

## **"BRIT GOVT HINDERS ESTABLISHING TRUTH IN SRI LANKA**'

"There is ample evidence in the despatches of UK Defence attache that the Sri Lanka Government at the time and its Security Forces did not have a policy to kill Tamil civilians. Indeed they went out of their way to rescue them with considerable success despite danger and losses to themselves, Hon.President of the All Party Parliamentary British-Sri Lanka group Lord Naseby has written to UN Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet responding to her highly critical report on Sri Lanka titled, "Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka."

The report was tabled at the 46th Human Rights Council Sessions, currently being held in Geneva. Lord Naseby has written...

SEE PAGE 2

## CORE GROUP RESOLUTION **ON LANKA** - Ali Sabry

By Uditha Kumarasinghe

Commenting on the United

## **DIVERSE VIEWS ON PCoI REPORT SIX-MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORT ON MARCH 15**

### By Uditha Kumarasinghe

Minister of Tourism Prasanna Ranatunga said since various people express divergent views on the final report submitted by the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) that probed the Easter Sunday attacks, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has appointed a six-mem-

wide-ranging mandate to carefully study it and make its recommendations.

The ministerial committee under the chairmanship of Minister Chamal Rajapaksa has already met on two occasions and discussed the recommendations of the PCoI report.

As instructed by the President, the Committee will submit its report to the Cabinet on March 15, the Minister told the Sunday Observer yesterday. Minister Ranatunga who is also a member of the

ber ministerial Committee with a Committee said they will have to tains 500 pages while the other two study the reports submitted by the reports submitted by the SPSC and PCoI, the Special Parliamentary Select Committee (SPSC) that probed the Easter Sunday attacks and the Parliamentary Sectorial Oversight Committee on National Security (PSOCNS).

> After studying these three Committee reports, we will submit a tain sections that while the report comprehensive report to the President on the steps that need to be taken in this regard. "I think this thripala Sirisena and ex-senior Govwould be vital to initiate proper action against the perpetrators".

He said the PCoI report con-

the PSOCNS also contained a large number of pages.

However, as instructed by the President, we are trying our best to submit our committee report on March 15.

Responding to claims by cerrecommended criminal proceedings against former President Maiernment officials, it had ignored the true culprits of the Easter Sunday attacks. SEE PAGE 2

## **SPECIAL CENTRES FOR COVID-19 INFECTED STUDENTS** exam begins E (OL) omorrow

The GCE Ordinary Level examination 2020 will begin tomorrow in keeping with Covid-19 health guidelines, a spokesman for the Education Ministry said. The examination ary measure to accommodate will be held from March 1 - 10.

At least two special exami-





Nations (UN) Core Group attempt to hand over a Resolution against Sri Lanka at the 46th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), Justice and Prison Reforms Minister Ali Sabry (PC) said he is sure that they would think rationally about it and engage with the Government before they take some harsh or unnecessary decisions which will harm the ground situation in the country.

"Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena along with a team of eminent...

SEE PAGE 2

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa placing the Sacred Relics Casket on the caparisoned elephant at the commencement of the Navam Maha perahera of the Gangaramaya temple, Colombo on Friday night. Ven. Dr. Kirinde Assaji Thera of the Gangaramaya temple and Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa look on. Pic: Hirantha Gunathilaka

## ASSAULT ON LAW STUDENT Produce the police officers involved - BASL

In a letter addressed to the Inspector General of Police, President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka Kalinga Indatissa PC urged the police to produce the officers involved in the assault of a young law student as suspects with

immediate effect. Migara Gunaratne, a final year law student, was assaulted by the officers

of the SIU of the Peliyagoda police on Thursday (25). "This issue cannot be concluded with a disciplinary inquiry or an interdiction. The action of the police is highly deplorable," Kalinga said adding there is an

increase in such incidents in the SEE PAGE 2 recent past.

## NEARLY 1,000 KILOGRAMS OF DRUGS SEIZED Over 61,550 arrested in 2020 narco busts

**OVERSEAS HUNT LAUNCHED FOR LANKAN CRIME BARONS** 

### **By Leon Berenger**

At least 61,550 people were arrested for narcotic related offences last year, a senior most police official said.

He added that almost 1,000 kilograms of heroin and other synthetic drugs were also seized during this period.

Intelligence reports received

from around the country said a large scarcity of the widely used heroin drug forced addicts to opt for cheaper purchases of synthetic substances to maintain their habit.

In a related development, the police had obtained Interpol Red Notices against 24 Sri Lankan drug traffickers who are in hiding overseas. The bulk of the Sri Lankan drug barons are... SEE PAGE 2

Lady Gaga's dogs found safe after armed robbery



LOS ANGELES, Feb. 27. (BBC) Lady Gaga's two stolen French bulldogs have been found safe and handed over to the police, according to officials.

The two dogs, stolen in an armed robbery, have been 'reunited' with the singer's representatives, police said.

Lady Gaga's dog walker, Ryan Fischer, was shot by two men who abducted the dogs in Hollywood, Los Angeles, on Wednesday.

He is in hospital and his family

said on Friday that he was expected is not clear if the reward has been to make a full recovery.

Details of how the dogs were recovered are unclear. The Associated Press said a woman had brought them to the Olympic Community Police Station in LA and the singer's representatives had confirmed they were hers. The woman appeared to be "uninvolved and unassociated" with the robbery, a police spokesman said.

Lady Gaga had offered USD 500,000 for their safe return but it claimed.

The star - whose real name is Stefani Germanotta - is currently in Rome working on a new Ridley Scott film, Gucci. In her first public reaction to the attack, Gaga tweeted on Friday: "My heart is sick."

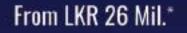
"I am praying my family will be whole again with an act of kindness. I will pay \$500,000 for their safe return." And in another Twitter post, the singer wrote: "I continue to love you Ryan Fischer... SEE PAGE 2

RI-ZEN

Covid-19 infected candidates. The number of such centres has nation centres will be set up in been increased in the Colombo each district as a precaution- district due to... **SEE PAGE 2** 

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## News

## Lankan businesses will benefit from **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor** – **Premier Khan**



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa holds discussions with Pakistan Premier Imran Khan

### **BY AANYA WIPULASENA**

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan cemented a new 50 USD million defence credit line facility to Sri Lanka, during his maiden visit here since taking office.

A joint press statement by the Public Diplomacy Division of the Foreign Ministry said both nations "stressed the need for stronger partnership for supporting and coordinating with each other in dealing with matters related to security, terrorism, organised crime and drug and narcotic trafficking as well as intelligence-sharing".

Accepting an invitation by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, Khan arrived in the island on Tuesday (23) on a two-day official visit where he held crucial bilateral discussions with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.

The press statement said the visit afforded a timely opportunity to both sides to further build upon their close and regular consultations, particularly in the areas identified during the Foreign Secretary-level Bilateral Political Consultations, Joint Economic University of Karachi.

Commission session recently and the commerce Secretaries-level Talks.

At the Pakistan-Sri Lanka Trade and Investment Conference held on Wednesday (24) Khan extended an invitation to local businessmen and investors to be a part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of BRI, for regional economic growth and prosperity.

"It opens the opportunity for Sri Lankan businesses right up to Central Asia. It gives you an opportunity of connecting from Gwadar, which is the port, right up to Uzbekistan and Central Asian states. And this is the connectivity which Pakistan offers along with, in CPEC we have these special economic zones which gives incentives to businesses to set up industries there," he said.

Several Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) were also signed between the two nations including cooperation in Tourism, MoU between the University of Colombo, and Lahore School of Economics, Pakistan an MoU between Industrial Technology Institute (ITI), and International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences,

## Indian jets to feature in Air Force's 70th anniversary



Suryakirans, Sarang and Light is a further manifestation of the Combat Aircraft Tejas will partici-strong professional bonds that pate in an air show in Colombo the two air forces share," it said.

## **UNHRC Resolution on Sri Lanka** Unilateral action, a violation of principles of natural justice

## **Driven by political** motivations

### **BY MANJULA FERNANDO**

Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena last week called upon the member States at the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to reject the proposed Resolution on Sri Lanka, regretting the 'disproportionate attention' drawn to the country by the UNHRC, driven by political motivations.

"Sri Lanka calls upon the members of the Council that any Resolution which is based on this Report, be rejected by the Council and be brought to a closure," he said, adding any unilateral action by member States from asset freezes and travel bans to excercise of universal jurisdiction by individual countries, was a violation of the principle of natural justice.

He emphasised the recent report by the High Commissioner on Sri Lanka violated the Article 2(7) of the Charter of the UN which prohibits the world body from intervening in domestic affairs of a sovereign nation

The Minister stressed that, however, as always the Sri Lankan government will remain open to engaging constructively with the UN.

Speaking at the interactive dialogue on the OHCHR Report 'Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka', on Wednesday, the Minister said, "Sri Lanka categorically rejects the conclusions and recommendations in the High Commissioner's Report." He said these recommendations are based on ill-founded allegations.

He said the High Commissioner Bachelet had unjustifiably gone beyond her 'scope and mandate', incorporating many issues of governance and matters that are essentially domestic for any self-respecting, sovereign country.

Sri Lanka refuted the allegations in the High Commissioner's report reproduced from the 'highly contentious' Report of the Panel of Experts (PoE) on Accountability and the Report of the High Commissioner's



Office Investigation on Sri Lanka (OISL). The Minister said these allegations have been rejected by his government for reasons explained to the Council before.

He said, "The contents of the Report which have been drawn from the said disputed reports are rife with factual inaccuracies that appear to equate atrocities committed by the LTTE, a terrorist organisation proscribed internationally, with legitimate action taken by the Government to safeguard the territorial integrity of the country and the right to life of our people."

Earlier, at the high level segment of the Sessions on Tuesday, Minister Gunawardena noted, end of terrorism in Sri Lanka guaranteed the most cherished of all human rights, recalling that the LTTE terrorists were responsible for the assassination of two world leaders.

He said that Sri Lanka had to withdraw from the consensus Resolution in keeping with the huge mandate by which the government was elected into and also since the commitments were not in conformity with the Constitution.

The Minister said bringing another Resolution will only result in a significant loss of morale among countries engaged in the struggle against terrorism.

"In addition to the progress made since last March, Sri Lanka

## - Foreign Minister

**Ill-founded** allegations

has provided written comments on

instances of erroneous information,

misconceived and arbitrary assess-

ments in the Report. It is regrettable

that the High Commissioner's Office

published its Report, accompanied

by an unprecedented propaganda

campaign on it and refused to pub-

lish our comments on the report as

an addendum. This has deprived Sri

Lanka and members of equal vis-

ibility of Sri Lanka's views on the re-

cluding the EU and Nordic coun-

tries welcomed the High Commis-

sioner's report calling for continued

oversight from the OHCHR, at the

interactive session on Thursday, 21

countries including China, Russia,

Pakistan, Philippines and Cuba wel-

comed the progress Sri Lanka had

made despite challengers posed by

the world pandemic. They echoed

the country specific resolutions

were not the way forward to promote

ippines said, " We are concerned

that this report fails to ground itself

properly on contextual realties. Par-

ticularly the challenges of address-

ing the grave threats of the pandem-

ic and terrorism to Sri Lanka's 21.3

million people. The reports mis-

characterisation of security policies

in Sri Lanka is in sensitive to the long

The representative for the Phil-

human rights in countries.

While 15 representatives on behalf of countries and groups in-

port," he pointed out.

Fifteen for, 21 States against

> struggle of its people against conflict and terrorism. We regret that this feeds the troubling discourse in the Council that down plays the victims of terrorism."

Venezuela said Sri Lanka's prog-ress has not been really taken into account in the High Commissioner's report. Russia called for open constructive dialogue and international assistance in place of external pressure to address issues.

The Chinese representative said, "We are concerned about the prominent lack of impartiality shown in the OHCHR report and the failure to take on board authoritative information. Targeted sanctions are clear interference in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka and indicates overstepping of the High Commissioner's mandate. The Human Rights Council should respect sovereignty and political independence of all countries.

The US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken addressing the high level segment earlier said, "We encourage the Council to support resolutions at this session addressing issues of concern around the world, including ongoing human rights violations in Syria and North Korea, the lack of accountability for past atrocities in Sri Lanka, and the need for further investigation into the situation in South Sudan."

However, in reference to Israel he added, "As the United States reengages, we urge the Human Rights Council to look at how it conducts its business. That includes its disproportionate focus on Israel. We need to eliminate Agenda Item 7 and treat the human rights situation in Israel and the Palestinian Territories the same way as this body handles any other country."

