Colombo, No. 63, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo-08.**

Applications must reach us on or before, 1st March

To Buy Your Dream Vehicle within your Budget

If it is a vehicle you want,

YOU NAME IT, WE HAVE IT

Sunday Observer



Auto Focus



THE ONLY PLACE TO BUY YOUR DREAM CAR!

Sunday Observer



erodua Viva Elite 2013

White, Manual Gears, Alloy Wheels, Original Fog Lamp, Crystal Headlight, Central Locking with Remote Key, Power Shutters, Power Mirrors, Reverse Sensors, Original Carpets, Power Steering, Second Owner, Home Use.

077 7 657 40

- Auto Focus



Magazine Issued with **Sunday Observer**

Hot Line **011 2 429 369**
011 2 429 368

E-mail **adzso@gmail.com**

www.oadz.lk

it's what you want

Marketing Manager

Search a dynamic target oriented individual with experience in the field for the above position. Attractive salary with other benefits depending on experience

General Manager,
Raja Bojun (Pvt) Ltd, Liberty Arcade,
No 282, R.A.De Mel Mawatha - Colombo 03.

Pls forward CV : rajabojunhr@gmail.com



Raja Bojun
සමාජ සේවක

Publish your advertisements with us

ADVERTISING Centres

KANDY
No 99,
D. S Senanayaka
veediya Kandy
081 223 4200

Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited
No 35, D.R.Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10

1949

SUNRISE GROUP OF COMPANIES

VACANCIES FOR REAL ESTATE PROJECT COORDINATORS

Our Company is seeking to recruit Project Coordinators with a pleasant, dynamic and outgoing personality to assist our development projects and marketing purposes.

Applications are invited from candidates with following minimum requirements.

- A Graduate from a recognized University / Diploma Holder in Hardy Technical Institute
- Good command in English
- Computer Literacy
- Strong verbal and written communication skills both Sinhala & English
- Having Driving Licence to ride bikes
- Experience in project coordinating and management will be an added advantage
- Task oriented and ability to work on tight deadlines

If interested, please email your CV to sunrisesuper199@gmail.com or send by email on or before 5th March 2021 to **the Manager Human Resources, Sunrise Group of Companies, No. 199, Kundasale, Kandy.** Only short-listed candidates will be informed for interviews.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC

With an enduring vision of being the most technologically advanced, innovative and customer friendly, financial organization, we, the most awarded Bank in Sri Lanka, continue to progress steadily while being listed amongst the Top 1000 Banks in the world for the tenth consecutive year. Our unparalleled record of success over the past decade is supported by a network of 268 branches and superior standards in service, stability and performance. We are poised to ascend to even greater heights in the near future.

MANAGER – INFORMATION SECURITY

We are looking for a highly motivated, enthusiastic and dynamic individual as "Manager – Information Security".

Job Profile :

Key duties and responsibilities of the selected candidate would include the following;

- Maintain the Bank's Information Security Management System (ISMS) and the underlying policies/ procedures/ guidelines / security baselines in line with the organizational security strategies, standards and evolving threat landscape.
- Oversee Bank-wide compliance to the ISMS and ongoing eligibility for annual recertification of all applicable standards including ISO 27001:2013 and PCI DSS, and conformance to regulatory (eg: Baseline Security Standard) and other mandatory requirements imposed by relevant bodies such as SWIFT, etc.
- Working with the CISO and relevant stakeholders to build and maintain the overall information security strategy and road-map of the Bank including investments in security infrastructure / technologies. Overall management of information security projects.
- Execution of the overall information security risk management programme of the Bank.
- Conducting technical and non-technical security compliance audits, reviews and assessments on business processes / systems across the network acting as an information security consultant for correcting identified gaps.
- Responsible for facilitating audits / assessments on information security by internal and external auditors / regulators. Follow-up on gaps and corrective action.
- Execution of the overall threat and vulnerability management programme of the Bank including independent review of security alerts / events routed via the Security Operations Centre and provide recommendations / advisory support for incident response / recovery where necessary.
- Formulating, monitoring and reporting of information security metrics / score-cards / information security risk profile of the Bank and other security updates / reports for Risk Owners / Management / Board / Regulators at specified intervals.
- Initiate, facilitate and promote activities to continuously foster information security awareness within the organization and related entities.
- Stay abreast on latest information security threats / vulnerabilities, regulations / legislation, advisories and alerts pertaining to the business and make recommendations for continuous improvements to the ISMS.

Applicant's Profile :

- Bachelors or Masters Degree in Information Security or Computer Science/ Computer Engineering/ Information Technology by a university or a degree awarding institute recognised by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka.
- Once or more of the professional qualifications such as CISSP, GISP, SSCP, CISM, CISA, ISO 27001 Lead Auditor/ Implementer, CPISI, CEH.
- A minimum of 07 years of full-time work experience in information security management and/or related functions in an enterprise environment.
- Understanding of information security concepts, information security and risk management frameworks, standards and regulations (ISO 27001, ISO 27005, PCI DSS, NIST, BSS, etc).
- Knowledge of IT infrastructure components such as commonly used operating systems, databases, application languages/ platforms for application development and security technologies such as SIEM, DLP, firewalls, end-point security, VPN, etc.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills including technical report writing. Strong analytical skills are a must.
- Proven project management and leadership skills. Ability to work in demanding and pressurizing timescales.

The successful candidate will be provided with an attractive remuneration package, including fringe benefits commensurate with benchmarked financial institutions.

Applications with all relevant information should be submitted to reach the under-mentioned within 10 days of this advertisement with the respective post marked as the subject by e-mail.

Deputy General Manager - HRM
COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC
Email : dgm_hrm@combank.net
Web site : www.combank.lk



All applications will be treated with strict confidence. Canvassing in any form will be an immediate disqualification.

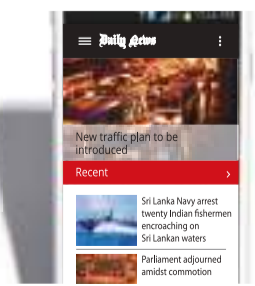
BE BETTER INFORMED!
News you can trust now free on your mobile phone.



Visit - apps.lakehouse.lk
DOWNLOAD TODAY!

AVAILABLE AT





UNFPA Vacancy Notice

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) strives to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled. In Sri Lanka, we deliver this mandate by advocating for reproductive rights and gender equality and promoting evidence-based decision-making in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. Here is your chance to join our team!

Applications are invited from Sri Lankan Nationals for the following vacant positions:

Title & Level

- 1. Innovations Assistant, SC4 / SB2 - Peg 5**
- 2. Programme Assistant - Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, Population Data and Ageing, SC4 / SB2 - Peg 5**

- Type: Service Contract (SC)
- Deadline: Monday, 8 March 2021, mid-night Sri Lanka time

Please review the complete Job Descriptions, view application instructions, and submit the application using the following link:

srilanka.unfpa.org/vacancies

Applications must be submitted through the web link given above. Applications received through other means will not be considered or contacted.

Only applications meeting all requirements as per vacancy announcements will be considered. We thank all applicants, however only the short listed ones will be contacted.

VACANCIES FOR TEACHERS

Vacancies are available in an International School in Kandy for qualified, experienced and devoted teachers to teach students of both the London and Local curriculum for the following subjects;

PRIMARY SECTION AND SECONDARY SECTION – GRADE 01 – 11

- CIVICS
 - HISTORY
 - WESTERN MUSIC
 - ART
 - SCIENCE
 - CHRISTIANITY
- Immediate vacancies are available for experienced Grade 01 - 05 teachers
➤ Experienced Sports Coordinator cum Discipline Master

INTERNATIONAL GCSE / ADVANCED LEVEL

- BUSINESS STUDIES
- ECONOMICS
- ACCOUNTING
- MATHEMATICS
- CHEMISTRY
- BIOLOGY
- PHYSICS

Salary negotiable according to experience and qualifications

Email your CV to: teachersvacancies891@gmail.com

VACANCY FOR STORES STAFF

Wanted for a well established Company importing Medical Equipment the following staff for their stores.

STORES EXECUTIVE / STORE KEEPER

who would be in overall charge of the stores and staff.

STORES ASSISTANTS

with experience in handling stores material.

We require a minimum of 03 years experience relevant to the position applied.

Experience in racking systems, stock control and IT would be an added qualification.

Salary depends on experience, adoptability and commitment to work.

E-mail your CV to: hrdepartment007@yahoo.com within 10 days of this advertisement.

Repeat Your ad For Better Offers



Avon Pharms Chem (Pvt) Ltd. is a leading supplier for life science research & diagnostic laboratories in Sri Lanka. We are reputed for our excellence in service, products and have strong partnerships with global leaders in scientific suppliers.

Here is the opportunity for energetic, highly motivated and dynamic individuals to join our team

MARKETING EXECUTIVE - CENTRAL PROVINCE

- B.Sc. Science Degree
- Full or part qualifications in SLIM/ CIM
- Previous working experience would be an added advantage
- Fluency in English
- Should be a confident, team player with strong communication and interpersonal skills

ADMINISTRATION EXECUTIVE

- B.Sc. Science Degree from a recognized university
- Close proximity to Nugegoda area will be preferred.
- Excellent communications skills, interpersonal skills & analytical skills
- Willing to take up challenges and working against deadlines
- Result driven attitudes

STOREKEEPER

- Passed GCE A/L
- 1 - 2 years' experience
- Good Computer Literacy
- Good communication skills (with English reading & writing)
- Professional qualification in Stores management from a recognized institute or equivalent qualification.

STORE ASSISTANT

- Good physical fitness
- Basic Language skills (Reading and writing in English)
- Positive Attitude
- Age below 45 years
- Close proximity to Nugegoda/Maharagama area will be preferred

Attractive salary package awaits for right candidates

Please send your CVs quoting two non-related referees to cv@avonpck.com or Submit to <http://www.avonpck.com/careers>

Web: www.avonpck.com | Contact- 011 4330718

AVON PHARMS CHEM (PVT) LTD,

No 64/B, 1/2, 2nd floor, Jambugasmulla Road, Nugegoda



Ministry of Finance



Electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) Secretariat

Recruitment of Staff

Applications are invited from suitably qualified experienced applicants for the following position, in the Electronic Government Procurement Secretariat (e-GP Secretariat) to implement the e-GP system under the Ministry of Finance.

1. Procurement Specialist - 01 position

Monthly Remuneration (All inclusive) - Rs. 100,000/= .

Age limit : below 65 years.

Qualifications :

- 1) A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree or equivalent, which is recognized by the University Grants Commission or A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to a Degree in the relevant field with At least 06 years post qualifying experience at Managerial Level. Preference will be given to the candidates who have successfully completed Diploma in Public Procurement and Contract Administration (DIPPCA) and possess experience in both procurement and contract management in Local / Foreign funded projects.

Method of Selection :

Shortlisted applicants based on relevant qualifications and experience will be called for an interview.

Recruitment Basis :

Contract basis for one year, initially.

Terms and Conditions :

Appointments will be made initially for a period of one-year and extension of service will be based on the performance. All conditions in the Management Services Circular No. 01/2019 of 15.03.2019 and subsequent circulars will apply in relation to the appointments.

The curriculum vitae should be sent under Registered Post to reach the following address on or before **05.03.2021** with the educational and professional qualifications with experience to prove the eligibility of the candidate for the following address.

Director
e-GP Secretariat
Second Floor (New Building)
Ministry of Finance
Colombo 01

Or send via e-mail - egphr@promise.lk

Applied post should be clearly stated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing the application.

Applications sent by e-mail should be clearly indicated the position applied on the subject line.

Director
e-GP Secretariat

17.02.2021

OBSERVER JOBS

BREAKING BOUNDARIES

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST RECRUITMENT DATABASE

FOR JOBSEEKERS

www.observerjobs.lk

Publish your advertisements with us

ADVERTISING Centres

MARADANA K/V

No.383, D R Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo10

011 242 9336

Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited
No 35, D R Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo 10

1949

it's what you want

www.adz.lk

Hotline: 0112 429 369 | Email: adzso@gmail.com



PLACE YOUR AD ON **ADZ MAGAZINE & GET FREE AD** ON WEBSITE

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

SUPPLY OF PVC ITEMS FOR BLOCK 04 ENTRANCE UNDER CMU SCOPE DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO : DHQC/PROC/2021/PVC/23

The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **SUPPLY OF PVC ITEMS FOR BLOCK 04, Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and estimated to cost LKR 11.5 Million (excluding VAT).

The tender consists of Supply of PVC Items for Block 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex Project at Akuregoda.

- Bidding will be conducted through **National Competitive Bidding** procedure.
- To be eligible for the contract award, the successful bidder **shall not have been blacklisted and shall have a valid Business Registration in Sri Lanka. Documentary evidence, supporting the Bidder's experience and track record shall be established with the Bid.**
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from **Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from **22nd February 2021 until 16th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs during working days.**
- Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** from **22nd February 2021 until 16th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Three Thousand Five Hundred Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR 3,500.00)**. The method of payment will be in Cash/Bank draft in favour of **Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project.**
- Bids shall be valid up to **15th June 2021** (91 days after the date of Bid Opening).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid Security of One Hundred Twenty Seven Thousand Rupees (LKR 127,000.00)** issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand bond and shall be valid up to **14th July 2021** (120 days after the date of Bid Opening including bid opening date).
- Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed in the below address at or before **1000 hrs on 17th March 2021. Late bids will be rejected.** Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 when relevant, before purchasing the Bidding Documents from Defence Headquarters Complex Project.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, the name and the NIC / Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the Bid opening.

The address(es) referred to above item (09) is :

**Director,
Project Management Unit,
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road,
Pelawatta, Battaramulla.**

Tel : 0094-011-2787047

Fax : 0094-011-4209885

E-mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com



SRI LANKA PORTS AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR BIDS

PROPOSED BUILDING FOR CIW STORES, PHI AND STRESS BED STAFFS IN PORT OF COLOMBO

(CONTRACT NO. SLPA/CD/CIW/01)

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, on behalf of the Chairman, SLPA invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the **"Proposed Building for CIW Stores, PHI and Stress bed staffs in Port of Colombo (Contract No. SLPA/CD/CIW/01)"**. Work under this contract will comprise mainly the Construction of a four storey building with necessary finishes and services. Total floor area approximately is 2000 m².
- To be eligible for the Contract award:
 - Bidder shall meet the **CIDA (previously known as ICTAD) Registration Grade C3 Contractor or C2, specialized in Building Construction.**
 - Registration of Contract as per the Public Contracts Act No. 03, which shall be obtained by the bidder applying online from the web site: eroc.drc.gov.lk
- Pre Bid meeting followed by a site visit will be held at **10.30 hrs on 05.03.2021** at the Technical Library, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, No. 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01.
- Bidding Documents will be issued between 09.30 hrs & 14.00 hrs on working days from **23.02.2021 to 24.03.2021** (both days inclusive) by the Chief Engineer (Contracts & Designs), Contracts & Designs Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, No: 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo - 01 on payment of non-refundable tender fee of Rs. 20,000.00 (inclusive of VAT) and submission of a written request. Bidding Documents may be inspected free of charge at the same office.
- Bids shall be valid up to **23.07.2021**. (120 days from the date of closing of Bids.)
- Bidding Document enclosed in a securely sealed cover and marked **"Proposed Building for CIW Stores, PHI and Stress bed staffs in Port of Colombo (Contract No. SLPA/CD/CIW/01)"** on the top left-hand corner, shall be sent by registered post addressed to the Chairman - Department Procurement Committee, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, C/o Chief Engineer (Contracts & Designs) No.45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01 or placed in the Tender Box kept in the office of the Chief Engineer (Contracts & Designs) on the above address.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of **Rs. 1,400,000.00**. Bid security shall be valid up to **20.08.2021**.
- The time frame for completion of Works shall be **300 days**.
- Bids in duplicate shall be submitted by **14.00 hrs on 25.03.2021** and Bids will be opened immediately. Bidders or their authorized representatives are requested to be present at the opening of bids.
- Any further particulars may be obtained from Chief Engineer (Contracts & Designs) on the above address. (T.P. 011 - 2380517)

All above have been published online from the web site, eroc.drc.gov.lk

**The Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee,
Sri Lanka Ports Authority
No. 45, Leyden Bastian Road,
Colombo 01.**



SRILANKAN AIRLINES LTD PROCUREMENT NOTICE EXTENSION OF TENDER CLOSING DATES

Reference to the below Tender advertisements published in the Sunday Observer of 27th December 2020 and Daily News of 28th December 2020.

REFERENCE NO: CPIT/ICB 14/2020
INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS FOR PROVISIONING OF A BAGGAGE RECONCILIATION SYSTEM (BRS)

The Bid closing date of same has been extended as follows:
Bid closing date: 23rd February 2021 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/corporate/tender-notices

**CHAIRMAN OF MINISTRY PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE,
STATE MINISTRY OF AVIATION AND EXPORT ZONES DEVELOPMENT
ON BEHALF OF SRILANKAN AIRLINES LIMITED**

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

SUPPLY AND LAYING OF CARPETS FOR BLOCK 02 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO.: DHQC/CARPET 02/2020

- The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC)** on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply and Laying of Carpets for Block 02 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and estimated to cost LKR 12.6 Million (excluding VAT).
The Works consists of supply and laying of heavy duty, commercial use, suitable for local climatic conditions (humidity and temperature), anti-static modular carpet tiles and related trade components and accessories for Block 02 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda. The Intended Completion Date of the Works shall be 91 Days from the Start Date.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least five (05) years. The bidder shall be the manufacturer or authorized supplier or an authorized installer of the proposed brand of modular carpets capable to receive manufacturer's back to back warranty. The manufacturer shall be accredited and registered under ISO 9001 and ISO 14001. Documentary evidence to support Bidder's experience and track record shall be provided with the Bid.
- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
 - Average annual volume of construction work performed in the last five (05) years shall be at least LKR 20 million.
 - Experience in successful completion of at least one project of supplying and laying of carpets of value not less than LKR 8 million completed within last five (05) years.
 - The minimum amount of liquid assets net of other contractual commitments and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract, shall be not less than LKR 12 million.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from **22nd February 2021 until 16th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days.**
- A complete set of Bidding Documents (Except Volume 1) in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project,** at the above address from **22nd February 2021 until 16th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** during working days upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Four Thousand Two Hundred Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR 4,200.00)**. The method of payment will be in Cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.**
- Pre-bid meeting will be held at **1100hrs on 04th March 2021** and site visit will be held on same day after the pre-bid meeting at the Project Management Unit of Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed at the below address on or before **1000hrs on 17th March 2021**. 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 until **2nd June 2021**. (77 Days after the date of Bid opening).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid Security" of **One Hundred Twenty Seven Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR 127,000.00)** obtained from a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand guarantee and shall be valid up to **30th June 2021** (105 Days after date of the Bid opening).
- If any bidder wishes to submit bids for several packages of the same block or any other blocks of this project, the bidder shall establish the qualification/ eligibility criteria required under each contract separately, if not the bidder will not be qualified for the award of more than one bid.
- In addition to Item 11 of above, if any bidder was already being selected/is working as a contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project, the bidder shall establish his financial and technical requirements under specification/ eligibility criteria exclusively for this bidding package. If not, the bidder will not be qualified for the award of this bid.
- Bidders shall present the registration certificate under the Public Contract Act No.3 of 1987 before purchasing the bidding documents.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to The Director - Project Management Unit, 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 address referred to above item (8) is:

**The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee,
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.**

Tel : 0094-011-4209885

Fax : 0094-011-4209885

E-mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENCE UNIVERSITY



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CONSTRUCTION OF ROOF AND CATWALK SYSTEM PROPOSED AUDITORIUM AT
GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENCE UNIVERSITY

General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University
Contract No : KDU/PRO/RP&SERVICE/ 2701/2021

- The Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka as the Chairman of the Departmental Procurement Committee of the University invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for **Construction of Roof and Catwalk System Proposed Auditorium at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University**. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of written application to Director Logistics, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** on working days during the period from **22/02/2021** up to **05/04/2021** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **LKR 12,500.00** to Bursar KDU in cash.
- Bidding document may be inspected free of charge at the above address, from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** on working days during the period from **22/02/2021** to **05/04/2021** (Telephone 0710219449/ 0710219384 Fax 0112-2632430).
- Sealed bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the bid box placed at the address below on or before the bid closing time and date. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after the closing.
- Tenders will be closed and opened at **10.00 a.m.** on **06/04/2021** at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Ratmalana.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Director Logistics, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka. (Telephone 011-2632430 / 0710219384 Fax 0112-2632430, and from the 'Invitation for Bids' published at www.kdu.ac.lk/ocls/tender-notices)

Chairman,
Departmental Procurement Committee,
General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University
Ratmalana,
Sri Lanka.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

BID FOR SUPPLY AND LAYING OF CARPETS
FOR BLOCK 01 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX
AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO.: DHQC/CARPET 01/2020

- The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply and Laying of Carpets for Block 01 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and estimated to cost **LKR 8.3 Million** (excluding VAT).
The Works consists of supply and laying of heavy duty, commercial use, suitable for local climatic conditions (humidity and temperature), anti-static modular carpet tiles and related trade components and accessories for Block 01 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda. The Intended Completion Date for the Works shall be 91 Days from the Start Date.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the Contract award, **the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least five (05) years. The bidder shall be the manufacturer or authorized supplier or an authorized installer of the proposed brand of modular carpets capable to receive manufacturer's back to back warranty. The manufacturer shall be accredited and registered under ISO 9001 and ISO 14001. Documentary evidence to support Bidder's experience and track record shall be provided with the Bid.**
- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
 - Average annual volume of construction work performed in last five (05) years shall be at least LKR 25 million.
 - Experience in successful completion of at least one project of supplying and laying of carpets of which value not less than LKR 7 million completed within last five (05) years.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** from **22nd February 2021** until **16th March 2021** 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 Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project**, at the above address from **22nd February 2021** until **16th March 2021** from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Sri Lankan Rupees Three Thousand (LKR 3,000.00)**. The method of payment will be in Cash.
- Pre-bid meeting will be held at **1100hrs** on **04th March 2021** and site visit will be held on same day after the pre-bid meeting at the Project Management Unit of Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed at the below address on or before **1000hrs** on **17th March 2021**. 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 until **2nd June 2021**. (77 Days after the date of Bid opening).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid Security of Sri Lankan Rupees Eighty Thousand (LKR 80,000.00)** obtained from a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand guarantee and shall be valid up to **30th June 2021** (105 Days after date of the Bid opening).
- If any bidder wishes to submit bids for several packages of the same block or any other blocks of this project, the bidder shall establish the qualification/ eligibility criteria required under each contract separately, if not the bidder will not be qualified for the award of more than one bid.
- In addition to Item 10 of above, if any bidder was already being selected/is working as a contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project; the bidder shall establish his financial and technical requirements under specification/ eligibility criteria exclusively for this bidding package. If not, the bidder will not be qualified for the award of this bid.
- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 (when relevant), before purchasing the Bidding Document from Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the Director, Project Management Unit, 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 item (8) is:

The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee,
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.

Tel : 0094-011-4209885
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
E-mail : pmudhq@gmail.com

HOTEL DEVELOPERS
(LANKA) PLC

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF
SUPPLIERS

Hotel Developers (Lanka) PLC (HDL), the Owing Company of Hilton Colombo, calls for Suppliers to apply for pre-qualification to supply the following items for the Renovation of 253 Nos. Guest Rooms, lift lobbies and corridors at Hilton Colombo;

- Vinyl Timber Flooring Materials
- Wall Tiles
- Wall Coverings
- Drapery Systems
- Area Rugs
- Art Works
- Sculptures
- Amenity Trays & Accessories
- Bathroom Accessories
- Sanitary Fittings
- Decorative and Architectural Light Fittings
- HVAC Fan Coil Units

Applicants should satisfy the following minimum criteria for each item that pre-qualification is applied for:

- A minimum of 3 years' experience in supply of similar items to hospitality projects in Sri Lanka
- Proven previous experience in supplying similar items to 5* hotels in Sri Lanka
- Ability to submit technical specifications and full-size samples/ visuals and/or shop drawings as required
- Ability to issue bank guarantees against advance payments & performance

The Pre-Qualification documents, could be collected from **Hotel Developers (Lanka) PLC-The Project Manager's Site Office, c/o Hilton Colombo, Colombo1, on any working day between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. from 24 February 2021 to 1 March 2021.**

Duly completed documents should be returned to: **The Chief Financial Officer, Hotel Developers (Lanka) PLC, c/o Hilton Colombo, Colombo 1 on or before 12 noon on 8 March 2021.**

Sri Lanka Insurance

BID NOTICE

CALL FOR BIDS TO SELECT SUPPLIERS FOR THE FOLLOWING SERVICES

Name of Bid and Bid No.	Non-Refundable Fee (Rs.)	Bid Security Requirement (Rs.)	Eligibility Requirements	Pre Bid Meeting Date and Time	Bid Closing Date and Time	Collecting of Bidding Documents
1. SLIC/ICT/005/2021 - WORK FLOW MANAGEMENT SOLUTION	2,500/-	150,000/-	1. Bidder should be a Registered Supplier to The Government of Sri Lanka (Having a B.R.) 2. The service provider or its group companies, parent company, any of its partners or line-up business should not have any conflict of interest with respect to Sri Lanka Insurance, which include, a competing Life or General Insurance provider operation in Sri Lanka as a competitor to SLIC or any of its business operations. 3. Bidders should have been in business for more than 03 years	25.02.2021 @ 2.30 pm via Zoom for parties who have collected bid documents.	09.03.2021 @ 1.00 pm	22.02.2021 to 08.03.2021 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm (on week days)
2. SLIC/ICT/006/2021 - CISCO DISTRIBUTION SWITCH REPLACEMENT	4,000/-	100,000/-	1. Bidder should be a Registered Supplier to The Government of Sri Lanka (Having a B.R.) 2. Bidder should have not been blacklisted 3. Bidders should have been in business for more than 03 years	25.02.2021 @ 3.00 pm SLIC via Zoom for parties who have collected bid documents.	09.03.2021 @ 1.00 pm	22.02.2021 to 08.03.2021 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm (on week days)
3. SLIC/ADMIN/002/2021 - 22KT GOLD COINS 98 NOS. (WITH GEM AND JEWELLERY AUTHORITY CERTIFICATE)	N/A	N/A	1. Bidder should be a Registered Supplier to The Government of Sri Lanka (Having a B.R.) 2. Bidder should be registered with Gem & Jewellery Authority (Proof of documentation to be submitted with the bid)	24.02.2021 @ 3.00 pm SLIC via Zoom for parties who have collected bid documents.	09.03.2021 @ 1.00 pm	22.02.2021 to 08.03.2021 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm (on week days)

- Bidding documents will be issued from the Procurement Department of Sri Lanka Insurance Head Office on production of a request letter on a business letterhead together with the proof of eligibility at a none refundable fee as above.
- Bidding documents may be inspected free of charge at the Procurement Department of Sri Lanka Insurance Head Office during normal working hours.
- Bidder should have not been blacklisted previously.
- Selected suppliers should provide the Guarantee/Bond as stated below.
 - A Performance Bond to the value of 5% -10% (whichever applicable) of the total contract sum, with validity over the stipulated contract period should be provided within two weeks of the confirmed order
 - If advance payment needed, a Bank Guarantee equivalent to 30% of the total contract value should be taken with validity period of over 90 days.
- Late bids will be returned unopened.
- Bidding documents can be obtained from below mentioned address.
- The final decision in this regard will be with Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd.

AGM Procurement & Property Management
Procurement Department
Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd
08th Floor
No.21, Vauxhall Street
Colombo 02.
Tel: 0112 357 964
Web: www.srilankainsurance.com
Email: deshapriyag@srilankainsurance.com
Company Registration Number - PB 289

SLIC
Sri Lanka Insurance
Like a father - Like a mother

INVITATION FOR BIDS



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

PURCHASE OF QTY 04 BELL 206 JET RANGER B3 USED TRAINER HELICOPTERS FOR THE SRI LANKA AIR FORCE

**TENDER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER - AHQ/20/FS/BEL/1064
(NOTIFICATION OF PRE BID MEETING)**

1. This is with reference to the Procurement Notice published in Silumina, Varamanjari and Sunday Observer Newspapers on 13th December 2020 for purchase of Qty 04 Jet Ranger B3 Used Trainer Helicopters for the Sri Lanka Air Force, a pre bid meeting has been scheduled on 24th February 2021. The bidders who have obtained bidding documents and willing to participate in this procurement may attend the pre-bid meeting. Further details are as follows ;

Description	Date and time of the pre bid meeting	Venue of pre bid meeting
Purchase of Qty 04 Bell 206 Jet Ranger B3 Used Trainer Helicopters	24 th February 2021 at 1030 hrs	Sri Lanka Air Force Station, No. 140, Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner Mawatha, Colombo 02

2. The interested bidders may liaise with the following Officer for further information;

Chief Procurement Officer
Procurement Division
No. 140, Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner Mawatha
Sri Lanka Air Force
Colombo.