The Zero Draft of the Resolution on Sri Lanka is currently being circulated by the Core Group for support. The final document will be considered on March 22 or 23, during the last two days of the 46th session of the HRC, diplomatic sources from Geneva confirmed.

from March 3 to 5 as part of the 70th anniversary celebrations of the Sri Lankan Air Force.

The IAF's aerobatic display teams, the fixed wing 'Suryakirans' and rotary wing 'Sarang', along with Tejas arrived in Colombo on Saturday.

The IAF and SLAF have seen active exchanges and interactions for a number of years in diverse fields like training, operational exchanges and through professional military education courses.

"IAFs participation in the 70th anniversary celebration of SLAF

The IAF Survakiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) had earlier toured Sri Lanka in 2001 for the 50th anniversary celebrations of SLAF.

The IAF's aerobatic display teams, the fixed wing 'Suryakirans' and rotary wing 'Sarang', along with Tejas arrived at Colombo on Saturday.

As the IAF aircraft take to the skies of Colombo to mark the event, they will script another significant chapter in the traditionally strong IAF-SLAF ties, it added.

- Hindustan Times

## Produce the police... From page 1

He also called upon the IGP to consider directing the police to file a B Report initially under Section 136 (1) (a) of the Code of Criminal Procedure Act of 1979 and cause all responsible officers to be produced before Court for purposes of identification.

The police in a media release stated that three constables and an Inspector were interdicted. The Colombo Magistrate has ruled that there was not enough evidence to prove that Migara had obstructed the duties of the police. The Magistrate refused to accept the Breport filed by the police, alleging that the law student had obstructed their duties. Charitha Gunarathne, brother of the victim said, "On February 23, I was instructed by my Senior Counsel

to go to the Peliyagoda police station to represent a long-standing client of his. At the police station I was informed that my client was being held in the Special Crimes Unit, and when I went to the SIU, I witnessed my client being intimidated by a person in casual attire. I promptly stepped in and informed that person, who I believed to be a police officer, that this is my client and I am here to represent his interests as an Attornev-at-Law and produced my BASL ID card to verify my credentials." Gunarathne said he was verbally abused after he called an officer who was in casual attire 'Sergeant'. He said the Chief Inspector of the police, Linton Silva joined the officer to intimidate him further.

## "Brit Govt hinders.... From page 1

...that the UK Government holds the evidence of the UK Defence attache Lt. Col.Gash during his period of service in Sri Lanka as to how many people died in the final phases of the battle against terrorism. By not providing these despatches in un-redacted form, the British Government is hindering the process of establishing the truth of what really happened at the end of the Sri Lanka battle against terrorism.

Britain is the lead member of the Core Group on Sri Lanka which is mooting another negative Resolution on the country based on the High Commissioner's report based on 'erroneous information,' according to Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena. A vote among member states on the Resolution is expected at the end of the

session late March.

Lord Naseby has also questioned the UK Government's silence on Adele Balasingham, "given Britain's interest in seeking the truth and accountability for human rights.'

She was one of the key Tamil Tiger personnel deeply involved in the recruitment, training and possibly deployment of child soldiers.

"The evidence of Balasingham confessing her involvement in the LTTE's activities and adorning suicide cyanide capsule chains on the necks of female child soldiers may be readily seen in the documentary "Inside Story:Suicide Killers" broadcast on BBC 1 on October 23 1991 at 21:30.

See full letter by Lord Naseby to Human Rights High Commissioner dated February 13 on page 14

## Six-member committee report... From page 1

Minister Ranatunga said the report has not made any reference regarding the State Minister who was in charge of the Police during the tenure of the Yahapalana Government.

"The terrorists who were involved in those multiple terror attacks on Easter Sunday have died. However, we have to find out who was the mastermind behind those attacks but there is no such reference to that in the PCoI report. We don't know whether such references have not been made as it may pose a threat to national security. Therefore, after fully investi-

## UN should think.... From page 1

...people and resource personnel have been trying to convince them. I feel the outcome will be something reasonable", the Minister told the Sunday Observer yesterday.

Asked when grave human rights violations have taken place in some other countries why is Sri Lanka being deliberately targeted at each UNHRC session by some of these Western countries, Minister Sabry said there are two different yardsticks they use for different countries.

"I think we have a credible legal system and an independent judiciary. We have a very good transitional democracy. We have never doubted or challenged the outcome of an election. Since 1947, even before the official election results are announced in Sri Lanka, our leaders have conceded defeat and left office. They have always respected democracy. Therefore, I don't think we should be judged unfairly," he said. The Minister said, however, there are some prejudices. If you look at a recent comment by the former Irish Prime Minister who had tweeted that former US President Donald Trump is holding on to power without conceding defeat and he likes to run the US in a manner in which some other countries

## Lady Gaga's dogs... From page 1

...you risked your life to fight for our family. You're forever a hero."

Gaga is known to be extremely protective of her dogs, who have accompanied her to the American Music Awards and her 2017 Super Bowl Halftime show.

gating the PCoI report, we as the ministerial committee would submit our views to the President," he said.

Asked whether there are any distortions in the PCoI report as highlighted by certain sections of society, Minister Ranatunga said as the ministerial committee, we will have to study its recommendations. The PCoI in its report has not submitted full evidence.

As highlighted by the media, we also have certain issues regarding the evidence given and the recommen-

not the way but we will continue to en-

gage with our friends both in the West

Forces fought against the most ruth-

less terrorist organisation in the world

which introduced suicide bombings to

the world. Therefore, we have fought

back and defeated the LTTE and that is

something to be celebrated which no

ment programs are being launched in

the North and the East. If we look back,

nearly 12,784 LTTE cadres surrendered

and almost all of them were rehabili-

tated and reintegrated to the society.

However, all these positive develop-

ments have not been taken into consid-

or the so-called people who propose

Resolutions against Sri Lanka and par-

ticularly the United Nations Human

Rights Commissioner Michelle Bache-

let should be reasonable without mak-

ing things even worse for the people of

international community

He said at present, many develop-

Minister Sabry said our Security

and other parts of the world.

other country has done.

eration.

The

Sri Lanka.

## dations made. That is why this min-

isterial committee was appointed to fully study the PCoI report.

The Minister said when the PCoI presented its final report to the President, he forwarded it to the Cabinet and the Parliament. At present, this PCoI report is in the public domain so that various sectors could express different views. Having considered the situation, the President appointed a ministerial committee to study the PCoI report and make its recommendations to the Cabinet.

He said the PCoI which probed the Easter Sunday attacks was ap-

pointed by the then President Maithripala Sirisena. The PCoI was appointed to investigate terror attacks during the tenure of the Yahapalana regime.

Commenting on the SLFP Executive Committee decision to reject the PCoI report, the Minister said the report has recommended that the Attorney General considers instituting criminal proceedings against former President Sirisena under any suitable provision in the Penal Code. Therefore, as a party the SLFP has expressed

various criminal offences, 1,108

linked to drugs and illicit liquor

related trade, 16 others who had

Some 18,357 police officers

The operation was carried out

on the directions of the Inspector

General of Police C. D. Wickra-

the same day.

maratne.

## Over 61,550 arrested.... From page 1

ly in South India and the United

They are also persons of interest in police investigations of various other crimes such as money laundering, extortion, human trafficking and intimidation among other criminal activities.

over 3,800 persons were rounded up during a special police anti-crime operation carried out throughout the country on Thursday, a top most official said yes-

1,430 persons who had been evading courts with arrest warrants served on them, 562 suspects wanted in connection with

## GCE (OL) exam... From page 1

... the high prevalence of Covid-19 cases in the region. Education Minister Prof. G. L. Peiris said the Examinations Department will release the results by June and resume the GCE Advanced Level classes by July, in keeping with the Government's policy not to let the Covid-19 pandemic affect the lives of the youth.

He said steps have been taken to ensure the health of the candidates sitting the GCE Ordinary Level examination, in consultation with Public Health Inspectors (PHIs), Medical Officers and other health authorities in the areas. Over 622,300 candidates will sit the examination at 4,513 centres throughout the country. Of this, 423,746 are school candidates and 198,606 are private candidates.

The private candidates who have not received their admission cards so far can download it from the Examination Department's website.

The examination which was to be held in December 2020 initially was postponed twice due to health risks posed by the global pandemic.

Footage has emerged showing one of the suspects firing at Mr Fischer before making off with the dogs, Koji and Gustav

A third bulldog, named Miss Asia, ran away and was later recovered by police.

have opted to do and named Sri Lanka. It has never happened in Sri Lanka. That kind of thing shows what kind of Arab Emirates. prejudice they have against us. That is

terday.

its view to defend their leader.

... known to be hiding main-

firearms and 607 drunken drivers, Police Media Spokesman Deputy Inspector General (DIG) and Attorney at Law Ajith Rohana said. Another 6,400 cases were registered against errant motor-

In the most recent update ists for driving without a valid licence and violating traffic laws, he said. of all ranks were pressed into the operation that commenced from 6.00 pm and ended 10.00 pm on

Among those arrested were

## **Guidelines for cremation, burial of Covid-19** victims to be discussed next week - Director General of Health

**BY AANYA WIPULASENA** 

The Government reversed its decision to cremate bodies of all Covid-19 victims to let communities to allow burials under special circumstances.

The Gazette notification that was issued on Thursday (25), stated that the words 'Cremation of Corpse' of the Quarantine and Prevention of Diseases Ordinance will be substituted to 'Cremation or burials of the corpse'.

In addition, words 'shall be cremated' will be substituted by 'may be cremated or buried. In the case of cremation, 'the corpse of such person shall be cremated'.

The Director General of Health told the media that guidelines of new cremation and burial of Covid-19 deceased will be discussed during a special meeting of which decisions are to be announced next week.

The decision came shortly after the visit by Pakistani Premier Imran Khan who also took to twitter to welcome the decision.

"I thank the Sri Lankan leadership and welcome the Sri Lankan Government's official notification permitting the option to bury Covid-19 deceased," he tweeted.

During his two-day official visit to Sri Lanka, Khan held meetings with leaders of the Muslim community where the contentious issue of cremation of Covid deaths had also surfaced. His visit was marked with a demonstration where the protesters carried a coffin to signify the gravity of the matter.

"We are happy about the deci-sion. We sincerely hope that this will be the end of it," Vice President of the Muslim Council of Sri Lanka and the first petitioner against forced cremation, Hilmy Ahamed said, adding that he hopes the Government would stay firm on its decision.

Muslims, as a tradition, bury their deceased facing Mecca. The Government's decision to initially cremate all dead bodies of Covid-19 victims caused an uproar as a result. Among other communities who bury their dead include Christians and some sections of the Buddhists in Sri Lanka. Due to the special health precautions, the final rites of the Buddhists and



## WHO's recommendation of cremating or burying a person who succumbed to Covid-19

People who died of Covid-19 can be buried or cremated according to local standards and family preferences.

- National and local regulations may determine how the remains should be handled and disposed.
- Family and friends may view the body after it has been prepared for burial in accordance with local customs. They should not touch the body and should perform hand hygiene after viewing. • Family and friends should also
- follow local guidelines regarding the number of people that can attend a viewing or burial and local mask requirements.

other faiths were also curtailed. Yet the intensity of protests by the Muslim community overshadowed the others' concerns.

The World Health Organization has said that there was no risk when burying a Covid-19 body. "The dignity of the dead, their cultural and religious traditions and their families should be respected and protected throughout," it stated.

The United Nations in a letter also urged the Government to revisit its decision to cremate Covid-19 victims' bodies. UN Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka Hanaa Singer said that the ban of burials was not supported by scientific evidence. "The common assumption that people who died of a communicable disease should be

- Those tasked with placing the body in the grave, on the funeral pyre should wear gloves and wash their hands with soap and water after the removal of the gloves once the burial is complete.
- A body in a bag or coffin can be treated in accordance with local customs and standards.
- If a body is to be buried or cremated without a casket or body bag, use surgical or waterproof rubber gloves to place the body in the grave or the funeral pyre and perform hand hygiene afterwards.
- The number of people conduct-ing the burial or cremation should be kept at a minimum.

cremated to prevent spread is not supported by evidence. Instead, cremation is a matter of cultural choice and available resources," her letter read.

"I am following with encouragement recent media reports that the current prohibition of burials of Covid-19 victims in Sri Lanka could be revisited shortly," she stated in the letter.

The issue created divided opinions among the members of the Government. Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, making a statement in Parliament last month stated that the Government was open to allow burial of Covid-19 deaths, a decision endorsed by State Minister of Covid Disease Prevention Dr.Sudharshani Fernandopulle.

## **Converting rooftops** into power generators AgStar invests in renewable energy

Agriculture is on the rise as the focus shifts to self-sufficiency in the era of Covid-19. In an industry entrenched with some of the country's oldest brand names a new-age visionary is emerging as a path-finder for farmers. AgStar, a public company with a history of two decades is taking on several centurions as it embraces farmers as their 'one-stop' agent of prosperity.