Telephone : +94 112325468

Fax : +94 112347694/ 112441554,

Email : cpd@slaf.gov.lk, acpot@slaf.gov.lk

Air Force Headquarters

P.O. Box 1592

Colombo 02

COMMANDER OF THE AIR FORCE

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

SUPPLY OF POWER CABLES AND ACCESSORIES FOR BLOCK 09 AND EASTERN ENTRANCE UNDER CMU SCOPE DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO : DHQC/POWER CABLES AND ACCESSORIES/1/2020

The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **SUPPLY OF POWER CABLES AND ACCESSORIES FOR BLOCK 09 AND EASTERN ENTRANCE UNDER CMU SCOPE, Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and estimated to cost **LKR 12.7 Million** (excluding VAT).

The tender consists for Supply of Electrical Items – Power Cables and accessories for Block 09 & Eastern Entrance Under CMU Scope of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda.

- Bidding will be conducted through **National Competitive Bidding** Procedure.
- To be eligible for the contract award, the successful bidder **shall not have been blacklisted and shall have a valid Business Registration in Sri Lanka. Documentary evidence, supporting the Bidder's experience and track record shall be established with the Bid.**
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from, **Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from **22nd February 2021 until 14th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs during working days.**
- Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla from 22nd February 2021 until 14th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Three Thousand Five Hundred Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR 3,500.00)**. The method of payment will be in Cash/Bank draft in favour of **Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project.**
- Bids shall be valid up to **14th June 2021** (91 days after the date of Bid Opening).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid-Security of One Hundred Twenty Seven Thousand Rupees (LKR 127,000.00)** issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid-Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand bond and shall be valid up to **12th July 2021** (119 days after the date of Bid Opening including bid opening date).
- Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed in the below address on or before **1000 hrs on 15th March 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 when relevant, before purchasing the Bidding Document from Defence Headquarters Complex Project.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, the name and the NIC / Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the Bid opening.

The address(es) referred to above item (09) is :

Director,
Project Management Unit,
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road,
Pelawatta, Battaramulla.

Tel : 0094-011-2787047

Fax : 0094-011-4209885

E-mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS

DISPOSAL OF 110,000 PIECES OF GARMENTS

(100,000 Panties and 10,000 Brassieres)

MAS Business Protection Unit (Private) Limited, Sri Lanka, hereby invites sealed Bid/s from prospective Bidders for the sale of 110,000 pieces of garments for EXPORT (100,000 Panties and 10,000 Brassieres)

Bid Initiation

- Bidders are required to make a refundable deposit of LKR 200,000/- to MAS Business Protection Unit (Private) Limited bank account number **LKR A/C-001-713452-001** at HSBC Bank and produce the original bank slip to MAS Brand Protection Unit (Private) Limited, at No. 275, Kaldemulla Road, Ratmalana to collect the Bidding Document which contains the tender conditions (Minimum Bidding Price, Packing, Documentation and All Other Tender Conditions) on or before 04:00 PM on 25th February 2021.
- A prospective bidder is able to pre-inspect the garments disposed through this tender and before the close of the tender during 0900Hrs to 1600Hrs on weekdays.

Bid Closure Date

The tender will close at **03:00 PM on 05th March 2021**. Any bid submitted after the said closing time of the tender will be rejected and unopened, and the refundable deposit of LKR 200,000/- relating to such unopened bids will be returned to the bidder.

Quotation of Price on the Bid

- The bidder must quote a price for the entirety of 100,000 Panties and 10,000 Bras. However, a bidder is also able to bid for either 100,000 Panties or 10,000 Bras. Preference will be given to the bids received for the total 110,000 pieces of garments.
- Bidders are requested to submit their bid prices in **USA Dollars (USD)**, as this tender is only for **EXPORT**.

Successful Bidder

- Upon payment of the applicable price, the successful bidder shall bear the cost of removing the garments from the warehouse in Ratmalana and taking delivery of the same with adequate labour and containers.
- The successful bidder shall not be permitted to sort or segregate garments in any manner and the total quantity of garments for which the contract has been signed, shall be removed from the warehouse.
- The successful bidder or his/its nominated agent shall be present during the process of loading the garments and removing them from the warehouse.
- No returns shall be accepted once the purchased garments have been removed from the warehouse by the successful bidder.
- The successful bidder should make a 30% advance payment of the quoted price, upon confirmation of the bid.
- Proportionate payment for garment quantities loaded to containers, should be made before the removal of such consignment from the warehouse.
- Warehouse charge of Rs. 60 per CBM per day (24 Hours or part thereof) will be imposed for every day which exceeds the garment removal deadline agreed in the contract.

MAS Business Protection Unit (Private) Limited reserves the right to accept or reject whole or part of this tender and the decision of its Director will be final.

Director,
MAS Business Protection Unit (Private) Limited,
No 275, Kaldemulla Road,
Ratmalana, Sri Lanka.

MAS BPU

MAS
CHANGE IS COURAGE



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)



Country : **Sri Lanka**
Project name : **Support to Colombo Urban Regeneration Project**
Loan No : **L0081A**
Assignment Title : **Community Mobilization, Capacity Improvement and Livelihood Restoration and Development of Families, to be and/or already resettled.**
Reference No : **SCURP/2019/C3-S/003 (i)**

The Ministry of Urban Development and Housing has received financing from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). Accordingly, it is intended to apply part of the proceeds for consultancy services to the Support to Colombo Urban Regeneration Project on Community Mobilization, Capacity Improvement and Livelihood Restoration Development of Families, to be and/or Resettled.

This consultancy will help to uplift the social-economic situation of the Project Affected People's (PAP's) using an appropriate participatory community base approach to analyze existing livelihoods, determine their economic and social viabilities. This will be based on a gender responsive household approach and with relevant to that organization should implement the economic development programs not only that but also, they should concern all other aspects with relevant to all age limits and gender based.

The time period for this assignment is 3 years.

Eligible consulting firms are invited to indicate their interest in providing the services.

Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services.

The shortlisting criteria are:

- Average Net profit margin should be positive during the last three years (2017 to 2019).**
- At least 3 similar assignments (Community Mobilization, Capacity Development and Livelihoods development programme types, with at least two of these forming parts of IFI financed Projects) in the last 10 years.**
- Experience of working with communities that are relocated into housing projects (3 projects experience in the last 5 years 2015 to 2019).**
- Geographic experience (Working Experience on at least 3 similar assignments in any South Asian Country).**
- Technical and Management competence of the Firm.**

Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section II, paragraph 4.4, and paragraph 4.9 of the AIIB's "Procurement Instructions for Recipients" June 2, 2016, setting forth the AIIB's policy on conflict of interest and eligibility.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

Application form and Draft TOR can be downloaded from the website of the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (www.smoud.gov.lk), Urban Development Authority (www.uda.gov.lk) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (www.aiib.org) and UNDB online (devbusiness@un.org).

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost- Based Section (QCBS) method set out in the Procurement Instructions for Recipients.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours (8.30 am to 4.15 pm).

Expressions of Interest must submit on or before 8th March 2021, by 2.00pm (local time) to email address below due to the prevailing situation of the COVID-19.
(pmuurpcc@gmail.com).

Secretary,
Ministry of Urban Development and Housing,
17th Floor,
"Suhurupaya",
Battaramulla,
Sri Lanka.

Tel : 0112073883

Fax : 0112074498

E-mail : pmuurpcc@gmail.com

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



CALL FOR PROPOSAL FROM CSOs/NGOs (CFP/PVE/2021/02)

Prevention of Violent Extremism with particular attention to Youth
under the project of
'Prevention of Violent Extremism'

Sri Lanka, after a 26-year-old protracted civil war, is in the transition from being a post-war to a post-conflict state. This process has been challenging amidst both perceived and actual grievances of different ethnic and religious communities presently affected by issues, such as socio-economic disparities, lack of political representation, incidents of violent extremism and the spread of hate speech, myths and fake news undermining the spirit of social unity and harmony. The Easter Sunday attacks in 2019 that took over 290 lives and wounded at least another 500 further demonstrated the seriousness of the latent conflicts that continue to haunt the island nation and its vulnerability to global conflict dynamics.

In light of these observations UNDP Sri Lanka as part of its project on 'Preventing Violent Extremism' project seeks to address the existing gaps in community engagement through awareness creation as well as response to prevent radicalisation and promote social cohesion.

In this regard, UNDP anticipates working with partner youth and women led civil society organisations (CSOs) through a small grants scheme that will support creative and innovative project interventions supported by feasible time frame and a budget.

This procurement process is being conducted through Online Tendering System of UNDP and all related information together with detailed instructions can be accessed from www.lk.undp.org/procurement/procurement_notices.

Deadline for the submission of proposals is 4th March 2021 at 2.00 p.m. Sri Lanka Time.

Note: Bid submission deadline appearing on e-Tendering portal will be FINAL and prevail in the ones appearing on all other places.

Proposals submitted via email or by hard copies will not be accepted.

Head of Procurement
United Nations Development Programme
202-204, Baudhaloka Mawatha,
Colombo 07, Sri Lanka.

*UNDP reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal.
The procurement process will be governed by the rules and regulations of the
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*

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 Civil work at District General Hospital, Trincomalee.

Contract No.	Description of the Work	Tenderable Amount Excluding VAT(Mn)	Required Grade	Contract Period	Required Bid Security		Bid Validity Period
					Bid Security Amount (Rs.)	Validity Period	
DGH/TCO/PLN/CW 01/2021	Repair and Renovation of Drug Store at District General Hospital, Trincomalee.	2.87	C-8 and C-7	90 Calendar Days	40,000.00	22.05.2021	24.04.2021

1. Procurement Method – National Competitive Bidding procedure
2. 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.
3. 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 **21.02.2021 to 12.03.2021 from 9am to 2.30 pm** hours during the working days upon payment of a non-refundable fee of rupees Thousand only (1,000/=).
4. Bidding documents can be inspected free of charge at the Planning Unit during office hours prior to collection.
5. Refundable bid security issued by a recognized commercial Bank which is approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, valid for 91 days from **15.03.2021** should be attached.
6. All bid documents should be filled completely in English.
7. Pre – Bid Meeting will be held on **05.03.2021 at 10.30 am** in Mini Auditorium.
8. Sealed completely filled bid 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 bid 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 am on 15.03.2021**. Bids will be opened soon after the closing time in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who have been chosen to attend by their company.
9. The final Decision will be made by the Procurement Committee of District General Hospital, Trincomalee
10. Late bids will be returned unopened.
11. 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

STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

The Chairman, Procurement Committee of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, Colombo 01 invites sealed quotations from registered and previous sources for following items and bids will be closed at the respective times on the dates given below and will be opened immediately thereafter.

(E.mail/Fax offers as well as FOB offers are not acceptable).

Sealed Bids may be sent by post under Registered Cover or may be personally deposited in the Box available for this purpose at Internal Audit Department in the Mezzanine Floor of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka.

Bidders or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

SURGICAL SPECIAL ITEMS

Tender No.	Closing Date	Closing Time	Item	Quantity
DHS/RSS/RQ/44/21	10.03.2021	2.00 pm	Balloon Dilatation Catheters in various sizes	Pls. refer RQ item list
DHS/RSS/RQ/45/21	10.03.2021	2.00 pm	Laryngeal Mask Airway, Supreme type & Proseal type in various sizes, Micro Cuff Endotracheal Tubes and Naopharyngeal Air Way, adult	Pls. refer RQ item list
DHS/RSS/RQ/46/21	12.03.2021	2.00 pm	Hydrocephalic Shunt Kits, Catheter Connector & Lumbar - Peritoneal Shunt - System	Pls. refer RQ item list
DHS/RSS/RQ/112/20	10.03.2021	2.00 pm	Femoral Venous Return Cannula, Root Cannula for Cardioplegia and Sump Sucker Pericardial	Pls. refer RQ item list
DHS/RSS/RQ/113/20	08.03.2021	2.00 pm	Transfer set for CAPD (transfer set should be compatible with the CAPD Catheter)	260 Nos

SURGICAL ANNUAL

TENDER NO. / BID REFERENCE	CLOSING DATE	CLOSING TIME	ITEM	QUANTITY NOS.
DHS/RS/RQ/15/21	23.02.2021	2.00 pm	Auto-Disable Syringe 0.05ml	400,000
DHS/RS/RQ/114/20	23.02.2021	2.00 pm	Varicose Vein Stripper Set	80
DHS/RS/RQ/163/19	23.02.2021	2.00 pm	Intracranial Stent, Neurovascular remodelling device, self-expanding, size 4mm diameter x 10mm length sterile	05

Bids should be prepared as per the particulars given in the Bidding Documents available at the Head Office of State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1.

Wherever necessary potential Bidder/Bidders should get registered in terms of the Public 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 / pharma.manager@spc.lk**



**Ministry of Industries
Ministry of Plantation
State Ministry of Coconut, Kithul and Palmyrah
Cultivation Promotion and Related Industrial
Product Manufacturing and Export Diversification**

Notice to All Manufacturers of edible coconut oil for the local consumption

The Ministry of Industries and The Ministry of Plantation with a joint approved decision has taken initiative to call up local manufacturers who require Imported raw material for the purpose of restarting their coconut oil manufacturing Industries

As a short term solution it is hereby decided to import disintegrated dehydrate whole kernel coconut (with brown skin) as per the specified standards laid out by the Coconut Development Authority.

The main purpose of this effort is to revive the non operational factories due to lack of Raw material and to supply the local consumer with a high quality, secured, affordable, edible coconut oil.

This process will be closely monitored by the Ministry of Industries and the Ministry of Plantation to build up the good brand image of the Coconut Oil among the local consumer.

Conditions to receive imported Raw material :

Imported Raw material will be distributed only to industries who are registered with Ministry of Industries and Coconut Development Authority.

Raw material will be imported only by BCC Lanka Ltd and will be distributed at an affordable price among the manufacturers as per their manufacturing capacity basis.

Further information, applications and guidelines related to the above stated matter could be downloaded from the below listed web sites : www.industry.gov.lk / www.bcc.lk / www.cda.gov.lk / www.plantationindustries.gov.lk . Inquire by mail directormdr@gmail.com / bcclankaltd@gmail.com / sector1mid@yahoo.com by telephone; Director, Development Division 1, Ministry of Industries - 011 2422319, Director - Marketing, Coconut Development Authority - 011 2322791, Chairman, BCC Lanka Ltd - 0112326365.