From record-setting seeds and fertilizer that double farmer yields to agri technology that's on the cutting-edge, AgStar is coming to the aid of farmers with export channels for tea, vegetables and fruits, as well as, a state-of-the-art storage facility that will complete a 360° supply chain solution for the industry. But if there was one example of AgStar's unwavering commitment to sustainable development it's in the company's forays into renewable energy.

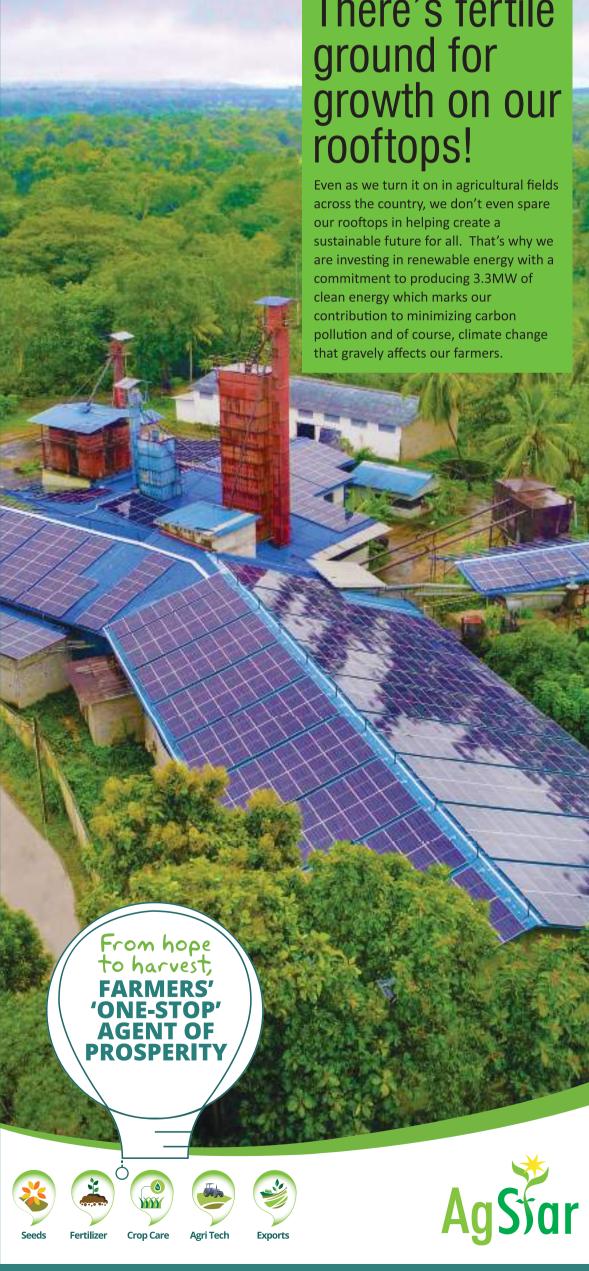
AgStar is investing in generating clean energy as roofs of factories and outposts are rapidly converted into generating solar power. With an initial target of 3.3MW, the company is already supplying 1.3MWs to the national grid.

In a long list of agricultural heavy-weights, AgStar is already ranked 3rd in size and our model of transformation makes us the name to watch. Yes, we are unafraid to challenge the status quo and transcend traditional boundaries as we infuse futuristic solutions into traditional agriculture. Our investments in renewable energy is an indication of our commitment to creating shared value that will redefine Sri Lanka's future, says Mr. Pasad Weerasekera, Managing Director of AgStar PLC.

AgStar revolves around five dynamic solutions that make it a 360° offering for farmers. They

are seeds, fertilizer, crop-care, agri-technology and international market - combining, from seed to market, to provide farmers an all-in-one portfolio of expertise and products that's designed for a phenomenal increase of yield, capture best markets and at the same time guide farmers into sustainable practices.

What our farmers need badly is not just ad-hoc products but a push to the cutting-edge. That involves know-how, better products and on-field direction to multiply their yields while safeguarding the soil, their richest asset. So as you'd see, we don't merely operate as a trading organization but are building on concerns and values that are shared. That's exactly why we lead by example with an ambitious commitment to renewable energy, says Mr. Ashan Ratwatte, Director New Business Development.



## There's fertile

## Covid jab for elders in high risk areas

The Health Ministry has decided to administer Covid vaccines to people who are 30 years and above in selected areas, with immediate effect. Government Information Department sources said on Friday.

People belonging to the relevant age group in Grama Niladhari Divisions that are at high risk for novel coronavirus infection in the Colombo and Gampaha Districts will receive the vaccine, the sources said.

All Directors of Health Services in the Western Province, Regional

Directors of Health Services in the Colombo and Gampaha districts and Chief Medical Officers of the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) have been directed to identify the highrisk areas to proceed with the inoculation program.

The Director-General of Health Services has given instructions to work in coordination with the Epidemiology Unit to implement the vaccination program for people aged 30 years and above in the identified areas.

Officers in charge of the vaccination centres in the selected high-risk Grama Niladhari Divisions have been instructed to ensure that only the people belonging to the area are vaccinated.

Covid-19 infections registered in Sri Lanka crossed 82,000 as 247 more persons were tested positive on Friday.

Some 82,180 Covid-19 cases have been confirmed in the country as of Friday night. Recoveries from the virus rose to 77,625 with over 660 being discharged from hospitals.



However, 4,296 active cases are still under medical care at selected hospitals and treatment centres across the island.

Sri Lanka's death toll due to the virus stands at 459.



People being vaccinated against Covid-19



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## **COMMISSIONER HAS IGNORED POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN SRI LANKA**

## **Justice Minister Ali Sabry decries Bachelet's report**

## **GOVERNMENT LIBERATED TAMILS FROM LTTE CLUTCHES**

-By-Uditha Kumarasinghe

SUNDAY OBSERVE

Interv

Justice and Prison Reforms Minister President's Counsel Ali Sabry said that the Government totally condemns United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet's one-sided report which has completely ignored all positive developments taking place in Sri Lanka.

The Minister in an interview with the Sunday Observer said when they come out with such damning reports, it further polarises the community here on the ground. He said "That is why we are saying, they need to be cautious, reasonable and understand the battle was not against our Tamil people instead we liberated them. Actually, the Tamil people were running out of the clutches of the LTTE and coming towards the Government. If they were suffering from the Government, they would have run against that. So, these are the matters that we need to bring to their attention." Excerpts

O: The Opposition has raised concern on the appointment of yet another six-member Committee, comprising Government Ministers to study the report of the Presidential **Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) into** the Easter Sunday attacks. Could you explain?

A: That was an appointment made by the President. Now the whole Commission report is in the public domain after it had been made available to the Parliament. With that, there is nothing to hold back and everything is within the public knowledge. However, if you look carefully at the whole report, there are a number of recom-

those things easy. Thereafter, the President must decide what should be done in terms of that.

X 28, 2021

**Various sectors including the British Conservative Party senior** Lord Naseby has said that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet in her latest report has completely ignored the crimes committed by the LTTE. Your views?

A: That is the sad part of it. I mean constructively one can find fault with it but then one can constructively point out the areas which need development. The fact is we fought against the most ruthless terrorist organisation in the world which introduced suicide bombings.

It was very powerful internationally and they actually commanded at one point in time territory, people and everything and operated a de facto kind of a government in almost one third of the country. So, we have fought back and actually managed to defeat the LTTE and that is something to be celebrated which no other countries had done.

Thereafter, a lot of developments are taking place in the North and the East. If you look back, about 12,784 LTTE cadres surrendered and almost all of them were rehabilitated and reintegrated to the society. All these positive developments have not been taken into consideration. So, we will engage with that with the international community.

But the international community or the so-called people who proposed that and particularly the UN Human Rights Commissioner must also be reasonable without making it even worse. When they come out with these damning reports and all those things, it further polarises the community here on the ground.

That is why we are saying, they

## FACT-FILE Ali Sabry



1970: Born in Kalutara as Mohamed Uvais Mohamed Ali Sabry to M.S.M. Uvais and Zareena Uvais. Educated at Kalutara Muslim Central College and Zahira College, Colombo. Entered Sri Lanka Law College, served as General Secretary of the Law Students' Union and leader of the Sinhala Debating Team He was the Treasurer of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka and Chairman of the Junior Bar Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka. Qualified as an Attorney at Law, Sabry served in several top legal positions in Sri Lanka and represented many International conferences and diplomatic missions 2012: Appointed as a President's Counsel. He is the first President's Counsel to serve as Minister of Justice after M.W.H. de Silva, QC, Minister of Justice in the Cabinet of S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike

2020: Entered mainstream politics and became a member of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) and chief legal adviser and President of the Muslim Federation of the SLPP

2020: A National List Member of Parliament from SLPP August 2020: Minister of Justice

in the Cabinet of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

ource: Internet, Graphic: Mahil Wijesinghe

come will be something reasonable.

**O**:When grave human rights violations are taking place in some other countries why is Sri Lanka being deliberately targeted at each UNHRC session by some of those Western countries?

A: There are two different yardsticks they used for different countries. I think we have a credible legal system and an independent judiciary. We have a very good transitional democracy. We have never doubted or challenged the outcome of an election. We have respected all those things.

Therefore, I don't think we should be judged unfairly. So, there are some prejudices. If you look at some time ago, the former Prime Minister Ireland tweeted that Donald Trump is holding on to power without conceding defeat since he likes to run the US like some other country and Sri Lanka was named as an example.

It has never happened in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka even before the official election results are announced even since 1947, our leaders have conceded and gone.

They have always respected democracy. So, that kind of thing shows what kind of prejudice they have against us. That is not the way but we will continue to engage with our friends both in the Western and other parts of the world.

Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena while addressing the 46th session of the UNHRC said the unprecedented decision by the former Yahapalana Government to cosponsor the UNHRC Resolution 30/1 resulted in the compromising of the national security which eventually led to the Easter Sunday attacks. Would you like to comment on this? A: I think the Foreign Minister

we speculate, the President will seek initial draft somewhere in March. an official response and advice from the Attorney General and take it from there onwards.

So, I will leave it to the President as the PCoI report has been submitted to him.

### 🕖 How do you view Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to the country when Sri Lanka is engaging in a diplomatic mission to seek the support of its friendly countries at the UNHRC?

A: It is a very significant visit. At this time, being our longstanding friend of thick and thin and whenever we had difficult times whether during the 1971 insurrection and in 2009 towards the end of the final battle against terrorism when we ran out of communication at the UNHRC, had been true friends.

A friend in deed is specific, historic and very truthful. The Pakistan Prime Minister had some excellent meetings with the Prime Minister, President and members of the Cabinet.

On the sideline, we had discussions on sports, investments and tourism. Likewise, it was an exceptional and successful meeting.

### 🕖 You have embarked on an ambitious plan to reform the legal system especially in respect of addressing law delays. Could you explain?

A: In fact, the Sri Lankan legal system is kind of lagging behind in terms of efficacy and efficiency.

According to the latest report of the Doing Business Index, Sri Lanka is ranked as 99 and we are ranked as 164 on enforcing contracts.

This is a very bad ranking and this is because no proper investment had been made into this sector.

We have identified an overall holistic approach to double the number of judges and court houses and

Do you think the new Constitution would pave the way to create a true Sri Lankan identity instead of contributing to promote communal identities as happened in the past?

A: My hope and the Government's hope is also to create a Sri Lankan identity where all Sri Lankans irrespective of their race, religion, caste, creed, and language could proudly proclaim this is my country. So, it is a challenging task.

There are extremists in all segments but the Government's attempt and particularly if you look at SLPP, its National Organiser Basil Rajapaksa himself made a representation to the Committee. He was very clear that we want to create a Constitution which is inclusive and would sustain a long period of time. That is our attempt and we are working on that.

🕖 President Gotabaya Rajapaksa addressing the 11th "Discussion with the Village" program held in Karuwalagaswewa said the people have to suffer due to the endless tugof-war with public officials. Has the Government laid emphasis to overcome this and provide immediate solutions to the issues faced by the people?

A: Some of those things have been done. What is happening is the President has always as an administrator even before this Presidential tenure, he had been running the country as a secretary of various ministries. He understands the problems.

The President feels that there is a mismatch of thinking of the people on the ground and the officials and the people in Colombo. We need to get all of them to work and think in harmony and empower the people on the ground rather than placing obstacles for their progress, development and

mendations and findings.

Some of those recommendations are related to filing action while some are in terms of reforms in education. In addition, some of those findings are in terms of intelligence sharing and issues related to defence.