All applications downloaded from the web site should be produced on or before 3rd March 2021 to The Director, Processing and Development, Coconut Development Authority, No. 11, Duke Street, Colombo 1 by registered post or courier.

**Secretary
Inter-Ministerial Task Force**



Coconut Development Authority



B C C Lanka Ltd.

BE BETTER INFORMED! News you can trust now free on your mobile phone.



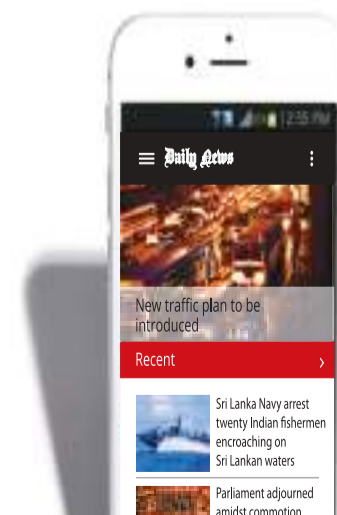
Dinamina



Daily News



Thinakaran



Visit - apps.lakehouse.lk

DOWNLOAD TODAY!

LAKE HOUSE

AVAILABLE AT





Take pride in Contributing to the National Development

The Uva Wellassa University is setting new trends in Undergraduate, Speciality, Corporate as well as Continuing Education by focusing on value addition to the national resource base. The academic programs of the University have been carefully designed to bring up a new generation of graduates competent in creating value to their employers. You could also become a partner in this great national endeavour.

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

The Chairman, Procurement Committee of Uva Wellassa University invites bids from eligible bidders to provide the following.

No.	Description	Tender No.	Value of Bid Security (Rs.)	Non-Refundable Fee (Rs.)	Bid Closing Date and Time
01	Supply, Delivery, Installation of Office Furniture for Staff Learning Center of Uva Wellassa University.	UWU/G/NCB/C/21/01	180,000.00	4,000.00	16th March 2021 2.30 p.m.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any bidder, up to 12.30 p.m. on 16th March 2021 on submission of a written application to the Deputy Bursar (Stores & Supplies) and upon production of a receipt in respect of payment of a non-refundable fee to each tender to the Shorff of the Uva Wellassa University between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on any working day or directly deposit cash to the Bank of Ceylon A/C No. 3114820 as mentioned in the above table. The bidder can also download the bidding documents from the University website <http://www.uwu.ac.lk/procurement/>. Those who are obtaining bidding documents from the University website should submit the completed documents along with the original of the cash receipt deposit slip. The payments could be made at any branch of the Bank of Ceylon in favour of Uva Wellassa University, A/C No. 3114820 as mentioned in above table. (Bidders may also examine the bidding documents free of charge.)

Bids must be delivered or sent under registered post to reach at or before 2.30 p.m. on 16th March 2021 and bids will be opened immediately thereafter. Bidder or his authorized representative (with a letter of authorization) is allowed to be present at the time of opening of bids. The tender should be enclosed in a sealed envelope and should be marked relevant Bid No. on the top left corner of the envelope and should be sent either by registered post to the Chairman, Procurement Committee, Uva Wellassa University, Passara Road, Badulla or can be deposited in the tender box at the Registrar's Office of Uva Wellassa University.

Further details could be obtained from Deputy Bursar (Stores & Supplies) on telephone No. 055-2226475.

Chairman
University Procurement Committee (Major)
Uva Wellassa University
Badulla



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 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 LKR
DHS/S/WW/2/22	06.04.2021 At 9.00 a.m.	Sterile Blood Administration Sets & CPD Adenine 1 (CPD-A1) Single Blood Bags, various sizes	24.02.2021	20,000/= + taxes
DHS/S/WW/3/22	06.04.2021 At 9.00 a.m.	CPD Adenine 1 (CPD-A1) Double Blood Bags & CPD Adenine 1 (CPD-A1) Triple Blood Bags	24.02.2021	35,000/= + taxes
DHS/S/WW/4/22	06.04.2021 At 9.00 a.m.	Quadruple Blood Bags (Bottom & Top type)	24.02.2021	35,000/= + taxes
DHS/S/WW/5/22	06.04.2021 At 9.00 a.m.	Blood Transfer Bag, 150ml & 300ml	24.02.2021	12,500/= + taxes
DHS/S/WW/6/22	06.04.2021 At 9.00 a.m.	Prejelled E.C.G. Electrodes Silver / Silver Chloride for Adult, Disposable	24.02.2021	12,500/= + taxes
DHS/S/WW/7/22	06.04.2021 At 9.00 a.m.	Surgical Hair Cap, Disposable	24.02.2021	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 to 1500 hours at the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, Head Office, No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1. These could be purchased on cash payment of a non-refundable Bidding Document Fee per set as mentioned above. Offers received without enclosing original payment receipt are liable to be rejected.

Wherever necessary potential Bidder/Bidders should get registered in terms of the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 before collecting the Bid Documents and also should get the contract registered after the tender is awarded.

All Bids shall 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 Jayatilleke 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

TENDER NOTICE

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES



KAHATAGAHA GRAPHITE LANKA LIMITED



SALE OF KAHATAGAHA GRAPHITE

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

TENDER REFERENCE NO: KGLL/MKT/TDR/2021/01

The Chairman of Ministry Procurement Committee, on behalf of Kahatagaha Graphite Lanka Limited, invites sealed bids from Foreign and Local Parties who are interested in buying following graphite available in the Kahatagaha Mine, Maduragoda, Dodangaslanda of Sri Lanka. The Local Parties, who wish to purchase the products and export could also submit their bids.

The products are offered for sale on export basis. However, the buyers who wish to further process the products locally and add value to the products could purchase on indirect exports. The bidders are able to purchase full quantity of the products or part of the quantity of the products as they preferred and submit the bid.

The details of products and other relevant details are briefed in the below :

	PRODUCTS	QUANTITY (MT)	BID SECURITY (LKR or USD for 20 MTs)	PACKAGE TERMS OF DELIVERY	DATE & TIME OF TENDER CLOSING AND OPENING
1.	92-95C% Graphite Powder (HS 25041090)	800 MT	LKR376,000.00 Or USD2035	1MT FIBC Bags (Jumbo bag)	06/04/2021 at 1400hrs
2.	92-95C% Graphite Chip (HS 25041090)		LKR335,000.00 Or USD1815		
3.	92-95C% Graphite Powder (HS 25041090)		LKR 282,000.00 Or USD1525		
4.	92-95C% Graphite Chip (HS 25041090)		LKR260,000.00 Or USD1405		

***Remarks:**

■ Kahatagaha Graphite Lanka Ltd is able to produce any type of products mentioned in the Table 01 within the quantity limit of 800 MT. Therefore, the bidder can submit bids for amount required from aforementioned category within the quantity limit of 800 MT.

■ Total supplyable graphite quantity is 800 MT. Therefore, at the evaluation of the tender, quantity segregation starts from high price product to low priced product. However, the final decision will be taken by Ministry Tender Committee.

■ The amount of bid security is as specified product details (Table 01) are only for 20MTs quantity of graphite. If the buyer bids for quantity more than 20 MT, the bid security should be in accordance with amount of the quantity.

Ex : If the bidder bids for 100 MT of 92-95 C% graphite powder bid security value should be USD 10175 (2035 x 5).

■ Maximum capacity of powder plant and chip plant is 300 tons per month respectively. Hence supplying time period will vary according to the product and the quantity.

The complete Bidding Documents of tenders are published in the official websites <http://www.industry.gov.lk> and <http://www.kgraphite.lk> The Interested Parties could visit the websites and download the Bidding Documents free of charge for reference.

Prescribed Bidding Form authenticated and issued by the Seller should only be used for submission of bids. The Bidding Form of the Tender accompanied with the Bidding Documents could be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of LKR 5000.00 or USD 25 from Chairman, Kahatagaha Graphite Lanka Ltd, No. 561/3, Elvitigala Mawatha, Narahenpita, Colombo 05, Sri Lanka during 0900hrs to 1500hrs on weekdays from **22/02/2021 till 05/04/2021** respectively. Also, authenticated bidding form accompanied with the bidding documents can be obtained by mailing the payment slip or any legal document to prove the payment of non-refundable fee of LKR 5000.00 or USD 25 made to Kahatagaha Graphite Lanka Limited Sri Lanka Rupee A/c No :5359657 or US Dollar A/c No.: DFC 86806514 (Swift Code- BCEYLKX) maintained at the Bank of Ceylon, Branch of Rideegama.

The Bid, in two copies duly completed with the prescribed bidding forms and required documents enclosed in two envelopes separately and marked as "ORIGINAL" and "DUPLICATE" and then, put the same into a suitable another envelope and sealed & marked "**Sale of Kahatagaha Graphite, and Tender No. "KGLL/MKT/TDR/2021/01"**" on the top left hand of the envelope, should either be forwarded under registered post, courier to the Chairman, Ministry Tender Committee (Sales), Ministry of Industries, PO Box 570, No.73/1, Galle Road, Colombo -03, Sri Lanka or by hand deposited in the Tender Box available at the Finance Division of the above Ministry to receive not later than **1400 hrs on 06/04/ 2021.**

The Tender will be closed at **1400 hrs on 06/04/2021** and immediately after closing the Tender. They will be opened at the Auditorium of Ministry of Industries. The Bidder or a Representative of the bidder will be allowed to be present at the time of opening of Tenders. Late bids will be rejected.

If any clarification on above remarks can be done from below mentioned officers.

Chairman/ Marketing Division
E-Mail: kglho2019@gmail.com
Telephone: + 9411 2368738
Fax: + 9411 2058062

Mine Manager (Kahatagaha Graphite Lanka Ltd)
E-Mail: kglmines@gmail.com
Telephone: + 9437 2252015

Ministry Tender Committee (Sales),
Ministry of Industries, PO Box 570, No.73/1, Galle Road,
Colombo -03,
Sri Lanka.



Promotional Rates for a Classified Advertisements (Only 15 Words)

Any Single Newspaper	Two Newspapers	Three Newspapers
රු. 300/- (Except Thinakaran Varamanjari)	රු. 500/- (Except Thinakaran Varamanjari)	රු. 650/-

Hand over your Classified Advertisements to Our nearest Branch Office

Anuradhapura - TEL : 025 22 22 370 FAX : 025 22 35 411 / Kandy - TEL : 081 22 34 200 FAX : 081 22 38 910

Kataragama - TEL : 047 22 35 291 FAX : 047 22 35 291 / Maradana - TEL : 011 2 429 336 FAX : 011 2 429 335

Matara - TEL : 041 22 35 412 FAX : 041 22 29 728 / Nugegoda - TEL : 011 2 828 114 FAX : 011 4 300 860 / Jaffna - TEL : 021 2225361 FAX : 021 22 25 361



SRILANKAN AIRLINES LTD

REGISTRATION OF CONTRACTORS/ SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR THE PERIOD
01ST APRIL 2021 TO 31ST MARCH 2022

SriLankan Airlines Limited hereby invites applications to register for the period 01st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 from Contractors, Service Providers, Workshops and Manufacturers having minimum two years' experience in providing services related to the following disciplines:

- Civil Engineering
- Electrical & Electronics Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Hiring of equipment and items
- General Services

Application forms for registration could be collected from 22nd February 2021 to 05th March 2021 on working days (Monday to Friday) between 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. by paying a non-refundable document fee of Rupees 1,500.00 for each category. On request, application forms could be e-mailed, after receipt of the due payment.

Application submissions will close at 3.00 p.m. on 8th March 2021.

Further information can be obtained from the Manager Properties and Facilities on telephone No. 019 733 2796 or 019 733 2795.

**SENIOR MANAGER LOGISTICS AND PROPERTIES
SRILANKAN AIRLINES**

INVITATION FOR BIDS

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF RAIN WATER FILTERING SYSTEM AND BOOSTER PUMP FOR BLOCK 01 AND 02 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO : DHQC/RAIN WATER 01 & 02/2021

- The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Rain Water Filtering System and Booster Pump System for Block 01 and 02 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and approximate estimated to cost **LKR 15.9 million** (excluding VAT).

The Works consist of Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Rain Water Filtering System and Booster Pump System for Block 01 and 02 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda and the Intended Completion Date for the whole of the Works shall be 126 Calendar Days from the Start Date.

Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure. To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have a valid business registration.

- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award shall be:
 - Average annual value of turnover in last five (05) years shall be at least LKR 18 million.
 - Experience in successful completion of one project of supply and installation of rain water filtering systems or water treatment systems or wastewater treatment systems or similar nature comprising of major equipment such as booster pumps, feed pumps, dosing pumps, sand filters of value not less than LKR 05 million, completed within last seven (07) years. The documentary evidence to establish such experience shall be submitted with the bid.
 - The minimum amount of liquid assets (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract, shall be not less than LKR 12 million.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from **22nd February 2021 until 16th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days.**
- A complete set of Bidding Documents (Except Volume 1) in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** from **22nd February 2021 until 16th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** during working days upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Sri Lankan Rupees Four Thousand Nine Hundred (LKR 4,900.00)**. The method of payment will be Cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of **Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project.**
- A pre bid meeting will be held at **1400 hrs. on 04th March 2021** and a site visit will be held on **same day** after the pre bid meeting at the Project Management Unit of Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below or shall be deposited in the Tender box placed at the address below on or before **1000 hrs on 17th March 2021**. 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 up to **02nd June 2021**. (77 Days after the date of Bid opening).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security", of **Sri Lankan Rupees One Hundred Sixty Thousand (LKR 160,000.00)** obtained from a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in the form of an unconditional and on demand guarantee and shall be valid up to **30th June 2021**. (105 days after the date of Bid opening).
- If any bidder wishes to submit bids for several packages of the same block or any other blocks of this project, the bidder shall establish the qualification/ eligibility criteria required under each Contract separately, if not the bidder will not be qualified for the award of more than one bid.
- In addition to Item 09 of above, if any bidder was already being selected/is working as a Contractor in any of the packages of the block(s) of this project, the bidder shall establish his financial and technical requirements under specification/ eligibility criteria exclusively for this bidding package. If not, the bidder will not be qualified for the award of this bid.
- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 when relevant, before purchasing the Bidding Document from Defence Headquarters Complex Project.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address(es) referred to above is (are) :

**The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road,
Pelawatta, Battaramulla.**

Tel : 0094-011-4209885

Fax : 0094-011-4209885

E-mail : pmudhq@gmail.com

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL SECURITY

Invitation of Bids for the sale of Dried Cashew Nuts (with Shell)

- Sealed bids are invited by the Department of Civil Security from qualified buyers for the sale of the Cashew yield as mentioned below.

Ser. No.	Place	Bid Security to be Submitted (Valid for 60 days)	Quantity of Cashew Nuts prepared for Sale (Kg)	Tel. No. to obtain Information
I	Kondachchiya Cashew Plantation Project	400,000.00	100,000	077-2347909
II	Vishwamadu Force	20,000.00	1,820	074-0165067
III	Kebitigollewa Force	10,000.00	947	074-0165075
IV	Polonnaruwa Force	5,000.00	395	074-0165057

- Bids will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- Further details may be obtained from the Telephone Numbers given below against each place and the cashew stocks may be inspected between 09.00 hrs and 16.00 hrs. (except on Sundays).
- Your quotations mentioning "**Quotation for the Purchase of Cashew Yield**" on the left hand top corner of the envelope containing the quotation along with a bid security to the amount mentioned above valid for 60 days or the above amount may be paid in cash to the Director (Finance) Department of Civil Security or deposited in Account No. 7042755 maintained with the Bank of Ceylon and the receipt obtained may either be sent by registered post or deposited in the Tender Box kept at the Procurement Division of the Department to receive before 1030 hrs on 09.03.2021.
- If the quotation does not come to the price expected, the department reserves the right to decide on the sale.
- Every buyer should quote for the full quantity and the quotations for lesser quantities will be rejected.
- After the tender is awarded, the full amount should be paid before the cashew lots (with shell) are removed.
- At a time the department decides to award for the highest value, if the buyer refuses to buy, the above said Bank Guarantee will be forfeited and credited to the government revenue.
- Bidder who is awarded the tender should enter into an agreement with the Director General of the Department of Civil Security. A performance bond to the value of 10% of the total tender value issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka should be submitted within 07 days of award of the tender.

Inquiries:

Staff officer - Projects
Department of Civil Security
Jaya Mawatha, Katubedda,
Moratuwa

Staff Officer - Projects : 074-0165017

Director - Procurement : 074-0165003 / 011-2044854



STATE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND REGULATION
OF PHARMACEUTICALS
STATE PHARMACEUTICALS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION (SPMC)
OF SRI LANKA



INVITATION FOR BIDS - IFB NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING - NCB PROCUREMENT OF LABORATORY INSTRUMENTS

CLOSING ON 16/03/2021

- Sealed bids for **Supply, Installation and Commissioning of below mentioned Laboratory Instruments with related Training** are requested by the Chairman - Procurement Committee, State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation, No. 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha, Kandawala Estate, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka **up to 10.00 a.m. on 16.03.2021.**

- | Bid Ref. | Item Name | Non-refundable Bid Fee |
|-----------------|---|------------------------|
| SPMC/FD/05/2021 | 01 No. of Brand New Fully Automated High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) System and Related Training. | Rs. 3,500.00 |
| SPMC/FD/04/2021 | 01 No. of Brand New Fully Automated Pharmacopoeial Dissolution Testing Apparatus with Auto Sampler and Fraction Collector and Related Training. | Rs. 3,500.00 |
| SPMC/FD/03/2021 | 01 No. of Brand New Ultra-Pure water purification System and Related Training. | Rs. 1,000.00 |

- Separate seal bids for each machine should be made on a complete set of bidding documents in **duplicate** and **original** separately and sent by the registered post addressed to the Chairman - Procurement Committee, State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation, No. 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha, Kandawala Estate, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka. or deposited in the tender box kept at the ground floor at the above address.
- Bid documents can be obtained from the above address, commencing **22.02.2021 until 15.03.2021 between 9.00 a.m. & 4.00 p.m.** during working days on submission of the followings:
 - A written application to the Deputy General Manager - Planning & Procurement, State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation, No. 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha, Kandawala Estate, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka.
 - Upon payment of a non-refundable bid fee stated above in cash to the Accounts Department of SPMC.
- Bids are administered by the provisions of the "Public Contract Act No. 3 of 1987" and therefore, in the event bidder is to retain an Agent, Sub-Agent, Representative, Nominee for and on behalf of the bidder shall register himself any such Public Contract in accordance with Section 10 of the Public Contract Act and produce such valid registration in the course of any transaction relating to the bidding or Act any stage in the duration of the bidding.
- Bids are scheduled to be opened immediately after the closing of bids at SPMC - Ratmalana, bidders or their authorized agents are permitted to be present when bids are opened.
- Bid Documents may be inspected free of charge at the SPMC.
- Further information could be obtained from **Deputy General Manager (Act.) - Formulation cum Research & Development, SPMC-(Tel. 5512950)**

Details of the "Bid Information" can be viewed from SPMC Website. (www.spmclanka.lk)

**Chairman - Procurement Committee
State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation
No. 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha, Kandawala Estate,
Ratmalana, Sri Lanka.**

TEL. : (00) 94-11-2635353/ (00) 94-11-2637574/ (00) 94-11-2623298

E-MAIL : spmclanka@sltnet.lk

Website : www.spmclanka.lk

it's what you want

www.adz.lk

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.

THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF SRI LANKA
 Noel & Nora Bartholomeusz Foundation
 No. 06, Independence Avenue, Colombo 07
 Tel/Fax: 2682290
 E-mail: collsurg@gmail.com
 Notice of Annual General Meeting of the College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka
 Date : Friday 19th March 2021
 Time : 7.00 p.m.
 Venue : College of Surgeons Auditorium
 Noel & Nora Bartholomeusz Foundation
 No. 06, Independence Avenue, Colombo 07
 Resolutions to be taken up at the AGM should reach the College office at or before 4.00 p.m. on 01st March 2021.
Dr. Ranga E Wickramarachchi
 Hony. Secretary

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF MVAC CONTRACTORS
 Sampath Centre Limited intends to pre-qualify MVAC contractors for their intended upgrading works for Sampath Bank Head office. The pre-qualification is open to contractors who have a minimum of 10 years experience in MVAC works.
 Scope of work for MVAC contractor is to fabricate and install air conditioning ductwork, complete with ceiling diffusers, air grills, louvers and all other ductwork accessories including extract and fresh air fans, testing, balancing and commissioning of the ductwork systems.
 Interested contractors are requested to forward their Company profile to Sampath Centre **on or before 25th of February 2021** through to their email address given below:
shiromik@sampathcentre.com
Manager - Finance & Administration
Sampath Centre Limited
No. 110, Sir James Peiris Mawatha
Colombo 02

TENDER NOTICE

 ශ්‍රී ලංකා මහ බැංකුව
 இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA
CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO AMEND THE PAYMENT AND SETTLEMENT SYSTEMS ACT

Tender Number	LK-CBSL-217246-CS-CQS
Tender Description	Consultancy Services to amend the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, No 28 of 2005 for the Central Bank of Sri Lanka
Bid closing and opening	Date : 22 March 2021 Time : 1500 Hrs. Location : Head Office Building, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, No 30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo-01, Sri Lanka

For further information please refer <https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/tenders> or contact: +94 11 2477337 or +94 11 2398754
 Project Team, Financial Sector Modernization Project
 Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

it's what you want
WWW.addz.lk

Repeat Your ad For Better Offers

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
BID FOR DESIGN, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF FRAMELESS VANITY MIRRORS FOR WET AREAS OF BLOCK 01 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA
CONTRACT NO : DHQC/MIRROR 01/2020
 1. **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC)** on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Design, Supply and Installation of Frameless Vanity Mirrors for Wet Areas of Block 01 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** as described below and estimated to cost **LKR 3.4 Million** (excluding VAT).
The Works consist of Design, Supply and Installation of Frameless Vanity Mirrors for Wet Areas of Block 01 of Proposed Defence Headquarters Complex (DHQC) at Akuregoda, Sri Lanka. The Intended Completion Date for the Works shall be 105 Days from the Start Date
 2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
 3. To be eligible for the Contract award, **the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least five (05) years. Documentary evidence to support Bidder's experience and track record shall be provided with the Bid.**
 4. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:

- Average turnover in last five (05) years shall be at least LKR 20 million.
- Experience in successful completion of supply and installation of vanity mirrors including at least one project of value not less than SLR 2 million completed within last five years.

 5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs from 22nd February 2021 until 16th March 2021 during working days.**
 6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project**, at the above address from **22nd February 2021 until 16th March 2021 from 0900hrs to 1500 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Sri Lankan Rupees One Thousand Five Hundred Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR 1,500.00)**. The method of payment will be in Cash.
 7. Pre bid meeting will be held at **1400 hrs on 05th March 2021** and site visit will be held on same day after the pre bid meeting at the Project Management Unit of Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
 8. Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed at the below address at or before **1000 hrs on 17th March 2021**. 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 until **19th May 2021**. (63 Days after the date of Bid opening).
 10. All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid Security of Bid Security of Thirty Three Thousand Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR 33,000.00)** obtained from a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand guarantee and shall be valid up to **16th June 2021** (91 Days after date of the Bid opening).
 11. If any bidder wishes to submit bids for several packages of the same block or any other blocks of this project, the bidder shall establish the qualification/ eligibility criteria required under each contract separately, if not the bidder will not be qualified for the award of more than one bid.
 12. In addition to Item 11 of above, if any bidder has already being selected/is working as a contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project; the bidder shall establish his financial and technical requirements under specification / eligibility criteria exclusively for this bidding package. If not, the bidder will not be qualified for the award of this bid.
 13. Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 (when relevant), before purchasing the Bidding Document from Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
 14. Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the Director, Project Management Unit, 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 item (8) is :
The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
Tel : 0094-011-4209885
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
E-mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com

SAMPATH CENTRE LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING SALE OF USED EQUIPMENT
 Sampath Centre Limited invites sealed bids from interested parties for the sale of following dismantled equipment from their Sampath Bank head-office building at No. 110, Sir James Peiris Mawatha, Colombo 02.
List of All Valuable Machinery Items belonging to Sampath Centre Ltd, proposed for sale

Nos.	Item	Make	Qty.	Present Condition
1	Generator - 1000 KVA	Cummins	1	Dismantled
2	Generator - 800 KVA	Purkins	1	Dismantled
3	Capacitor Bank - 200 KVA	Frako	1	Dismantled
4	Capacitor Bank - 210 KVA	Frako	1	Dismantled
5	Fire Pump - 3ph/50Hp	Teco	2	Dismantled
6	Fire Jokey Pump - 3Ph/20Hp	Teco	1	Dismantled
7	Fire Sprinkler Pump - 3Ph/20Hp	Teco	1	Dismantled
8	Condenser Water Pump - 3Ph/55 Hp	Teco	2	
9	Condenser Water Pump - 3Ph/75 Hp	Teco	2	
10	Centrifugal Water Pump - 3Ph/20 Hp	Centric	2	Dismantled
11	Cooling Tower 300 Ton	TSS	2	
12	Cooling Tower 400 Ton	TSS	1	Dismantled
13	Package type Air-Conditioners - 5 Ton	Hitachi	2	
14	Package type Air-Conditioners - 8 Ton	Hitachi	3	
15	Package type Air-Conditioners - 10 Ton	Hitachi	4	
16	Package type Air-Conditioners - 15 Ton	Hitachi	9	
17	Package type Air-Conditioners - 20 Ton	Hitachi	6	
18	Package type Air-Conditioners - 25 Ton	Hitachi	3	
19	Package type Air-Conditioners - 30 Ton	Hitachi	2	
20	Package type Air-Conditioners - 40 Ton	Hitachi	1	Dismantled
21	Package type Air-Conditioners - 60 Ton	Hitachi	4	Dismantled
22	Passenger Elevator - 1000 kg	Mitsubishi	1	Dismantled

Note : All the items indicated as "Dismantled" above were in working condition prior to dismantled. Other items which are not dismantled are yet in operation.
 Intending bidders are requested to visit the Sampath Bank head-office to inspect the equipment by prior appointment with Ms. Shiromi Kothalawala, Manager - Finance & Administration, Sampath Centre Ltd.
 Contact details :
Tel No: + 94112300327
Mob No: + 94772051556
Email: shiromik@sampathcentre.com
Terms & Conditions
 1. Bidder reserves the right to submit offers for 1 or more items in the given list. However, bidder shall quote for the total quantity of each item.
 2. Bidder shall submit a refundable security deposit of LKR 25,000.00 of the total offered value in the form of a bank draft drawn in favour of Sampath Centre Limited, with the Bid.
 3. Bids received without a security deposit (refundable) will be rejected.
 4. Each item listed will be awarded to the highest Bidder. Sampath Centre reserves the right to reject any or all Bids without assigning any reason thereof.
 5. Bids to be submitted in a sealed envelope with **"Sale of Dismantled Equipment"** marked at the top left-hand corner and to be deposited in the Tender Box placed in the ground floor of Sampath Centre. **Bids shall be submitted at or before 1500 hrs on 25.02.2021.**
 6. Successful Bidders are required to pay the balance due to Sampath Centre in the form of a bank draft in favour of Sampath Centre Limited within 5 days of acceptance of the offer.
 7. Failing to pay the balance amount within the specified date will result in cancellation of the contract and in such a case the security deposit will be forfeited and credited to Sampath Centre Limited.
 8. Successful Bidders should inform the delivery location within 25 km form Sampath Centre and has to be prepared to receive the equipment within 15 days from the date of agreement.
 9. Sampath Centre will arrange delivery of equipment to the specified location inclusive of loading and unloading. The successful Bidders will be allowed to supervise and follow loading and transport arrangement.
 10. Bidders are requested to print a hard copy of this bid notice and submit the same along with his offer duly signed and sealed as part of the offer.
Sampath Centre Limited

ADVERTISING Centres
 VISIT OUR ADVERTISING CENTRES IN KEY CITIES TO:
 ✓ Submit your advertisements
 ✓ Reserve rooms at Lake House Kataragama Pilgrims Rest
 ✓ Order subscriptions of Lake House newspapers

Kandy Branch  KANDY No 99, D. S. Senanayaka veediya, Kandy 081 223 4200	Anuradhapura Branch  ANURADHAPURA No.310/1/2, Harischandra Mawatha, Bank Town 025 222 2370	Jaffna Branch  JAFFNA No.06, Sirampirady, Off Stanley Road 077 616 4901	Maradana k/v Branch  MARADANA No.383, D R Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo10 011 242 9336
Matara Branch  MATARA No.29, Upper Floor, Main Bus Stand 041 223 5412	Nugegoda Branch  NUGEGODA 4 th Floor Savsiri Complex, High Levelle Road 011 282 8114	Kataragama Branch  KATARAGAMA Opposite Kataragama Bus Stand, Pussadewa Mawatha 047 223 5291	

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

CALLING FOR DISTRIBUTORS

The leading food export company from Sri Lanka with a global reach, is on the search for capable distribution partners to join our distribution network covering the following areas.