Some of those things are to do with regulating the social media. Likewise, there are lots of things to be done. So, rather than everybody sitting and doing it, a Committee has been appointed to carefully go through it, find out what are the recommendations and who should do it.

The Committee would submit its report to the President by making all

need to be cautious, reasonable and understand the battle was not against our Tamil people. We liberated the Tamils. Actually, the Tamil people were running out of the clutches of the LTTE and coming towards the Government.

If they were suffering due to the Government, they would have run against that. So, these are the matters that we need to bring to their attention. So, we cannot be happy at all and we totally condemn the one-sided report which has been produced.

How do you view the attempt by the UN Core Group led by the UK to ta-



### ble a Resolution against Sri Lanka at the 46th sessions of the UNHRC?

A: That Resolution has not been submitted yet. I am sure they will rationally think about it and engage with the Government of Sri Lanka before they take some harsh or unnecessary decisions which will harm the ground situation in Sri Lanka.

Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena with a team of eminent people and resource personnel have been trying to convince them. So, I feel the out-

wouldn't touch that without proper reason and truth. So, as a colleague, I stand by with his discretion.

The PCoI which probed the Easter Sunday attacks has recommended to file criminal charges against former President Maithripala Sirisena and several top officials of the Yahapalana Government including former Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando, former IGP Pujith Jayasundara and former heads of the state intelligence services. What would be the next step to be taken in this regard?

A: That is of course rather than

women' around him so that his deci-

sions will not be questioned or chal-

lenged even if the subordinates knew

that they were detrimental to the or-

never be able to become true leaders.

They may become leaders through the

same kind of systems that made their

boss a leader, only more toxic even

True leadership

quires a conscious decision to follow

a true leader who inspires hope rather

ship that can empower the rest of the

team and a team of intelligent follow-

ers is what creates collaboration and

team-work in the truest sense of the

An intelligent followership re-

The combination of a true leader-

than their predecessor.

This type of blind followers would

ganisation.

than fear.

review the laws which needs amendments as well as to embrace technology and digitalize the court system.

We are looking at it. When we do all those things, hopefully we can uplift the total judicial administration in this country.

### **What is the progress of the** 11-member Committee headed by President's Counsel Romesh de Silva to make constitutional reforms?

A: Actually, I met them about a month ago and I understand that they have been regularly meeting Party Leaders and other religious leaders. They will hopefully submit us with an

🔰 Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa said that SJB Parliamentarian Ranjan Ramanayake's life is in danger and the Government should take the responsibility if anything

peaceful living.

happens to him. Your comments? A: If they can point out as to why they feel like that because we have given him the best possible prison in ne country.

The Angunakolapelessa Prison is the best prison in the country in terms of conditions. That is why we have given him that prison.

**Continued on page 5** 

## Followership: The other side of the leadership coin



"Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others" - Jack Welch

here are hundreds of theories and quotes, thousands of books, academic papers, seminars and workshops about leadership but very few about followership. If there are no followers then there are no leaders. One might say that one doesn't need followers if one just leads oneself to his or her own goals. Even in that situation one ends up playing the dual role of the leader and the follower and therefore, one cannot exist without the other.

The best way to understand the interdependency of the two is to visualise a dancing couple, where one is leading and the other is following. The dance will bring joy to both the dancers as well as the audience when both dancers are competent at their roles and understand what the other is trying to accomplish.

Winning partnerships, not only in dancing but also in business or any other task in life, consist of people who excel at the leadership and followership roles and practise with each other. Leadership and followership are

roles we all play at different times. A newborn starts life following his or her parents/primary caregivers first and then continues the learning process by following older siblings, other relatives, friends, peers, teachers, counsellors, mentors and other role-models. During their school career children also get the opportunity to play leadership roles as leaders of: the class, peer groups, student associations and sport teams.

In the adult world, of course, one can find certain situations where one has to be a follower and certain other situations to be a leader. Therefore, it makes good sense for one to be as good at both followership and leadership right from the beginning of one's life. Some management gurus even say that one has to be a good follower to become a good leader.

## **Good followers**

This may not always be the case since we can find good leaders who have not been good followers and viceversa. Successful leaders would agree that the experience of being a good follower certainly helps in identifying successful followers which is a crucial factor of their success as leaders.

The word 'followership' unfortunately does not create a positive first impression perhaps since it automatically takes one's memory to their childhood where they played the game 'follow the leader', where they had to mimic the leader without asking any questions and would fall out of the



game if they were not able to do exactly what the leader did.

Another reason for such a negative feeling about the word could be due to examples of disasters created by blind followers who are sometimes known as 'yes men/women'. One way to create 'yes men/women' in an organisation, of course, is to have a toxic leadership that expects the followers to do just that.

A leader who is concerned about his/her own welfare over that of the organisation, has no concern about the physical, emotional and mental wellbeing of the subordinates and creates a negative culture through his decisions and actions as a toxic leader.

That kind of leader would expect robotic compliance from the subordinates rather than an intelligent followership. A toxic leader will be very comfortable with a bunch of 'yes men/

word. Lao Tzu said: "A leader is best when people barely know he exists.

When his work is done, his aim fulfilled; they will say: we did it ourselves". This will work the same way for a leader of a family, an organisation or even a country.

There are several types of followers. Effective followers are thinkers who are active and provide positive energy to encourage their leaders and the organisations. They are the go-to people for a true leader.

They can get things done even without a strong leadership and they are not prone to toxic followers either. Followers who are mere survivors can adapt to changes easily and they do not hesitate to change colours if and when necessary in order to survive. Survivors can have a negative impact on the leader as well.

Alienated followers are good critical thinkers willing to contribute their best but have lost faith in their leader and/or the system.

Then there are followers who lack initiative and are not willing to take responsibility for their actions either. They know when the decisions taken by their leaders are wrong but they would implement them anyway without taking any responsibility for the outcome.

They can destroy the leadership and/or the organisation singlehandedly. Followers who are yes-men are the worst that a leader or an organisation can have since they blindly follow and execute the orders given by the leader while supporting the leader enthusiastically. Toxic leaders who surround themselves with this type of followers get misled by them to the bottom of the pit before they even realise that the information these yes-men have been feeding them were nowhere near the reality of the situation.

## **Toxic followers**

Many world leaders had to face such situations where the toxic followers were not only their own countrymen but also some of the other nations who pretended to be their friends and supporters.

Toxic leaders may also have been toxic followers at some point. It becomes a vicious cycle, toxic leaders creating toxic followers and toxic followers becoming toxic leaders.

It usually is difficult to break such cyclic patterns without the support of the higher authorities and the political establishments.

We can see management schools, MBA programs and universities advertising their leadership training programs, but nobody has a followership program or even just a workshop to train people to become good followers.

Perhaps, it is time to start followership training programs within which the leadership training is just a byproduct.

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

## SUNDAY OBSERVER FEBRUARY 28, 2021 |

**NEWS** 

5

USHA

## "Sri Lanka has introduced in major sectors"



"Sri Lanka has currently embarked on introducing a scientific approach and technological advancements in major economic sectors such as Information and Communication Technology, agriculture, plantations, and fisheries. We are more than happy to collaborate with other member countries in sharing our best practices in these sectors," said President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the 15th Governing Council meeting of the Non-aligned and Other Developing Countries for Science and Technology on Wednesday.

### **Excerpts of the President's speech:**

"This Centre, as I am made to understand, has so far progressed through various interventions including promotion of mutually beneficial collaboration among member countries and establishing links with national and regional science and technology centres for scientific advancement.

"Indeed, technology provides answers to many of the challenges that are taking place in this dynamic world.

"The current Covid-19 pandemic and the development of different types of vaccines in record time with adequate clinical trials is a living example to show the important role that could be played by science and technology in human life. "It is well-known that we face major

challenges in introducing new technologies due to high capital investment. Similarly, there is heavy competition developing countries have to face. As a result, our own inventions do not progress much.

"My government, therefore, has established a separate Ministry for Technology under my purview to introduce new technologies in all feasible sectors enabling us to increase our market share in the global economy. Exchanging technologies, through a centre of this nature would be a strategic approach to minimise our capital investment in introducing new technologies.

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"Sri Lanka has currently embarked on introducing a scientific approach and technological advancements in major economic sectors such as Information and Communi-







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cation Technology, agriculture, plantations, and fisheries.

"We are more than happy to collaborate with other member countries in sharing our best practices in these sectors. It is important that local and indigenous technologies are integrated with high-end technologies. Sri Lanka has a proud history of indigenous and traditional technologies that are environmentally friendly.

"The entire world is now moving towards developing strategies and plans to overcome the adverse impact caused by Covid-19. Sri Lanka is no exception. Fortunately, Sri Lanka has a strong health system to handle pandemics and we also observe that the recent pandemic has presented a greater opportunity for the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) sector, especially to showcase the abilities of researchers, scientists and inventors in meeting immediate needs of health sector.

"I propose that the NAM S & T centre expands its scope to accommodate new thinking in line with current requirements of member countries.

"I would also like to make a special request to all delegates to consider deliberating how best we can collaborate in reaching our sustainable development goals within this pandemic situation.

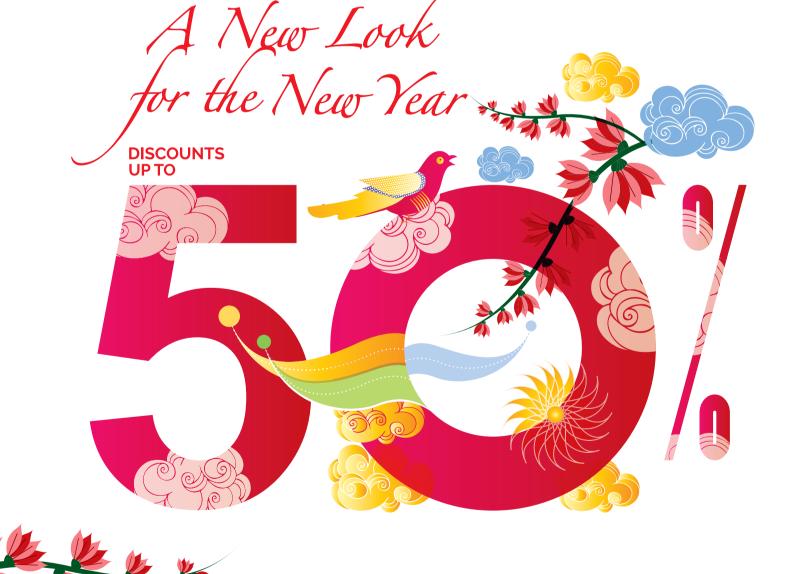
"Finally, realising the mandate of the NAM S & T Centre is our collective responsibility, and it is incumbent upon us to continue the operation of this inter-governmental mechanism and I assure you that Sri Lanka is committed to collaborate in all aspects that are mutually beneficial. I wish all success to the 15th Governing Council Meeting."

## **Justice Minister... Continued from page 4**

If there is any particular concern rather than statements, we will definitely address that. We need to protect MP Ranjan Ramanayake. Actually, we must protect all our prisoners. It has not been made known as to why they are saying so. I am the Justice Minister and even the Prison Reforms comes under my supervision at the Cabinet level. If there is any real concern, we can address it.

Q: The Government attempts to promote the concept of "One country, one law". Will the Government be able to turn this into a reality?

A: Of course, we need to have a discussion on that as to what actually we need. I am for it and we are putting those things in place. Conceptually, we must identify what it is and we are doing that. We can do that and it is not a problem.



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## Feature

## People's issues will not be swept under the carpet

akistan Prime Minister Imran Khan paid a two-day official visit to Sri Lanka on February 23-24 on the invitation of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. It was clearly evident that the Pakistan Premier's visit would help further strengthen Pakistan-Sri Lanka relations and enhance mutual cooperation in diverse fields

Prime Minister Khan was accompanied by a high-level delegation, comprising Ministers and senior government officials. This was the first visit by the Pakistan Prime Minister to Sri Lanka since the formation of the new Governments in both the countries, clearly reflecting the warmth and goodwill between the Governments and peoples of the two countries.

Premier Khan received a warm ceremonial welcome from Premier Rajapaksa and the Cabinet of Ministers.

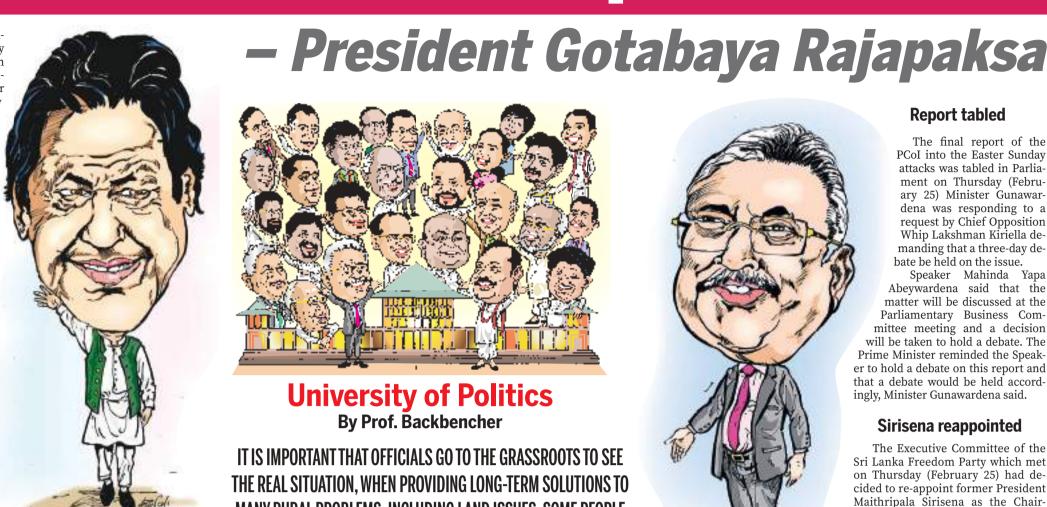
## **Bilateral meeting**

The bilateral meeting between the Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Gotabaya Rajapaksa took place at the Presidential Secretariat on February 24. Both leaders engaged in a lengthy discussion on improving bilateral relations.

The two leaders exchanged views on sharing technical knowhow to promote agriculture in both countries. The President and the Pakistani Prime Minister also paid attention to the steps that need to be taken to promote trade and expansion of investment opportunities.

The Pakistan Premier also met his Sri Lankan counterpart Prime Min-ister Mahinda Rajapaksa at Temple Trees on Tuesday (February 23). Premier Rajapaksa during the bilateral discussion said Pakistan Prime Minister's visit symbolises his and the Pakistani Government's deep affinity with the people of Sri Lanka.

Premier Rajapaksa said, "You are the first foreign Head of Government to visit Sri Lanka after I assumed office as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka after the General Elections last year. On my invitation, you have chosen to visit Sri Lanka with great friendship, despite great challenges, including Covid-19 risks. I admire your courage and the great leadership that is

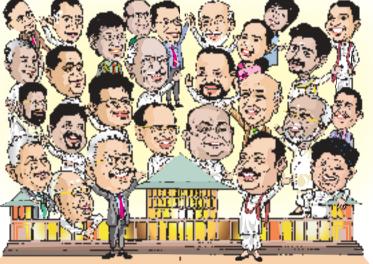


take responsibility if anything happens to him.

Following the meeting with Ramanayake, the Opposition Leader told the media that Ramanayaka was a public figure who was against the drug menace and now he has been imprisoned with inmates who were suspected of drug peddling. This puts his life in a dangerous situation.

Premadasa said, "SLPP MP Premalal Jayasekera is attending Parliament. It is sad to see how Jayasekara and Ramanayake, who were elected to Parliament by the public, are being treated in different ways. The Speaker should be fair and treat all the MPs in the same way without being biased against a particular political party."

He said Ramanayake should be transferred to a prison in the Colombo area for his safety.



## **University of Politics** By Prof. Backbencher

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OFFICIALS GO TO THE GRASSROOTS TO SEE THE REAL SITUATION, WHEN PROVIDING LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO MANY RURAL PROBLEMS, INCLUDING LAND ISSUES. SOME PEOPLE MISINTERPRET POLICY DECISIONS THAT ARE TAKEN FOR THE **BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE** – *PRESIDENT* 



General's Department, Security Forces, State Intelligence services and implementing recommendations as stipulated by PCoI to avert recurrence of a national catastrophe of such magnitude is the prime responsibility of the Committee. These recommendations cannot be successfully implemented by any entity single-handedly."

## Waste of resources

Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena addressing the 46th session of the UNHRC in Geneva on February 23 appealed to all member states of the UNHRC to reject any resolution against Sri Lanka, saying that despite Sri Lanka keeping its pledges made before the HRC a year ago and the spirit of cooperation in engagement with the HRC and its mechanism, it is regrettable that elements



ministration to co-sponsor UNHRC Resolution 30/1 resulted in the compromising of national security which eventually led to the Easter attacks of 2019. He said the resolution carried a host of commitments that were not deliverable and were not in conformity with the Constitution of Sri Lanka.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said the people are suffering due to the endless tug-ofwar between officials, respective institutions and the people's representatives. The President reiterated the need for

## **Report tabled**

The final report of the PCoI into the Easter Sunday attacks was tabled in Parliament on Thursday (February 25) Minister Gunawardena was responding to a request by Chief Opposition Whip Lakshman Kiriella demanding that a three-day debate be held on the issue.

Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena said that the matter will be discussed at the Parliamentary Business Committee meeting and a decision will be taken to hold a debate. The Prime Minister reminded the Speaker to hold a debate on this report and that a debate would be held accordingly, Minister Gunawardena said.

## Sirisena reappointed

The Executive Committee of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party which met on Thursday (February 25) had decided to re-appoint former President Maithripala Sirisena as the Chairman of the party.

The Executive Committee also approved the reappointment of State Minister Dayasiri Jayasekara as the General Secretary of the party.

Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister Mahinda Amaraweera and Prof. Rohana Lakshman Piyadasa were appointed as Senior Vice Presidents.

## **UNP Balamandala meetings**

The UNP Balamandala meetings of Karandeniya, Bentara-Elpitiya, Ambalangoda and Balapitiya in the Galle district were held under the

patronage of Party Chairman Vajira Abeywardena. During the meetings, Abeywardena briefed the party supporters on the future programs of the UNP. As a significant ges-

evident in crucial decisions you have taken at times of crises."

Prime Minister Rajapaksa said the Sri Lankan and Pakistani Governments have a people-centric governance agenda which strives towards empowering grassroots level communities and the

underprivileged. Fifteen Mem-

bers of Parliament representing the Muslim comcalled munity Pakistan on Premier Khan Colombo in Wednesday on (February 24). Pakistan Prime Minister during his meeting with Muslim Parliamentarians had expressed confidence Sri Lankan leaders will work to improve intercommunal harmony.

Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) Leader Rauff Hakeem following the meeting had tweeted that the discussion was "pleasant and fruitful". Prime Minister Imran Khan also called on Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa in Colombo on Wednesday. The Opposi tion Leader expressed the gratitude of his party to Premier Khan for his visit to Sri Lanka. He conveyed good wishes for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan under PM Khan's leadership.

## Life in danger

Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa who visited Angunakolapelessa Prison to meet SJB Parliamentarian Ranjan Ramanayake, said his life is in danger and the Government should

Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena also responded to the demand by the Opposition Leader and other Opposition lawmakers in Parliament to allow MP Ramanayake who was convicted and sentenced to four years imprisonment for

> contempt of court, to attend the Parliament. The Speaker said as MP

Ramanayake was convicted and sentenced by a threejudge Bench of the Supreme Court for Contempt of Court, there is no Court to appeal against the judgement. He also said that no appeal against the judgement

has been filed before the Supreme Court, but only a motion. He added, how-

ever, the Opposition which should take the matter before Court is debating it in Parliament.

## PCol report

Final report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) which investigated the Easter Sunday terror attacks was released

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for knowingly leav-

ing the country with-

out appointing an

Acting Defence Min-

ister, despite being

aware of foreign in-

telligence warnings

to the media

**MINISTER DINESH GUNAWARDENE SAID THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE RESOURCES AND TIME OF** THE UNHRC HAS BEEN **USED ON SRI LANKA IS** 

**UNWARRANTED. IT CARRIES** A DISCOURAGING MESSAGE **TO THE SOVEREIGN STATES OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH** 

beforehand. A score of former senior officials including the former Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando, former IGP Pujith Jayasundara and former heads of national and state intelligence services are also among the accused.

However, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), a coalition partner of the Government has decided to reject the final report of the PCoI which investigated the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks.

The Executive Committee of the SLFP which met on Thursday (February 25) at the party headquarters had taken the decision to reject the report of the PCoI appointed by the former President and SLFP leader Maithripala Sirisena. The SLFP said the report was incomplete and not compatible with the Commission's mandate and the SLFP Executive Committee had no other option but to reject it.

## Six-member Committee

Responding to the conon February cerns raised by the Op-23, revealing a long list of accusaposition lawmakers on the appointment of yet another tions against those it holds respon-Committee, the President's Mesible for the attack dia Division (PMD) said the through acts of negsix-member Committee appointed by President Gotabaya However, bear-Rajapaksa to study the report ing a large share of the PCoI into the April 21, of the blame for 2019, Easter Sunday attacks, was selected considering factors such the attacks, former President Maithrias their political maturity, experipala Sirisena was ence and high level of knowledge in accused by the PCoI various fields.

The PMD in a statement said the Committee has been entrusted with a wide-ranging mandate. It said, "Identifying the overall process including the measures that need to be taken by various agencies and authorities such as Parliament, Judiciary, Attorney

working against Sri Lanka intend to table another country-specific resolution based on the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Minister Gunawardena said the High Commissioner's Report on Sri Lanka which the Government of Sri Lanka rejects, has unjustifiably broadened its scope and mandate further, incorporating many issues of governance and matters that are essentially domestic in any self-respecting, sovereign country.

The Minister said the extent to which the resources and time of the UNHRC has been used on Sri Lanka is unwarranted adding that it carries a discouraging message to the sovereign states of the global South.

The Minister said the unprecedented decision by the former ad-

PREMADASA SAID RAMANAYAKE SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO A PRISON IN THE COLOMBO AREA FOR HIS SAFETY



responsible officials of all key institutions including wildlife, forest conservation,

environment and road development to take collective decisions to implement projects.

President The told the 11th 'Discussion with the Village' program at the Nelumwewa Community Hall premises in the Puttalam district recently, that the absence of proper planning in land use was not the fault of the people, it is important

go to the grassroots to see the real situation, when providing long-term solutions to many rural problems, including land issues. Some people misinterpret policy decisions that are taken for the

benefit of the people. He said he will never allow the real issues faced by the people to be swept under the carpet by misinterpreting instructions, as an excuse.

### Trade Unionists meet **UNP** leader

Several trade union leaders not aligned with the UNP had met UNP Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe at the party headquarters, Sirikotha recently to discuss the current political situation in the country. During the meeting, trade union leaders had pledged their fullest support to Wickremesinghe towards any attempts being made to "rescue the country from the current downfall". UNP Chairman Vajira Abeywardena had told the trade union leaders that steps will be taken to further strengthen the party restructuring process while disciplinarv action will be taken against those who acted against the party.

Leader of the House Dinesh Gunawardena told Parliament that the final report of the PCoI into the Easter Sunday attacks will be taken up for debate as decided at the next Committee on Parliamentary Business meeting.

ture, the UNPers and those who left the party had also participated in these meetings.

Abeywardena said the UNP is a party which has launched its programs targeting to capture power in the future adding that however, it would not act to cater to the interests of the factions led by various individuals. He said as the country would collapse in the future due to poor economic management.

He said it was international conspiracies which prevented Ranil Wickremesinghe coming to power and not because of the people. Former State Minister Palitha Thewarapperuma said he also decided to attend the Balamandala meetings as he has the confidence that UNP Chairman Vajira Abeywardena, is a leader who will never leave

the party.

Thewarapperuma said they could witness how those who were loyal and pledged to make any sacrifice on behalf of the UNP left the party a couple of weeks later. However, Vajira Abeywardena never acted to create divisions within the party or leave it. Therefore, I have full confidence in him.

## "Don't insult Speaker"

Leader of the House Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena called upon Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa not to insult the Speaker by levelling allegations against him. The Minister was referring to the Opposition Leader's claim in Parliament on Tuesday (February 23) that the Speaker "ran away" from the Chair without answering Opposition's queries.

Minister Gunawardena said, "Do not level allegations against the Speaker and insult him without knowing the facts. All of us have been invited today to participate in the meeting of the Sri Lanka-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Association.

"The Speaker had to leave the Chamber because he had to Chair that meeting. The Speaker is representing all of us at this meeting. So do not insult the Speaker without getting your facts straight. Is this the way the Opposition is treating the hand of friendship extended by a neighbouring country?," he said.