- Western Province
- North Western Province
- North Central Province
- Central Province
- Southern Province
- Sabaragamuwa Province
- Uva Province
- Eastern Province
- Northern Province

DISTRIBUTOR CREDENTIALS

- A good track record in handling distribution for FMCG brands is a pre-requisite.
- A wide reach among an existing outlet base of A grade and B grade groceries from the relevant area will be an added advantage.

FACILITIES REQUIREMENT

- Transportation facility/ distribution vehicle with a loading capacity of at least 3 CBM.
- Proper storage facilities to maintain the quality and freshness of the product.
- Distributor sales representative, with good PR skills.
- Bank guarantee.

We invite all interested candidates to forward their application via e-mail, or by post to the following address to reach us on or before the 15th of March 2021.

23/2, Independence Avenue,
Colombo 7.
distributors2021@gmail.com

Closing Date:
15th March 2021



SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

Provision of Hiring of Vehicles on Rental basis for the Medical Faculty

The Chairman of Procurement Committee of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka invites sealed bids from qualified and eligible bidders for the provision of vehicles to the Medical Faculty on monthly rental basis for 03 years under following conditions.

- Tenders are invited from institutes / individuals who could supply undermentioned vehicles for a period of three (03) years from the date of awarding the tender.

Serial No.	Type of Vehicle	Description	Quantity
1	Passenger Buses	54 - 58 Seater / Diesel	01
2	Vans	14 - 15 Seater / Diesel / with dual A/C.	01

- Bidding will be conducted through national competitive bidding procedure.
- Eligible bidders should not have been blacklisted by universities or other Government institutes.
- The bid submitted should be valid up to 90 days from the date of opening of tenders.
- If Bidders wish to apply for more than one vehicle they should submit tenders separately and forward separate bid bonds for each vehicle.

The relevant tender forms could be obtained from 22.02.2021 to 09.03.2021 between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. by producing the receipt obtained for the payment of a non refundable fee of Rs. 2000.00 made to the Shroff of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka or the receipt issued by any branch of Bank of Ceylon for crediting the said sum to the Account No. 0002246976 of Sabaragamuwa University at Balangoda Branch.

Tenders for all vehicles should be accompanied with a refundable bid security equivalent to a sum of Rs. 30,000.00. The Bid security should be in the form of a receipt (original) issued by the Shroff of the University for the payment of same and a bank guarantee obtained from a reputed bank equivalent to the said amount of Rs. 30,000.00 valid up to 119 days from the date of opening of tenders. If bidders fail to supply the vehicle tendered when requested by the university this amount will not be refunded.

Duly perfected applications in duplicate inserted in two separate covers as original and duplicate and marked as "Supply of Vehicles on rental basis to the medical faculty of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka - Tender No. GA2021/01" should either be sent to reach the "Chairman, Procurement Committee, General Administration Division, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, P.O. Box 02, Belihuloya" by registered post or deposited in the tender box provided at the office of the Deputy General Manager, General Administration Division before 2.00 p.m. on 10.03.2021.

The Procurement Committee of the University reserves the right to accept or reject any bid or not to hold responsibility over any loss of a bidder without giving any reason at any instance prior to the award of the contract.

Registrar (Acting)
Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka.



SRILANKAN AIRLINES LTD TENDER NOTICE

TENDER NO: DCSM/ MKTG/ RFP/ 01/ 2021
SELECTION OF A DIGITAL MARKETING AGENCY FOR SRILANKAN AIRLINES

The bidding forms could be downloaded directly from the following link
https://www.srilankan.com/en_uk/coperate/tender-notice
with effect from 19th February 2021, 1100 hrs onwards
(Sri Lankan time GMT + 5:30 Time Zone)

Bid closing date: 01st April 2021 at 1100 hrs
(Sri Lankan time GMT + 5:30 Time Zone)

SENIOR MANAGER MARKETING
SRILANKAN AIRLINES



UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO INVITATION FOR BIDS

Supply, Delivery and Installation of Lab and Teaching Equipment for the Faculty of Technology, University of Colombo

AHEAD/NCB/RA1/FOT/2021/01
And

Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and commissioning of 12 Number of Air Conditioners to the Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo.

AHEAD/NCB/ELTAELSE/FOA/2021/02

- The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received a loan from the International Development Agency of World Bank toward the cost of AHEAD project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for Supply, Delivery and Installation of Lab and Teaching Equipment for the Faculty of Technology, University of Colombo and Supply, Delivery and Installation of twelve numbers of Air Conditioners to the Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo 2.
- Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (Minor), University of Colombo, Colombo 03 invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Supply, Delivery and Installation of Lab and Teaching Equipment for the Faculty of Technology, University of Colombo and Supply, Delivery and Installation of twelve numbers of Air Conditioners to the Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
- Bidder should have at least Five years' experience in the relevant field in Sri Lanka.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Deputy Director Procurement/AHEAD Project (Contact No. 011-2595953/011-2559638) of the University of Colombo, and inspect the bidding documents at the OTS Office of the University from 9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. from 22/02/2021 to 17/03/2021 free of charge or visit University website <http://www.cmb.ac.lk> to inspect the document.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Deputy Director Procurement, AHEAD Project University of Colombo and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rupees 5,000/-. Non-refundable fee can be paid to the University Main Collection Account by using No. 505170600013 to any People's Bank branch. The documents may be purchased until 2.30 p.m. from 22/02/2021 to 17/03/2021
- Bids must be delivered in duplicate to the address below, at or before 2.30 p.m. on 18/03/2021 Please indicate the relevant procurement name and title as "Supply, Delivery and Installation of Lab and Teaching Equipment for the Faculty of Technology, University of Colombo AHEAD/NCB/RA1/FOT/2021/01" or "Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and commissioning of 12 Numbers of the Air Conditioners for the Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo AHEAD/NCB/ELTAELSE/FOA/2021/02" on the top left corner of the envelope.
- All bids must be accompanied by an unconditional, on demand Bid Security from any commercial bank registered under the Central Bank of Sri Lanka as specified in the following Table (Beneficiary - Vice-Chancellor, University of Colombo) Valid up to 16/07/2021 or bid securities less than Rs. 5,000 can be deposited to the University Main Collection Account by using No. 505170700003 to any People's Bank branch.

Bid No.	Category	Items	Bid Security (Rs)
01	01	Robot arm	72,000.00
		Sliding Rail Kit for robot arm	
		Conveyor Belt Kit for robot arm	
		Robot Vision Kit for robot arm	
		Turtlebot 2 with configurable options	
03	04	Benchtop Ultrasonic Cleaner	4,000.00
		Single phase Asynchronous motor drive (variable speed drive)	2,000.00
05	05	Single phase Induction motor	12,000.00
		Source Meter	
If a bidder is bidding for the multiple categories, bid should be accompanied by a bid security of aggregate value of respective categories. If a bidder is bidding for all the categories bid should be accompanied by a bid security of aggregate value (Rs. 100,000.00)			100,000.00
02	12 numbers of 34000 - 36000 BTU/Hr Ceiling Suspended Split Type Air conditioners	visit university website http://www.cmb.ac.lk to inspect the document	60,000.00

Bids shall be deposited in the "Tender Box" available in the Registrar's Office of the University of Colombo, or sent under registered cover to be received before the deadline at the address given below. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after closing of the Bids on 18/03/2021 in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend the bid opening.

The Chairman
Project Procurement Committee (Minor)
University of Colombo.
94, Cumaratunga Munidasa Mawatha, Colombo 3.

The Housewives' companion
Classifieds on
Daily News

LABOUR SUPPLIERS NEEDED

International Construction Consortium (Pvt) Ltd.

Being a leading Multidisciplinary, CS2 Grade, ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 certified construction company, ICC takes pride in stepping into the 5th decade of our success story with award - winning, internationally acclaimed projects.

Now we are seeking labour suppliers who are able to fulfill skilled and unskilled labour requirements in our construction projects which are located around the country.

It is essential that the relevant suppliers meet all the legal requirements applicable to the labor laws and regulations of Sri Lanka.

If you are able to provide workers for our company in accordance with the above, please apply to the following address within 10 days of posting this advertisement along with other relevant information including work experience of your company.



Inquires:
0114 400 600
0773 243 837



Manager - Human Resources

International Construction Consortium (Pvt) Ltd.
No. 70, S.De S. Jayasinghe Mawatha, Kohuwala, Nugegoda.
Email: hr@icc-construct.com | Web: www.icc-construct.com

AMENDMENT TO INVITATION FOR BIDS

SUPPLY, COORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SUPERVISION OF CEILINGS FOR BLOCK 02 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO: DHQC/CEILING 2/2020

- This refers to the Invitation for Bids, published on 31/01/2021 in Silumina in respect of the above mentioned Contract.
- Following amendments are made to the above referred Invitation For Bids.
 - The Bid opening/closing time has been extended up to 1500 hrs on 03rd March 2021
 - Bids shall valid up to 30th June 2021
 - Bid Security Shall be valid up to 28th July 2021
- All other terms and conditions of the previous Invitation For Bids remain unchanged.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information, inspect and purchase the bidding documents from **The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC), Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03** on working days during 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs until 02nd March 2021.

The Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC),
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03.

Tel : 0094-11-2439381 / 0094-11-2390719
Fax : 0094-11-2390720
E-mail : procurement@defence.lk

AMENDMENT TO INVITATION FOR BIDS

SUPPLY, COORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SUPERVISION OF CEILINGS FOR BLOCK 01 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO: DHQC/CEILING 1/2020

- This refers to the Invitation for Bids, published on 31/01/2021 in Sunday Observer in respect of the above mentioned Contract.
- Following amendments are made to the above referred Invitation For Bids.
 - The Bid opening/closing time has been extended up to 1400 hrs on 03rd March 2021
 - Bids shall valid up to 30th June 2021
 - Bid Security Shall be valid up to 28th July 2021
- All other terms and conditions of the previous Invitation For Bids remain unchanged.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information, inspect and purchase the bidding documents from **The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC), Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03** on working days during 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs until 02nd March 2021.

The Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC),
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03.

Tel : 0094-11-2439381 / 0094-11-2390719
Fax : 0094-11-2390720
E-mail : procurement@defence.lk

For classified advertisements and for replies
received in response to advertisements published under Lake House box numbers

Please Contact

MANAGER
FRONT OFFICE

Hotline
1949



LANKA Sathosa
Lowest Price | Your Place

Ministry of Trade

**REGISTRATION OF TRANSPORT PROVIDERS FOR 2021 / 2022
(TO OBTAIN LORRIES ON HIRE BASIS)**

Applications are hereby invited by Chairman, Lanka Sathosa Limited from transport providers who wish to register themselves with the Lanka Sathosa limited for the under mentioned categories of Lorries for the purpose of transporting Grocery Items, Dry Ration Items (Essential Goods) and other required items related to sales in Lanka Sathosa outlets for the year 2021 / 2022.

Registration fee per lorry (Non-refundable)

Capacity	Registration Fee (Rs.)
Below 5MT	5,000.00
10MT	10,000.00
15MT	15,000.00
20 MT or above	20,000.00

Condition of the Lorries should be as follows,
Diesel, year of manufacture after 2011, with lockable doors, safe full body, good condition tires for transporting ration material.

Application together with a set of relevant documents can be downloaded through the under mentioned website from 22nd February 2021 08th March 2021 for free of charge or collect from the Procurement Division (3rd Floor) at Lanka Sathosa Limited head office by paying Rs.2,500/-

www.lankasathosa.org

Duly completed application forms together with all the necessary documents should be hand delivered to reach on or before 08th March 2021 at the under mentioned address.

3rd floor
Procurement Division
Lanka Sathosa Limited
No.27, CWE Secretariat Building,
Vauxhall Street,
Colombo 02.

Contact under Mentioned Officer for clarifications;
Senior Manager Logistics, Lanka Sathosa Limited - 070 1560768
Chairman, Lanka Sathosa Limited, reserves the authority to final decision.

Lanka Sathosa Limited
Sathosa Secretariat Building,
No.27, Colombo 02.

Used Container Boxes wanted
0740926521

A devoted Bhikku seeks a **donator** for a plot of land to construct a bhawana kuti
Tel. 0712187919

BEACH FRONT HOTEL FOR SALE IN UNWATUNA

◆ Rs. 350 Million Value Hotel selling for Rs. 275 Million for the Land Value due to an Urgent Financial Requirement
◆ 137 Perches, 15 Rooms, 250 Capacity Wedding Hall, Swimming Pool
◆ 100% Clear Deeds, Suitable for an Apartment Complex or Star Class Hotel

071 2481711

WANT A Canning Machine

We are looking for a used Carbonated Soft Drinks (CSD) Metal Can Filling Machine, which is in good condition.

If you have what we are looking for please contact:
Jayantha Weerasekera
OPALU ENGINEERING
Email: opalueng@stinet.lk
Mobile: +94 (0) 77 347 6447

LANKA Sathosa
Lowest Price | Your Place

Ministry of Trade

PRICE SETTER TO THE NATION

BID INVITATION

SUPPLY OF LABOUR SERVICES TO LANKA SATHOSA WAREHOUSES/ HEAD OFFICE

Chairman Lanka Sathosa Limited (LSL) invites sealed Bids from service providers who wish to **Supply Labour Services for Heavy Duty and Other works** for Lanka Sathosa Ltd warehouses/ Head office for a period of one year.

Interested Bidders shall obtain Bidding Documents by submitting authorization letter from the Procurement Division (3rd floor) at Lanka Sathosa Limited Head Office, No 27, CWE Secretariat Building, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02, **from 22.02.2021 to 15.03.2021 by paying Rs.1,500/= (Nonrefundable).**

Pre Bid meeting will be held on **04.03.2021, 11.00 a.m.**

Bids should be sent by Registered post or deposited in the tender box placed at the Procurement Division (3rd floor) Lanka Sathosa Ltd, No 27, CWE Secretariat Building Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02, on or before **15.03.2021, 1.00 p.m.** The top left hand corner of the envelope containing the sealed bid should be marked as **"Supply of Labour Services to LSL"**.

All bids shall be accompanied by a legibly filled **Bid Security Declaration** which has been enclosed with the paid Bidding Documents.