'Sayura' being loaded with scrapped buses and fishing ves-

sels. Pix: Anuradha Priyadharshana, Karandeniya Group

## Robber gang held after three weeks

TRINCOMALEE: Seven persons who used a boat for a sea crossing and later robbed a jewellery store on land in Trincomalee were apprehended nearly three weeks after the daring heist. The group had raided the store on February 8 and got away with jewellery valued at around Rs. 3.8 million, according to police. The group had arrived at their target in a boat along the Trincomalee Koneswaram sea and fled in the same vessel after the robbery. Police recovered a hand grenade, a foreignmade firearm and six rounds of ammunition from the possession of the group.

They said the main suspect identified as a 38-year-old resident of Trincomalee is the brother of a notorious criminal known as 'Ice Manju', currently absconding after committing various crimes in Trincomalee.

## Hollywood scene enacted in Wattala

WATTALA: In what appeared to be a scene from a Hollywood gangster movie an attempt to lure an underworld operative was botched after the suspect was able to give the slip to the police and escape.

The suspect known as Athurugiriya Navy Ruwan' abandoned his car and fled after personnel from the Special Task Force (STF) attempted to corner him at a location in Wattala shortly after dusk on Thursday. The drama began after three persons including two women were nabbed with a small quantity of heroin at Ganemulla earlier in the day.

The police persuaded the three persons to act as decoys and seek a purchase of heroin from the supplier. The suspect agreed and he was told to arrive at a certain location where the STF personnel were waiting in ambush.

However, the suspect, noticing something was not right made a hasty retreat on nearing the meeting point. This led to a heated vehicle chase and the suspect's car was subsequently found abandoned at the end of a by-road in Meegahawatta. The police found a hand grenade in the car but there were no drugs in the vehicle.

## 30-year-old man opts for easy way out

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KOLLUPITIYA: A 30-year-old son of a leading businessman plunged to his death from the 10th floor of a private hospital in Kollupitiya during the early hours of Friday. Police and



Body count ticks on in road fatalities

POLICE HQ: At least 25 persons died in road accidents from the start of this week and the bulk of the victims were motorcyclists, according to police.

Around 15 motorcyclists were

among the fatalities while the others were pedestrians and passengers and the majority of the accidents were reported from the outstations. Police attributed the accidents to reckless driving and excessive speed and called upon all road users to follow the motor traffic guidelines to avoid more deaths and injuries to persons.

## Artificial reef off Galle coast to boost marine life



Scrapped buses loaded aboard the Sayura

## **BY PRIYAN DE SILVA**

The Ministry of Fisheries with the assistance of the Sri Lanka Navy dumped a considerable quantity of scrapped buses and fishing vessels into the sea three kilometres off the coast of Galle yesterday to improve the breeding of marine life.

State Minister of Ornamen-

tal Fish, Inland Fish and Prawn Farming, Fishery Harbour Development, Multi day Fishing Activities and Fish Exports Kanchana Wijesekera who was at the Galle harbour yesterday morning said that artificial reefs had been established off the Northern Coast a few weeks ago and the operation in Galle was the second phase of the project. The project was ben-

eficial in many ways because the scrap and debris that cluttered most fishery harbours and vehicle graveyards of the Transport Board and Railway would act as breeding grounds for marine life.

Wijesekera added that in addition to the breeding of marine life the reefs will be a boon to tourism and also prevent illegal bottom trawling.



hospital officials said the victim had arrived at the hospital the previous day with a female accomplice to be treated for a common sleep disorder.

Doctors advised the victim's friend to be vigilant on the patient's disorder but a short while later he entered a washroom and jumped out from the window.

## Ayurveda doctor on the mat

TRINCOMALEE: An Ayurveda doctor was among two persons arrested along with a cache of explosives at Kinniya in Trincomalee. Police seized 37 sticks of dynamite and 372-feet long detonator cords from the suspects.

The other suspect was identified as a fisherman.

Investigators believe the stock of explosives was to be used for dynamite fishing which is banned in the country.

Dynamite fishing which is outlawed since it causes extensive damage to marine life is known to be rampant in the Trincomalee region.

## Six Nigerians among eight held in bank scam

MOUNT LAVINIA: A group of eight persons that included six Nigerians and a local couple were arrested in connection with an online banking scam where they defrauded Rs. 1.7million from unsuspecting account holders.

The group convincingly told each victim that they had won an online lottery and to collect the prize they would have to deposit a sum of money to a certain account number. The group had used various foreign and local mobile SIM cards in their operation to avoid detection. Following a detailed investigation by intelligence sleuths attached to the Kelaniya Police Division the group was tracked down to a safe house in Mount Lavinia earlier this week.

Police recovered two computers, 79 SIM of various countries and stocks of paper used for the printing of local and foreign currencies.

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## SUNDAY OBSERVER A challenge for **Global South**

According to reports from Geneva, more countries will defend Sri Lanka at the virtual 46th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), whose Chief Michelle Bachelet had earlier presented a biased and inaccurate report on Sri Lanka, based mostly on unverified bits of information circulated by sections of the Tamil Diaspora and some Western nations.

Among this chorus of voices is China, which is significantly a veto-power wielding Permanent Member of the UN Security Council. Chinese Permanent Representative in Geneva Ambassador Chen Xu has extended China's strong support to Sri Lanka in his official statement in the Interactive Dialogue on the OHCHR (Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights) Report on Sri Lanka during the 46th Session of the Human Rights Council.

"It is the consistent stand of China to oppose politicisation and double standards on human rights, as well as using human rights as an excuse in interfering in other countries' internal affairs. We are concerned about the clear lack of impartiality shown in the OHCHR's report to this session on Sri Lanka and express our regret over the failure of the OHCHR to use the authoritative information provided by the Sri Lankan government."

As China has clearly stated, the so-called 'preventive intervention' and the proposed targeted sanctions contained in the OHCHR's report amount to clear interference in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka and exceed the mandate of the OHCHR. The same sentiments had been expressed by Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in a telephone conversation with Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena, who had earlier rejected the OHCHR Report outright.

Minister Gunawardena has rightly pointed out that Bachelet's report on Sri Lanka is rife with factual inaccuracies that appear to equate atrocities committed by the LTTE, a terrorist organisation proscribed internationally, with legitimate action taken by the Government to safeguard the territorial integrity of the country and the right to life of people of all communities.

More countries have now realised that in dealing with home grown and international terrorism, they too may be liable for persecution by mechanisms such as the UNHRC and the International Criminal Court (ICC). Ironically, both these organisations have come in for heavy flak from certain Western countries themselves over attempts to file charges against their Security Forces personnel engaged in operations against terrorist organisations. There cannot however, be two sets of laws for Western countries and developing countries.

This is why these words of Minister Gunawardena are spot on: "The call for asset freezes, travel bans, references to the ICC and the exercise of universal jurisdiction by individual States, based on evidence that has been denied access to and retained by the High Commissioner's Office with some of it unreleased for 30 years, particularly in relation to a country such as Sri Lanka which has consistently and constructively engaged with the UN and its mechanisms, points to a distinct and eminent danger which the international community as a whole need to take note of." Indeed, all countries in the Global South trying to eliminate terrorism and extremism from their soil face the danger of being hauled before these organisations for no fault of their own. It is also pertinent to note that some of the countries in the Core Group on Sri Lanka could have been propelled to act against Sri Lanka due to domestic electoral compulsions. It is no secret that the Tamil Diaspora forms a substantial part of the electors in these countries, which has compelled certain politicians in these countries to appease their sentiments purely for electoral gains. Paradoxically, many of the younger members of the Tamil Diaspora who lead demonstrations against Sri Lanka have never even been to Sri Lanka and have no knowledge of the actual ground situation in the North or the rest of the country. Once the pandemic is over, Sri Lankan authorities should initiate a dialogue with these sections and invite some of them over to see for themselves the ground situation. It is a well-known fact that Northerners in Sri Lanka want to live in peace with the other communities instead of hallucinating about a separate state.

## Race no longer at the centre of our concerns as a nation



A country does not judge itself by one metric alone - that of its inter-ethnic relations. Take Malaysia for instance.

By the modern day ideal, the deal that the Malaysian Chinese may be getting in Malaysia could be rather 'raw.' The Chinese who own and run most of the small businesses that are the dynamo of growth in that country, are not permitted in terms of the Bumiputra laws that favour the Malays, to own land.

We all know the ethnic convulsions that led to the northern Ireland uprising - though now quelled, in the U.K. But that doesn't mean that all is well and that the different ethnicities are functioning as one happy and harmonious unit. In Scotland, there has already been a referendum to secede from the union, and the key Scottish parties are asking for another one because they are unsatisfied with the first.

These standoffs and these separate situations have not, however, defined any of these nations and their politics, or their general image on the world stage.

Even Singapore 'began' with an ugly, rather acrimonious country-wide ethnic riot between the Chinese and the ethnic Malay Singaporeans in 1964. Two months later, there was an even bigger riot that erupted after an attack on a Chinese trishaw driver.

Today, the country has come a long way from this initial conflagration. It is seen as a nation that respects ethnic di-

But it doesn't quite respect ethnic diversity in the 'ideal' way — at least not by the metric that we Sri Lankans have often judged ourselves by, and let us be judged by others. In the city state of Singapore, the Constitution recognises the special status of the ethnic Malays who are referred to as the 'indigenous people of Singapore."

The Malays feel that they are lagging behind the Chinese in terms of social mobility and were compelled to form selfhelp groups to identify and cater to Malay concerns.

### Decade



IT'S A SIGN THAT PEOPLE ARE COLLECTIVELY IN A MOOD TO MOVE ON. GET AHEAD WITH THEIR LIVES AND WITH THE TASK OF MAKING THE COUNTRY A BETTER PLACE FOR THEM, AND THE FUTURE GENERATIONS. ENTIRE SWATHES OF THE OPINION MAKING ELITE, HOWEVER, SEEM TO **BE DISQUIETED BY THIS PALPABLE SHIFT IN PRIORITIES** 

the different groups that make up our social fabric. If Singapore still has some sticking points, despite its developed nation status, it shouldn't come as a surprise that we have our fair share of points of contention between the different communities as well.

But it bears repetition that the issue of the Scottish referendum or the possible departure of Scotland from the union, definitely does not occupy the central position in the cultural or media discourse of the UK. Malaysians do not dwell on the constitutionalised advantages that accrue to the Malay community due to the Bumiputra policy that grants the Malays enormous advantage over the minority Chinese that still predominantly run business, research and development in Malaysia.

That being the case, should we tear our hair over similar matters- perceived But in none of these countries is disparities notwithstanding? Yes, the situ-

elite, however, seem to be disquieted by this palpable shift in priorities. They are still hung over by talking about this that or the other reason for discontent among Muslims, Sinhalese and Tamils.

But it seems, the people have decided that they want to barrel through with their agenda, and cut through this noise that still keeps playing unnervingly in the background. The conversation on race and race based topics, it is true, matters mostly to the underprivileged and the minorities. In the US, the whites by and large avoid the race conversation – but those issues still matter to black and Hispanic lives.

But in countries such as Singapore and Malaysia, the conversation on race is muted in both the majority and minority communities. It's largely because the chasm between each community is subsumed – due to the collective quest for better lives.

ally, the emergence from the wartime milieu has brought them to a place where they don't care who is trying to divide them, because they are focussed elsewhere, on more tangible matters such as housing, education and upward mobility in general.

## Beyond

Can highly organised events such as the P2P march that took place recently, change any of these dynamics? Not when the pendulum has swung so far that there is no grassroots level resonance toward such activity.

In Singapore, English is the lingua franca. All education is in the English medium. But in Malaysia, education is in the three recognised languages of State, Malay, Tamil and Mandarin. Despite these obvious differences in approach, both countries see no need to place ethnicity at the centre of the public discourse. It's because ethnic issues are the last things on people's minds.

In Malaysia there are more discontents than in Singapore for instance, but they rarely if ever spill over to the political arena, or hog the discourse in society at large. Yes, some political parties in Malaysia may be organised slightly more on ethnic lines than others - and though that's a fact of life, society never gets polarised on account of those tendencies.

In fact, accountability and reconciliation must be domestic processes sans foreign interference. Sri Lanka has noted that the High Commissioner's Report has incorporated many issues of governance and matters that are essentially domestic for any self-respecting, sovereign country.

This is in complete violation of Article 2 (7) of the Charter of the UN that states: "Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorise the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State...". The trajectory that has emerged with regard to the recommendations and conclusions unfortunately reflects the preconceived, politicised and prejudicial agenda which certain Western elements have relentlessly pursued against Sri Lanka after 2009. These recommendations are based on ill-founded allegations that have no factual basis at all.

Sri Lanka has always expressed its commitment to accountability and reconciliation and by withdrawing from Resolution 30/1 and other Resolutions co-sponsored by the previous Government, the present Government has shown the world that it does not need any foreign 'supervision' or involvement in domestic processes. Sri Lanka has a strong and independent Judiciary and other investigative mechanisms that have on many occasions prosecuted members of the Forces and Police for alleged human rights violations.

The Government is now reviewing the recommendations of several Commissions that have previously handled accountability, reconciliation and reparation issues to take further action. The international community should extend its assistance to Sri Lanka for the success of these endeavours.

there any proclivity to define the State in terms of its inter-ethnic relations. There are various states of disagreements between diverse ethnic groups, in Britain, in Singapore and in Malaysia. But these countries progressed despite these differences, and have never made these disparities central to their political discourse.

That's the way it should be. In Sri Lanka, we see efforts among some opinion makers and elite to make inter-ethnic relations the central discourse once more, after the end of the battle against terrorism more than a decade ago.

Despite these people's best efforts, it seems the country is past that stage. People from all communities are focussed more on economic progress, than they are on petty differences. That's not to say that there are no disparities, no differences and no points of contention between

ation may not be ideal. But, the problem in this country has been that there are elements so ready and willing to inject the issues of ethnic divisions into the daily discourse.

### Ethnic

That was the pattern in the entirety of the nineties and the first decade of the new millennium. But then the hostilities ended in 2009, and gradually the discourse shifted to the issues of development, environment and party politics as opposed to ethnic politics.

It's a sign that people are collectively in a mood to move on, get ahead with their lives and with the task of making the country a better place for them, and the future generations.

Entire swathes of the opinion making

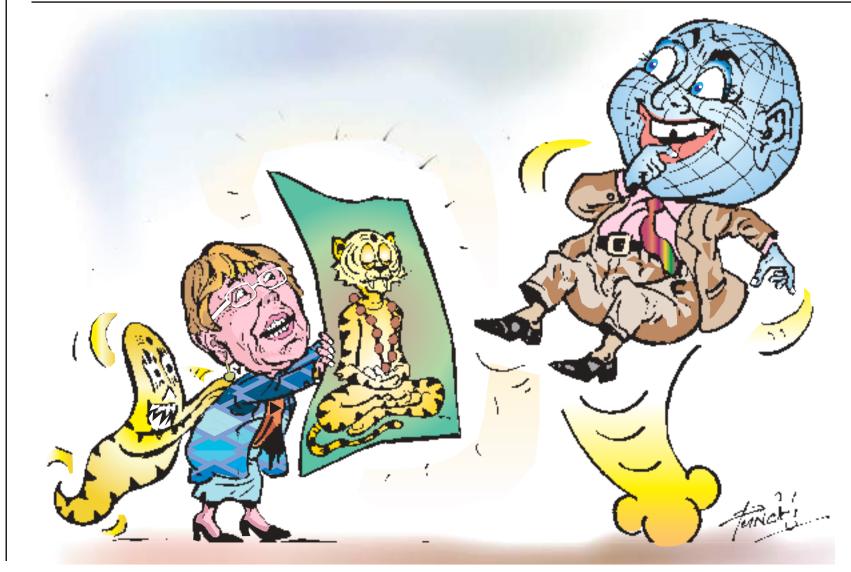
Also, other societal conditions have shifted to enable the conversation to move away from race and ethnicity. Yes, there are disparities and simmering discontents between communities. But the issues never come anywhere close to boiling point, because they are no longer of paramount importance to any of the ordinary folk in these communities.

In this country, it is the active political class, i.e. party politicians, who have forced the conversation on ethnic issues into the public space, and made it the central theme in the public domain. That tendency still prevails, unfortunately.

At various times, the noise made by the race-baiters becomes quite loud and insistent. But the positive aspect seems to be that the people are seeing past these background theatrics. Simply put, gradu-

It's the surest sign that society has moved beyond the stage of tearing each other apart on account of the differences that do exist, and cannot be wished away anytime soon.

In this country, perhaps Archbishop Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith is the embodiment of where we are at the moment. The Cardinal has said on more than one occasion that this is a Buddhist country but he is the fiercest when it comes to matters of having the truth revealed about the Easter Sundav attacks. The Cardinal did not harbour any grievances over the primacy of Buddhism in the county's culture. If he is above those petty squabbles about which religion is more 'important', so must be his flock. It's one of those sanguine signs that as a culture, we have moved beyond the discourse of the religious and ethnic divide.



### SUNDAY OBSERVER FEBRUARY 28, 2021

# Spectre of Tamil hate politics marching again as Gandhian non-violence

-Bv H. L. D. Mahindapala

he Tamil people followed Velupillai Prabhakaran blindly because he promised to deliver Eelam. The gains of the initial military adventures of the LTTE also made him look like the Messiah who could fulfil their dream. But he took them for a ride – the biggest in the history of the Tamils -- and gave them Evil-laam. His only achievement was in constructing and honing the most efficient killing machine which targeted and killed mostly Tamils.

His juggernaut had its roots in the violent political culture of Jaffna. He became the iconic image of the Tamil political culture, particularly with his cadre of suicide bombers, because he was an integral part of the traditional fascist culture of Vellala-dominated Jaffna. Nothing represents Jaffna political culture better than Prabhakaran's fascist one-man regime.

He hit the headlines of the New York Times on May 28, 1995 with James F. Burns branding him as "the Pol Pot of Asia". The Vellala supremacists dominated the history of Jaffna particularly from the Dutch period. They never loosened their iron-fisted grip on Jaffna and opened their society for democratic liberalism at any stage. In broad outline, Jaffna could be divided into two layers: 1. the Vellala oppressors, the dominant majority and 2. the marginalised low-castes whose lives were determined from the womb to the tomb by fascist casteism. Prabhakaran was the genie that came out of the corked violent Vellala culture.

The only difference was he did not belong to the Vellala caste. He was a karaiyar, the fisher caste, who catalysed and transformed Vellala fascism into his brand of Tamil Pol Potism / Prabhakaranism. Vellala fascism segof the Tamils, justice for Tamils, equal-ity for the Tamils and peace for Tamils with their Supreme Leader.

They never went to UNHRC to complain about the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Supreme Commander of the busiest killing machine ever produced by the Tamils.

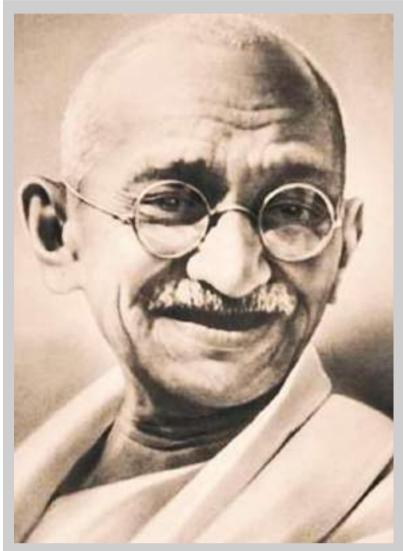
Ideologically, there was no difficulty for the Vellalas to embrace Prabhakaranism because it was merely a secular version of the Vellala religious dogma spelt out with clarity by the holy guru of the Vellalas, Arumuka Navalar. In one of his commentaries he says: "It is the duty of every Saivite to kill those who steal Sivan's property or revile him.

If one is not strong enough to kill the blasphemer, one must hire another to do it. If one has nothing to hire with, one must leave the country where the sinner lives. By remaining in the country one becomes a participant in the sin .(p. 80 – The Bible Trembled, the Hindu-Christianity Controversies of Nineteenth-Century Ceylon, by R. F. Young and Bishop S. Jebanesan, Vienna 1995). So, killing is anointed as a religious duty in the Hindu-Vellala culture to retain the supremacy and the purity of the believers. Going step by step to any length in violence to preserve the supremacy of the deities of the day – including anthropomorphic demi-gods like Sankili and Prabhakaran – is the validated norm.

### Modus operandi

Killing or hiring someone else to kill is the legitimised modus operandi. For instance, the Vellala elders who declared war in the Vadukoddai Resolution were too old to kill. So, they licensed the youth to take up arms and kill anyone who stood in the way of attaining Eelam.

This sealed the affinity between Vellala religiosity and Prabhakaranist secularism. In some Vellala homes abroad they light lamps and place it before Prabhakaran's image located



Ironically, Prabhakaran began by eliminating the Vellala elite who declared war against the Sinhalese in the noted Vaduukoddai Resolution and ended by throwing bombs and shooting the helpless Tamil refugees running away from him into the arms of

the Security Forces. Tamil people running away from their first Tamil state - it was only a quasi-state -- was the ultimate insult to Tamil nationalism. It exposed the fake Tamil pride of being superior to all other communities. It is a state that could not give the Tamils food, security or dignity. It had to depend on the 'Sinhala state' to feed their people. Or to wait for parippu to fall from the skies. It also meant that what God has put together cannot be separated by the force of brutal Tamil violence. History that has rejected Tamil invaders, marauders and colonialists repeated itself once gain in 2009 to prove that those who forget history end up in Nandikadal.

nil Wickremesinghe's deal for which he (Ranil) was expecting to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

By miscalculating and missing the best opportunities that came his way, Prabhakaran too proved to be 'a congenital idiot', in the colourful phrase of



ruary 3 and concluded in the North on thority on Vellala casteism, in his essay Sunday, February 7.

Thousands of Tamils marched on foot and proceeded in vehicles from Pottuvil in the Ampara District to Poligandy in the Jaffna District..... What is forgotten, ignored or conveniently overlooked is the fact that for over three decades in post-Independence Sri Lanka, the Tamil political struggle was basically non - violent and adhered to the noble doctrine of 'Ahimsa' (avoidance of injury/violence) enunciated by that great apostle of non - violence Mahatma Gandhi."

Now DBSJ knows, only too well, that the last sentence in particular is a load of bunk. He knows that neither S. J. V. Chelvanayakam nor his followers were ever noble apostles of non-violence in the mould of Mahatma Gandhi. The essence of Mahatma Gandhi's non-violence satyagraha movement was to combat high-caste oppression of the low-caste, leaving aside his antiimperialist campaign.

When did Chelvanyakam ever sit with the low-castes to back their nonviolent campaign to open the doors of Maviddipuram Temple - the historic battle waged by the low-castes against the Vellalas? On the contrary, the Chelvanayakam leadership did nothing when the Vellalas cracked the head of the non-violent low-castes staging their protest at the Maviddipuram Temple? He never took a courageous stand and defended the rights of the low-castes to enter the Hindu temples. Prof. Bryan Pfaffenberger, a lead-

ing American authority on the caste system in Jaffna, said that Chelvanayakam and the Federal party "tip-toed out" of the issue. The entire Tamil leadership, from Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan, and running through G. G. Ponnambalam and Chelvanayakam never followed Gandhian principles in dealing with the persecuted lowcastes of Jaffna.

DBSJ's article glorifying the "Tamil Satyagraha 0f 1961" (DM -13/2/2021) is typical of the Tamil propaganda to portray the Tamil politicians as highly moral apostles of non-violence who were forced to give up non-violence by "the failure of the non-violent Tamil struggle to remedy prevailing political maladies." Romanticising of "the doctrine of Ahimsa ", he gives the Tamil leaders the aura of being non-violent saints who were about to enter Mahatma Gandhi's nirvana when the frustrated youth took up the gun. This, of course, is the external façade presented to the world outside Jaffna. While the Tamil leadership was posing apostles of Ahimsa in Colombo and other places outside Jaffna, inside Jaffna they were beating the daylights out of the low-castes who had dared to challenge the fascist might of the Vellala supremacists. He says, I quote: "What is forgotten, ignored or conveniently overlooked is the fact that for over three decades in post-Independence (sic) Sri Lanka, the Tamil political struggle was basically non-violent and adhered to the noble doctrine of "Ahimasa' (avoidance of injury / violence) enunciated by that great apostle of non-violence, Mahatma Gandhi." Here he dodges the brutal history of Tamils oppressing, persecuting and murdering Tamils which was an integral part of the Jaffna political culture throughout its history. It ceased only the day after 'the Sinhala state' ended the 33-year-old battle against terrorism on May 19, 2009 at Nandikadal.

began in the East on Wednesday, Feb- Pfaffenberger, America's leading auon the Temple entry Politics of the Vellalas, revealed that the Vellala Gandhians cracked the heads of the non-violent protesters with bottles filled with sand

°OP-ED

He added that the Vellalas who led the Federal Party "tip-toed out" of the crisis without standing up for the lowcastes.

Rajavarothiam Sampanthan, who was then an up-and- coming young man in the Federal Party, was never seen fighting for the 'dignity, equality, justice and peace' of the Tamils oppressed by the Tamils.

In a grim snap-shot of the Vellalas Prof. Bryan Pfaffenberger wrote: "Vellarlars had long considered the Jaffna Peninsula a private preserve for their interests......In the fifties, for instance, many minority Tamils (Vellala euphemism for their untouchables / dalits) still lived in Vellala-owned palmyrah groves or wasteland; if they did not submit to Vellala labour demands, they could be threatened with expulsion.