Accepting of Bids will be closed on **15.03.2021, 1.00 p.m.** and open immediately after closing, in the presence of Bidders. **Successful Bidder** is required to pay a **sum of Rs.5,000/- and 8% VAT** (nonrefundable) as a Registration Fee (except for Registered Suppliers) and retains 5% of the first month invoice value as performance security (refundable).

Contact under Mentioned officer for clarifications;
Deputy General Manager, Procurement LSL – **071 1506120, 0772535354**
Chairman, Lanka Sathosa Limited reserves the right to decide on awarding of the Tender/Contract.

The Chairman
Lanka Sathosa Limited
Sathosa Secretariat Building,
No.27, Colombo 02.

Ministry of Industries
Ministry of Plantation
State Ministry of Coconut, Kithul and Palmyrah Cultivation
Promotion and Related Industrial Product Manufacturing and Export Diversification

Invitation for Expression of Interest for Supply and Delivery of Disintegrated Dehydrated Coconut whole Kernel with outer brown skin

The Ministry of Industries and The Ministry of Plantation have decided to call in foreign parties interested in supplying above stated Raw material for the purpose of manufacturing high quality edible Coconut Oil

Objective

The high quality product will be used for the local consumer market with an intention to safeguard the brand image of Coconut oil.

Methodology in selection of the Supplier :

The most competitive price quoted bidder will be selected who is willing to comply with the specified quality standards and tender conditions.

Eligibility :

Foreign based manufacturers, their authorized local agents, traders or exporters are eligible to submit their tenders to supply the required raw material quantity.

The supplier should be willing to abide by the tender terms and conditions.

The successful bidder should agree to supply the total quantity requirement of 39000. metric tons within a period of 180 days.

Partial shipments are allowed for a minimum of 1500 Metric tons per single shipment.

The expertise and past export history of the exporter's ability to provide a bid bond will be considered for the selection.

Procedure for submitting your EOI/ BID :

Your sealed quotation should be sent on or before 12th March 2021 at 13.00hrs by hand, registered post or international courier to the Committee Chairman, BCC Lanka Ltd. Hultsdorf Mills, PO Box No. 281, Meeraniya Street, Colombo 12.

When submitting EOI/ Quotation reference BCC/2021/DCC/1 should be quoted on the top left side of the sealed document and the size of the document should not exceed A4 size to be deposited into BCC Lanka Limited – TENDER deposit Box.

Quotations or tenders will not be accepted by email or fax.

All tenders will be opened on 12th March 2021 at 14.30 hrs by the Tender Technical Committee.

The successful bidder should furnish a bid bond of 2% for the bid total shipment value in the form of a Bank Guarantee valid for 90 days from an accepted bank to the credit of BCC Lanka Ltd. The bond will be released after goods are successfully delivered and accepted by the Importer.

The consignee (beneficiary) of the cargo will be BCC Lanka Ltd as per the postal address stated above.

All guidelines, specifications and further application formats could be downloaded from the official web sites as stated www.industry.gov.lk / www.cda.gov.lk / www.bcc.lk / www.plantationindustries.gov.lk, www.idb.gov.lk.

Secretary
Inter-Ministerial Task Force

 **Coconut Development Authority**  **B C C Lanka Ltd.**

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
INVITATION FOR BIDS

CONSTRUCTION OF CARDIAC AND CRITICAL CARE COMPLEX LADY RIDGEWAY HOSPITAL - COLOMBO 08
(Supply and Installation of Air Conditioning System)

Contract No.: SB/G/179/53/2020

- The Chairman, Standard Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC) of the Ministry of Defence on behalf of the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03 now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply and Installation of Air Conditioning systems at Cardiac and Critical Care Complex at Lady Ridgeway Hospital - Colombo 08**". The estimated cost, approximately is **Rupees Two Hundred and Eighty Six Million (286 Mn)** excluding contingencies and taxes. The time for completion is 182 calendar days. the site is located at the premises of Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children, Colombo 08.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
- To be eligible for contract award, successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the following requirements.
 - The Bidders shall be registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) for Grade - EM-1 for **Mechanical Ventilation and Air Condition (MVAC)** works.
 - Average annual volume of construction work performed in last five years shall be at least **Rs. 450 Million**.
 - The **minimum** amount of liquid assets and/or credit facilities, after setting apart for the other contractual commitments and exclusive of any advance payments which may be made under the Contract, shall be not less than **Rs. 143.3 Million**.
 - Experience in successful completion of one building construction project of similar nature and complexity or higher value proportionate time period as the main contractor during last five years.
- Contractor should employ following staff:
 - Mechanical Engineer (Site - part time) - BSc Mechanical Engineering or equivalent with 2 years experience
 - Engineering Assistant (Mechanical) (Site - full time) - NDT/HNDE/NDES or equivalent with 3 years experience.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by prospective Bidders from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** on any working day during the period from 22.02.2021 up to 14.03.2021 from the Chief Financial Officer's Office (Ground Floor), Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03 on submission of a written application and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 35,000.00 (without Taxes). The method of payment shall be by cash.
- Bidders may obtain further information form the following address and bidding document can be inspected free of charge at the Chief Financial Officer's Office (Ground Floor), Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03 from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** on any working day from **22.02.2021 until 14.03.2021**.

Director General Engineering
Navy Headquarters,
Flagstaff Street,
Colombo 01

Telephone Number
DGE - 011-7194211
Fax: 011-2441456
Email: nhqdge@gmail.com

- Bid validity shall be up to 12.07.2021 (119 days from the date of bid closing).
- Amount of bid security is **Rupees 4,300,000.00** obtained from a reputed Commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in compliance with the approved format.
 - Bid security shall be valid up to **07.08.2021** (147 days) from the date of bid closing.
 - A pre-bid meeting will be held at **1000 hrs** on **09.03.2021** Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children, Colombo 08.
 - Bids in duplicate original and one copy perfected in English language shall be delivered by hand or registered post to reach the Chairman, Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee, Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03 at or before **1400 hrs** on **15.03.2021** which is the bid closing time. Reference number of the procurement shall be clearly indicated on the outer envelope of the bid package/s.
 - Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing of bids at 1400 hrs on 15.03.2021 in the presence of the bidders representatives who wish to attend. Representatives who will attend on behalf of the bidder should produce an authorized letter from the Bidder. Bidders are advised to inform in writing to the Chief Financial Officer, Ministry of Defence, the name and NIC/Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the tender opening at least prior to three (03) working days of tender opening.
 - Bidding documents which are incomplete and not accompanied which required documentary evidence shall be rejected. The Chairman, Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee, reserves the right to accept or reject any bid application.
 - This paper advertisement is available on Sri Lanka Navy website: www.navy.lk and Ministry of Defence website: www.defence.lk

The address referred to above is:

The Chairman,
Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC),
C/o Chief Financial Officer's Office,
Chief Financial Officer's Office (Ground Floor),
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03.

OBSERVER JOBS

BREAKING BOUNDARIES

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST RECRUITMENT DATABASE

FOR JOBSEEKERS

www.observerjobs.lk



STATE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION,
SUPPLY AND REGULATION OF PHARMACEUTICALS
**STATE PHARMACEUTICALS
MANUFACTURING
CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA**



INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE
BIDDING - (ICB)

BID REF. : SPMC/01/2021 CLOSING ON 06th April 2021

PROCUREMENT OF PHARMACEUTICAL RAW MATERIALS

1. Sealed bids for the supply of Pharmaceutical Raw Materials will be received by the Chairman, Procurement Committee, State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation, (SPMC) No. 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha, Kandawala Estate, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka up to 10.00 a.m. on 06th April 2021.

	ITEM	Qty. (KG)	Non refundable Tender fee (SL Rs.)
1	Ascorbic Acid BP	12,000	4,000.00
2	Carbamazepine BP	3,000	7,500.00
3	Cetirizine Dihydrochloride BP	200	500.00
4	Clopidogrel Bisulphate USP	8,000	15,000.00
5	Diethyl Carbamazepine Citrate	300	500.00
6	Dried Aluminium Hydroxide Gel	1,000	500.00
7	Diltiazem Hydrochloride USP	500	2,500.00
8	Flucloxacillin Sodium BP	9,000	14,000.00
9	Folic Acid BP	125	2,500.00
10	Fruzemide BP	1,000	3,000.00
11	Gliclazide BP	7,500	30,000.00
12	Losartan Potassium BP	5,000	12,000.00
13	Prednisolone BP	500	8,000.00
14	Propranolol Hydrochloride BP	600	1,000.00
15	Pyridoxine Hydrochloride BP	50	500.00
16	Riboflavin BP	100	1,000.00
17	Salbutamol Sulphate BP	150	1,000.00
18	Spironolactone USP	150	2,000.00
19	Thiamine Hydrochloride BP	100	500.00
20	Tolbutamide BP	3,000	3,000.00
21	Verapamil Hydrochloride BP	200	1,000.00
22	Crospovidone BP	1,000	500.00
23	Hydroxypropyl Cellulose - LJP	500	2,000.00
24	Hydroxypropyl methylcellulose - Pthalate	1,000	2,000.00
25	Lactose Monohydrate BP/USP (200 Mesh)	20,000	2,000.00
26	Maize Starch BP / USNF	27,000	1,000.00
27	Microcrystalline Cellulose USNF/BP	5,000	500.00
28	Povidone K-30 (Polyvinyl Pyrrolidone K-30) USP / BP	500	500.00
29	Pre-gelatinized Maize Starch	4,000	500.00
30	Sodium Starch Glycolate BP/USNF	2,500	1,000.00
31	Stearic Acid (D-grade) BP	300	500.00
32	Tartaric Acid BP / USNF	150	500.00

- Sealed bids should be made on a complete set of bidding documents in duplicate and original separately and sent by registered post addressed to the Chairman, Procurement Committee, State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation, No. 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha, Kandawala Estate, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka or deposited in the tender box kept at the ground floor at the State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation, No. 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha, Kandawala Estate, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka.
- Bid document could be obtained from the above address from 22nd February 2021 to 05th April 2021 between 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. during working days on submission of the followings.
 - A written application to the Deputy General Manager - Planning and Procurement, State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation, No. 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha, Kandawala Estate, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka.
 - Upon payment of the non-refundable Bid document fee stated above in cash to the Accounts Department of SPMC.
- Bids are administered by the provisions of the "Public Contract Act No. 3 of 1987" and therefore, in the event bidder is to retain an Agent, Sub-Agent, Representative, Nominee for and on behalf of bidder shall register himself any such Public Contract in accordance with the section 10 of the Public Contract Act and produce such valid certificate of registration in the course of any transaction relating to the bid or Act any stage in the duration of the bidding.
- Bids will be opened immediately after the closing of bids at SPMC - Ratmalana, bidder or their authorized agents are permitted to present when bids are opened.
- Bid Documents may be inspected free of charge at the SPMC.
- Further information could be obtained from Deputy General Manager - Planning & Procurement, SPMC. (Tel. 2623298)

Details of the Bid can be viewed from our Website. (www.spmclanka.lk)
Foreign principals can download the Bid Document from our Website (Those who are not represented by local agents, such offers should be accompanied by a bank draft for similar value/s in US\$ as payment fee for the bid document mentioned above)

Chairman,
Procurement Committee
State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation
No. 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha, Kandawala Estate,
Ratmalana, Sri Lanka.
TEL. : (00) 94-11-2635353/ (00) 94-11-2637574 / (00) 94-11-2623298
E-MAIL : spmclanka@sltnet.lk
Website : www.spmclanka.lk
Fax : (00) 94-11-2634771, 2626621



INVITATION TO TENDER (ITT)

FOR RENTAL VEHICLES FOR MAG FLEET 2021/2022 (One year)

The Mines Advisory Group (MAG) is an international organisation with field offices in Sri Lanka, setting new standards for humanitarian mine clearance, advocacy and innovative approaches to logistics management. Our risk education programs, community liaison, and flexible multi-skilled mine action teams make a real difference on the ground in communities afflicted by mines and unexploded bombs in Sri Lanka. MAG office in Sri Lanka is invite for submissions of sealed tenders from well reputable rental vehicles agencies/ vehicles owners (individuals) to supply vehicles for support MAG's activity in all island for one-year period. This procurement will include:

LOT Number	Vehicle specifications (*)	Total Minimum QTY needed	Total Maximum QTY needed
LOT 1	Land Cruiser OR equal capacity vehicles (70-80 series) with A/C to be used as 4WD Ambulance.	6	10
LOT 2 A	Vans-Nissan Caravan with dual A/C to be used as 4WD Ambulance without driver	18	20
LOT 2 B	Vans-Toyota HiAce with dual A/C to be used as 4WD Ambulance without driver		
LOT 2 C	Vans-Equal brand to Toyota HiAce OR Nissan Caravan with dual A/C, without driver		
LOT 2 D	Standard ambulance with A/C, without driver		
LOT 3 A	Trucks, model 3.5 tonne (Rear side roof + roof covered with rexine sheet+rear doors) with drivers	40	45
LOT 3 B	Trucks, model 2.5 tonne (Rear side roof + roof covered with rexine sheet+rear doors) with drivers		
LOT 3 C	Trucks, model 1.5 tonne (Rear side roof + roof covered with rexine sheet+rear doors) with drivers		
LOT 3 D	Pickup, single cab, 4x2 2 WD with (Rear side roof + roof covered with rexine sheet+rear doors) with drivers		
LOT 4 A	Buses, Number of seats 42 with drivers	12	16
LOT 4 B	Buses, Number of seats 52 with drivers		
LOT 5	Pickup, double cab, 4x4 4WD with A/C without driver	20	22
LOT 6	Sports Utility Vehicle, 4 WD (SUV), with A/C	1	4

Please Note:-
 • This ITT gives rise to no contractual obligation between MAG and any Tenderers
 • MAG will not be liable for any costs or expenses directly or indirectly associated with participating in this tender process.
 • MAG will not be liable to any Tenderer where a Tenderer is not invited to participate in any subsequent process following completion of this Tender process.
 • MAG reserves the right to make associated changes with the tender schedule and related tender documents

MAG's intended timeline for this procedure is as follows:
 The ITT tender package will be made available for FREE OF collection from 22.02.2021 to 03.03.2021 between 09:00AM to 04:00PM. (Closed on public holidays & weekends at Colombo office) at the address below or by email:- tendersrilanka@maginternational.org. Only one authorized officer is permitted to collect ITT documentation.

Vavuniya	Colombo
The Tender committee Mines Advisory Group (MAG) Central Operating Base, 242, Mannar Road, Nellikulam, Vavuniya	The Tender committee Mines Advisory Group (MAG) 30A, Pamankada Lane, Colombo 6

For questions, please contact our official email: tendersrilanka@maginternational.org
 MAG looks forward to your involvement in this innovative new project. MAG actively promotes transparent processes in all its procurement activities and readily encourages all qualified Sri Lankan companies to participate in this process.

MOUNT LOTUS HOSPITALS PRIVATE LIMITED REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR 2021

Mount Lotus Hospitals (Pvt).Ltd is a modern, upcoming private hospital in Sri Lanka, which is dedicated to provide a range of Eye and ENT medical solutions to the local and international patients. The hospital is fully equipped with modern medical technology and highly acclaimed, skilled medical professionals to provide medical and surgical solutions for any kind of Eye and ENT impairment.

Applications are hereby invited from recognized suppliers who wish to register as Suppliers for the year 2021 for the following listed items

ITEMS

- Intraocular Lenses
- Pharmaceutical Products
- Eye related surgical consumables
- Other consumables (Serviette Papers, etc...)
- Stationary and related Items.
- Printing & Advertising.
- All kind of hospital furniture.
- Electrical and Electronic items.
- Medical Equipment.
- Computers, Printers and related consumables.
- Repair services. (Medical equipment, Vehicles, Electrical items)
- Housekeeping Services.
- Security Services.
- Laundry Services (Laundry Liquid, Mopes, Detergents etc...)
- Laboratory equipment.
- Linen, Uniforms, Theatre Foot wear, and tailoring services.
- Plumbers, Plumbing materials & Bathroom fittings.
- Fire and Safety Equipment's.
- Cafeteria Services & Foods and Beverages
- Landscaping services
- Building materials. (Sand, Bricks, Tiles, Cement etc...)
- Building constructors, Partition, and Painting.

Applications could be downloaded from the website www.mountlotus.lk or



Please scan this QR code for the application.

All applicant must pay Rs. 2000/= non-refundable application fee to the A/C number 061010280385 in Hatton National Bank, Mt. Lavinia and the carbon copy of the bank slip must be attached to the application. The duly completed applications should be sent to the following address, on or before 15th March 2021 by registered post. Please indicate

"Registration of Suppliers - 2021" on the left side top corner of the envelop



Mount Lotus
Eye & ENT Hospital

The General Manager
Mount Lotus Hospitals (Pvt). Ltd.
No. 102, Galle Road, Mt. Lavinia. Sri Lanka.

LOOKING FOR TALENT?



OBSERVER JOBS

"We change your world"

SRI LANKA'S LARGEST ONLINE DATABASE
www.observerjobs.lk

To connect with us

0777 270012 / 0112 429314

email - careers@observerjobs.lk



Sunday Observer

OBSERVER JOBS
"We change your world"

www.observerjobs.lk
it's what you want

BE BETTER INFORMED!

Dinamina Daily News Thinakaran

News you can trust now free on your mobile phone.

Visit - apps.lakehouse.lk

DOWNLOAD TODAY!

AVAILABLE AT

LAKE HOUSE

Trade

Fully Automatic 3 Ply Mask Machine FOR SALE

"Fully Automatic 3 Ply Mask Machine"

- Good Working Condition.
- Used only for a few months.
- Available for immediate sale.

Please Call **0774-413116**

STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

TENDER NOTICE

The State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, Colombo 01 invites quotations from registered and previous sources for following items for open market sales and tenders will be closed at 1.15 p.m. on the dates given below. (E-mail/Fax offers as well as FOB offers are not acceptable).

Item	Quantity	Tender No.	Closing on
Item Code No. 170606K99 Lactulose Solution USP 120ml Bottle pack in a carton (To protect from light)	180,000 Bottles	RES/05/03/A/2021	05.03.2021
Item Code No. 100101C01 Folic Acid Tablets BP 1mg 10 x 3 Tablets (Blister)	80,000 Packs	RES/05/03/B/2021	05.03.2021

These tenders are administered by the provisions of the "Public Contract Act No. 3 of 1987" and therefore, in the event bidder is to retain an Agent, Sub-Agent, Representative, Nominee for and on behalf of tenderer shall register himself and such Public Contract in accordance with Section 10 of the Public Contract Act and produce such valid certificate of registration in the course of any transaction relating to the tender or Act any stage in the duration of the tender.

Tenders will be closed at the office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at 1.15 p.m. on the dates indicated against each tender and will be opened immediately thereafter. Tenderers or their authorized Representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Tender.

Chairman - Procurement Committee
State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka
75, Sir Baron Jayathilake Mawatha,
Colombo 01.
Phone : 00 94 11 2320356-9

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

FABRICATION & SUPPLY OF PRE-STRESSED CONCRETE (PSC) BEAMS OF INTERNAL ROAD BRIDGE FOR DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT (BID) NUMBER : DHQC/PROC/2021/YARD/16

- The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence invites competitive sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Fabrication & Supply of Pre-Stressed Concrete (PSC) Beams of Internal Road Bridge for Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda.**
- 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 on any working day from 0900hrs. on 22nd February 2021 to 1500hrs on 16th March 2021. Tel: 0094-011-4209885, Fax: 0094-011-4209885, E-mail: pmudhqc@gmail.com.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure under Standard Bidding Document of NPA/Goods/SBD 01 and Government Procurement Guidelines.
- To be eligible for Contract award;
 - Bidder shall have been registered as a business entity in Sri Lanka for at least five (5) years.
 - Bidder shall be a manufacturer of pre-stressed elements having ISO 9001 certification and SLS certification for pre-stressed concrete beams and shall offer Pre-stressed Concrete Beams that have been successfully used in Sri Lanka for at least three (3) years.
 - Bidder shall demonstrate the above qualifications through submitted documentation.

Bidders who do not comply with this mandatory qualification criterion shall be considered as non-responsive.

- 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, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla from 22nd February 2021 and 16th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Sri Lankan Rupees Sixteen Thousand (Rs. 16,000.00)**. The method of payment shall be by cash or bank draft in favour of **Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project.**
- A pre bid meeting will be held at **1100 hrs on 03rd March 2021** at Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- Duly completed Bids shall be delivered to: **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** at or before **1000 hrs on 17th March 2021**. 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.**
- All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid-Security of **Sri Lanka 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 **14th July 2021** (119 days after the Bid opening).
- 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.
- 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

BANK OF CEYLON

INVITATION FOR BIDS

VEHICLES / MACHINERY FOR SALE - BID NO. 01/2021

Sealed quotations are invited for the sale of undermentioned vehicles / machinery of Bank of Ceylon.

Bank of Ceylon Kaduwela Vehicle Yard

VEHICLE NO.	MAKE & MODEL	YEAR
Four Wheel Tractor		
EP RF 4851	TAFE 45DI	2017
UP RF 2210	VST MITSUBISHI SHAKTI VT224-1D	2015
EP RE 6843	KUBOTA L4508DT	2009
EP RF 4855	MASSEY FERGUSON MF-1540	2016
EP RF 4768	MASSEY FERGUSON MF-1540	2016
EP RF 5347	SONALIKA DI 50 RX	2017

VEHICLE NO.	MAKE & MODEL	YEAR
Motor Car		
NW CAS 1788	TOYOTA DAA-ZVW50 PRIUS	2016
WP CAR 8387	SUZUKI DAA-MH44S WAGON R	2015
SP CAK 7672	NISSAN LEAF ACENTA	2014

VEHICLE NO.	MAKE & MODEL	YEAR
Motor Bus		
SG NC 8776	NISSAN PDG-EJW41 CIVILIAN	2008
WP NB 2808	SUNLONG SLK 6802	2012
WP NB 3413	EICHER 2015	2011
SP NB 8118	LANKA ASHOK LEYLAND VIKING	2014

Bank of Ceylon Kalmunai Branch

VEHICLE NO.	MAKE & MODEL	YEAR
Four Wheel Tractor		
NC RD 9812	KUBOTA L4508	2015
NC RF 3643	PREET 4549-4WD	2017
EP RF 6363	MAHINDRA YUVO 575 DISPS	2017
EP RF 6246	SONALIKA DI 50RX	2017
EP RF 4029	MASSEY FERGUSON MF-1540	2016
EP RF 5777	NEW HOLLAND 4710	2017

- Vehicles can be inspected at the yard located at No. 46/2, Lanerol Mawatha, Pahala Bomiriya, Kaduwela and Bank of Ceylon Kalmunai Branch Vehicle Yard between 9.30 a.m and 3.30 p.m on 05th, 06th and 07th of March 2021.
Bidding Documents could be obtained from the Chief Manager (Recovery Provinces Department) either at the Kaduwela Yard & Bank of Ceylon Kalmunai Branch, on 05th, 06th and 07th of March 2021 or at the Recovery Provinces Department, 3rd Floor, Bank of Ceylon Head Office, No. 1, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01 from 05th of March 2021 to 16th of March 2021.
A non-refundable cash fee of Rs. 2,160/- ((Rs. 2,000 + Rs. 160 (VAT)) should be made to obtain Bidding Documents.
- Last Date & Time for issuing of Bidding Documents : 16.03.2021 at 3.00 p.m.
- Date & Time of closing of Bids : 17.03.2021 at 10.00 a.m.
- Bidders may quote for any number of vehicles, whereas the same should be marked in a single document and inserted into a single envelope. The Bid number and the opening date should be stated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.
- Bank draft not less than 5% of the total Bid value of each Bid (which is refundable) should be attached with the Bidding document.
- Sealed Bidding Documents should be submitted to reach the Chief Manager (Properties and Procurement Department), 14th Floor, Bank of Ceylon Head Office, No. 1, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01 by registered post or deposited in the 'Box available at the Ground Floor, Bank of Ceylon Head Office, No. 1, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01 before 10 00 a.m. (Bid closing time) on 17.03.2021 (Bid closing date).
- Incomplete and late submission Bids will be rejected. Proofs of posting will not be accepted in case of any delay.
- Bids will be opened immediately after the closure of the Bid submission time. The Bidders or their authorized representatives (one representative for each Bidder) may participate at the Bid opening.
- The selection of the successful Bidder/s will be notified by the Assistant General Manager (Administrative Services) within three working days from the closing date of the bid.
- The successful Bidder/s should pay the balance amount (Bid amount - amount of Bank draft) and remove the vehicle within 14 calendar days from the notification of the selection of Bidders from the yard of Bank of Ceylon at Kaduwela and Kalmunai.

Bank of Ceylon reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid or part therein without providing any reason.

Chief Manager (Recovery Provinces Department)
3rd Floor, Bank of Ceylon Head Office
No. 1, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01.
Tel : 011-2203436

BANK OF CEYLON
Bankers to the Nation

Conditions apply

To Buy Your Dream Vehicle within your Budget

If it is a vehicle you want,
YOU NAME IT, WE HAVE IT

ADZ Auto Focus

Sunday Observer

ADZ It's what you want

erodua Viva Elite 2013
Viva, Manual Gears, Alloy Wheels, Original Fog Lamp, Crystal Headlight, Central Locking with Remote Key, Power Shutters, Power Mirrors, Reverse Sensors, Original Carpets, Power Steering, Second Owner, Home Use

- Vehicle Rent / Wanted

ADZ Magazine
Issued with **Sunday Observer**

Hot Line - 011 2 429 369/ 011 2 429 368
E-mail - adzsu@gmail.com

- Photo Classifieds

Toyota CR41 TownAce, Diesel, A/C, C/Lock, 4 eccr. Alloys, in very good position, C/lights, rotating seat, highest offer: 88000

Toyota KR42, JK Alloy Wheel, Adjust seats, 3C Engine, Air conditioned, Full Optic Door: 0775 xxxxxx

To Buy Your Dream Vehicle within your Budget

If it is a vehicle you want,
**YOU NAME IT,
WE HAVE IT**



ADZ Auto Focus

**THE ONLY PLACE TO
BUY YOUR
DREAM CAR!**

erodua Viva Elite 2013
White, Manual Gears, Alloy
Wheels, Original Fog Lamp,
Crystal Headlight, Central
Locking with Remote Key,
Power Shutters, Power Mirrors,
Reverse Sensors, Original
Carpets, Power Steering,
Second Owner, Home Use.
077 7 657 40



- Auto Focus

- Vehicle Rent / Wanted

ADZ Magazine Issued with
Sunday Observer

erodia CR41 Townsco, Diesel, A/C, C/Lock, 4 door, Alloys, in very good condition. C/lights, rotating seat, highest offer. 0775 xxxxxx

Toyota KR42, JK Alloy Wheel, Air seats, 1C Engine, Air dittoed, Full Opti Door. 0775 xxxxxx

- Photo Classifieds

Hot Line - 011 2 429 369/ 011 2 429 368
E-mail - adzsuo@gmail.com

Publish your **Classified ad**
in our Newspapers
at a **bearable amount**

* For 15 Words

Sunday Observer ADZ	+	සමගම	Rs. 500/- - Rs.15/- for each additional word
Sunday Observer ADZ	+	Daily News	Rs. 350/- - Rs.15/- for each additional word
සමගම	+	දිනමිණ	Rs. 350/- - Rs.15/- for each additional word
Sunday Observer ADZ	+	දිනමාන	Rs. 400/- - Rs.15/- for each additional word
සමගම	+	දිනමාන	Rs. 400/- - Rs.15/- for each additional word
Daily News	+	දිනමාන	Rs. 250/- - Rs.10/- for each additional word
දිනමිණ	+	දිනමාන	Rs. 250/- - Rs.10/- for each additional word

E-Mail your Classified ad to
classified@lakehouse.lk

The convenient way to make your payment:-
BOC - Acc.No. **000000377** **Green light for Online Transfer**
LAKE HOUSE BRANCH

For more Details -
Anusha - 077 7 278 948 / Piyumi - 011 2 429 383
Ramani - 011 2 429 347

A Series of **Sinhala & English** Monthly Educational Magazines
Compiled in accordance with the New School Syllabus
in order to improve your children's knowledge

Grade **1 English** Muthu Ahuru

Grade **2 English** Muthu Ahuru

Grade **3 English** Muthu Ahuru

Grade **4 English** Muthu Ahuru

Grade **5 English** Muthu Ahuru

1 වන ශ්‍රේණිය දරුවන් සඳහා

2 වන ශ්‍රේණිය දරුවන් සඳහා

3 වන ශ්‍රේණිය දරුවන් සඳහා

4 වන ශ්‍රේණිය දරුවන් සඳහා

5 වන ශ්‍රේණිය දරුවන් සඳහා

Reserve your copy monthly from your nearest News Agent.



Printed & Published
by Lake House