The economic compulsions were paired with informal political controls: Minority Tamils who attempted

ued into Prabhakaranism naturally like a river that flows into the sea and when the integrated forces emerged as Tamil Pol Potism in the 20th century the Vellalas took to it like duck to water.



They glorified him, financed him, spun theories to legitimise him, internationalised him as key player in S. Asia taking on even India, lobbied for him, provided logistics and expertise to oil his killing machine. Prabhakaran mobilised a broad front of various castes but without the critical and massive support of the Vellalas he could never have gone as far as he went.

In the end, one was hardly distinguishable from the other. They were two sides of the same coin. The change over from Vellalaism to Prabhakaranism was as easy as Stalin taking over oppressive Czarist culture and marketing it as glorious and liberating communism. Prabhakaranist fascism was marketed as glorious Tamil nationalism.

### Sole representative

Vellala leaders such as Rajavarothiam Samapanthan and M. A. Sumanthiran fell at his feet and accepted his supremacy. He was elevated by them to the highest position of being 'the sole representative of the Tamil nation'.

In other words, they acknowledged voluntarily, without any compulsion, that they were the servile factotums willing to obey the commands of the master killer of Tamils. They never once raised the issues of dignity alongside other Hindu gods on the mantelpiece of the living room.

Tamils who have no remarkable heroes in their history are left with no option but to go down the lowest depths to ferret out heroes from the best killers of Tamils as their demigods. Only a warped culture which has lost its humane values would pick the most heinous killer as their hero. So, the Tamils have picked Prabhakaran, the evil genie who had killed more Tamils than others, as their latest hero. The desperate bid in Tamil politics

is to fill the vacuum in their history. Though the Tamils of Jaffna boast of a great Tamil culture they never produced anything worthy of note in the civilisational fields of literature, drama, art, music or architecture.

They were at best third-rate imitators of the great Tamil culture of S. India. So, when they boast about their great Tamil culture they refer to the classical Tamil culture of S. India and not anything innovative or creative that came out of Jaffna. Mediocrities are genetically incapable of producing great cultures.

The perennial oppressive culture of Jaffna has either produced a oneman regime or a fascist ideology like Vellalaism / Prabhakaranism. This oppressive culture had its origin in Sankilli, the forefather of Prabhakaran, who marched down to Mannar in 1544 and massacred 600 Tamil Catholics who refused to recognise him as 'the sole representative of the Tamils' - an incurable obsession with Tamil leaders.

As Catholics they had sworn allegiance to the King of Portugal. Because they refused to pay homage to him he massacred them all, babies, pregnant women, old and young without any discrimination. Tamils specialised in eliminating discrimination with either the sword or the gun. Sankili put on record the first mass massacre. Prabhakaran was the last.

Jaffna never had space for liberal, open, tolerant, pluralistic, or an inclusive political culture. After Sankilli came the slave society with the Vellalas rising as a dominant force during the Dutch period.

The Tesawalamai legitimised slavery and the supremacy of the oppressive Vellala culture. It was this culture that dominated and warped Jaffna society. After the Vellalas came Prabhakaran, the first child born out of the Vellala Declaration of War on May 14, 1976 at Vadukoddai.

## Eelam

The Tamils who hero-worship Prabhakaran fail to realise that he had Eelam in the palm of his hands and he threw it away. He had it when Raiv Gandhi offered him the Chief Ministership. He had it when Chandrika Bandaranaike offered him the North and the East for ten years without elec-



tions.

He had it when Ranil Wickremesinghe gave him the power that was nearest to Eelam, with international guarantees. Every one of these offers was a prospective political base from which he could have launched his political manoeuvres to reach his next political stage on the road to Eelam, if he knew how to get there.

But in his arrogance and total ignorance of alternative methodologies to achieve political goals, he assassinated Rajiv Gandhi - the goose that laid his golden egg. And he shot to pieces CBK's offer and, most of all, Ra-



Prof. Kumar David.

Drunk with his own belief of invincibility he went beyond his limits to take on GOSL, India and even some segments of the international community who were initially sympathetic towards the Tamils. He had only one answer to all his problems: kill, kill and kill. In the end he ran short of killers. He had to forcibly drag children out from school to fight in his futile war. In short, he overreached himself. He went for Eelam or nothing. In the end he got nothing.

Apart from his own arrogance he was misled by the glorification of the Tamil diaspora and the servile Vellala elite, led by the TNA. Like the politically bankrupt Tamils Prabhakaran was a victim of his own egotistic myths.

The inexhaustible capacity of Tamils to believe in their political piety, purity and greatness has been suicidal. At each stage of their political movement, starting from satyagraha on the language issue, they deceived themselves - and the world -- with their manufactured myths and, in the process, took the wrong route which finally led them to Nandikadal.

This brief revisit to the past is to question the role of the current Tamil leadership which is whipping up hate politics in the name of minority rights. As in the past they are once again parading as non-violent Gandhians performing satyagraha.

D. B. S. Jeyaraj, (DBSJ), the best-informed Tamil journalist, wrote about the latest protest march of the Tamils in the Daily Mirror (13/2/2021) in dithyrambic ecstasy.

He wrote: "The latest is the "Pottuvil to Poligandy" (P2P) Protest that ended last week was a watershed moment in the political history of Sri Lankan Tamils. The Five day "P2P"

### Mahatma Gandhi

He says and I quote: "...for over three decades in post-Independence (sic) Sri Lanka, the Tamil political struggle was basically non-violent and adhered to the noble doctrine of "Ahimasa" (avoidance of injury / violence) enunciated by that great apostle of non-violence, Mahatma Gandhi."

There were two political struggles going on in Jaffna: 1. the racist war declared on May 14, 1976 at Vadukoddai by the Vellala supremacists (the holy Ahimasavadins of Jaffna) to retain their feudal and colonial powers and privileges and 2. the low-intensity war of the low-castes against the Vellala supremacists -- the perennial oppressors who had denied them their basic human rights.

In 1968 the Vellala supremacists went all out to suppress the Nalavars, Pallas and Parayas, rising as an organised front for the first time against the Vellala oppressors. Prof. Bryan and reconciliation.

to raise their position would find their communities victimised by Vellala- organised gangs of thugs, who burned down huts and poisoned wells." (p. 81 - The Political Construction of Defensive Nationalism: The 1968 Temple-Entry Crisis in Northern Sri Lanka. The Journal of Asia Studies, 49, No. 1, February 1990).

### Non-violent doctrine

How does this compare with DB-SJ's Jaffna which he thinks is the ideal Nirvana of the apostles of non-violent Gandhians? This questions the veracity of DBSJ's claim that the Tamil politics in the first three decades of independent Sri Lanka was based on the non-violent doctrine of Gandhi.

In any case, can DBJ cite an instance where Gandhi took the side of the Brahmins as against the harijans? What were the chances of Gandhi walking up and down the entrance to Maviddipuram Temple with a walking stick like Prof. C. Suntheralingam, threatening to beat the hell out of any low-caste daring to enter the holy space of the Vellalas?

Tragically, our age is dominated by lies. We live in an age where 74 million Americans believe that Trump won the election and Biden stole it from him. Isn't DBSJ acting like another Tamil Trumpian twister of the truth? He knows - if not, he should know how the imported slaves from Malabar were treated by the Vellala supremacists down the ages in his glorified land of Ahimsa apostles.

He knows what happened at Maviddipuram. The temple entry issue at Maviddipuram in 1968 was the climactic moment when the Jaffna Tamils were asked to choose between evil and violent casteism and humane politics of giving the Tamils - just not the Vellala caste/class - their dignity, equality, justice and peace.

DBSJ should know, with all his deep knowledge of Tamil affairs that the path to Nandikadal began with the first satyagraha staged by the Vellala leadership at the Galle Face Green. It was not for the oppressed Tamil but for the privileged Vellalas.

It was Vellala elite performing satyagraha for Vellala privileges and not for the oppressed Tamils. If he loves his Tamil people and if he desires to prevent the kind of beating he got from the Tamils he must stop writing bunk - at least for the sake of peace

## **News Feature**

## **Probe into Easter Sunday attacks Prosecute Yahapalana** bigwigs - Report

## SLFP rejects report, claims lax policy on Ranil

### **BY AANYA WIPULASENA AND RAJITHA JAGODA ARACHCHI**

he Presidential Commission of Inquiry (COI) into the Easter Sunday attacks recommends that the Attorney General consider instituting criminal proceedings against former President Maithripala Sirisena under the Penal Code," the recently released COI report stated in its recommendations.

Several other high-level officials, including former Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando, former IGP Pujith Jayasundara, former National Intelligence Service chief Sisira Mendis and former State Intelligence Service chief Nilantha Jayawardena were also found responsible for criminal negligence and failure to take action and perform their duties.

## **Special High Court**

The report tabled in Parliament on February 25, stated that former President Sirisena and other persons who worked under him failed to prevent the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks that killed 270 people and injured around 500 others. It recommended the setting up of a special High Court to hear cases relating to the Easter Sunday bombings.

Eight suicide bombers in a series of coordinated attacks targeted hotels and Catholic churches as they detonated bombs at St. Anthony's Shrine in Kochchikade, St. Sebastian Church in Katuwapitiya, Zion Church in Batticaloa and hotels Shangri-La, the Kingsbury and Cinnamon Grand Colombo. Two terrorists killed themselves by detonating bombs in Dematagoda and Dehiwala

Family members who lost their loved ones and others who were injured during the bombings were living in anticipation that those responsible for the attacks and those who paved the way for an environment that enabled the attacks were held responsible.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa appointed a six-member committee headed by Minister Chamal Rajapaksa to study in depth the facts and recom-



St. Sebastian's Church in Negombo following the Easter Sunday attacks

Abeygunawardene are the other mem- charges against Abdul Razik of the Cevbers of the new Committee. Director General (Legal), Presidential Secretariat Hariguptha Rohanadheera was appointed as the Secretary to the Committee to facilitate the functions of the Committee.

On Thursday, the final report by the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) to investigate and inquire into the Easter Sunday attacks that, was handed over to Attorney General (AG) Dappula De Livera. Rohanadheera handed over the report at the AG's Department. The COI recommended AG Livera to 'institute criminal proceedings against the accused'.

## Ban on organisations

The authors of the report also called for the ban on Wahabism, Thowheed organisations and Bodu Bala Sena, while closely monitoring Madrasas and Arabic schools across the island by the Ministry of Education. The Moulavis and teachers of the Malon Thowheed Jamaat Organisation for spreading hate speech and conducting lectures on religious disunity.

It called for the regulation of social media and cyberspace to prevent the spread of extremist ideologies of Islamic State, Wahhabism and Thowheed and the arrest of those involved in inciting ethnic or religious disunity without a warrant.

The Commission in its report urged to promote the concept of 'One country - One law' to prevent discrimination

Leader of the House, Foreign Affairs Minister Dinesh Gunawardena told Parliament that the final report of the COI will be taken up for debate following a discussion at the next meeting of the Committee on Parliamentary Business. Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena said the matter will be discussed at the Parliamentary Business Committee meeting.

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) has decided to reject the final report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCOI) to investigate the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks, which was first appointed by SLFP Chairman, former President Sirisena.

tions have been submitted beyond the scope assigned when establishing the Commission.

- Issues not relevant to the scope are investigated and recommendations are made.
- It is clear that the Commission has adopted a lax policy towards Ranil Wickremesinghe and that pursuing a strict policy only against President Maithripala Sirisena is a double standard.

Former President Maithripala Sirisena took over the Ministry of Law and Order on October 30, 2018. In fact, he has been in charge of this ministry for only five months and 20 days until the attacks. The Commission has not assigned any responsibility for this incident to any of the Ministers who were previously in charge of this Ministry.

The report does not consider who planned the attack, the bombers, the parties who financed the attack and those who provided security for them.

## Committee to study report on **Easter Sunday attacks**

six-member committee was appointed on the direction of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa last week to study the report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) into the Easter Sunday attacks.

The tasks include 'identifying the overall process, including the measures that need to be taken by various agencies and authorities, such as Parliament, the Judiciary, Attorney General's Department, Security Forces, State Intelligence Services.

Implementing recommendations as stipulated by the PCoI to avert recurrence of a national catastrophe of such magnitude is the prime responsibility of the

Committee," a press release by the Presidential Secretariat stated.

It added that the Government is of the view that the Easter Sunday attacks had a devastating impact on national security and stability, the economy, religious harmony and the social fabric of the country.

"Prosecution and trial of the accused as per the recommendations of the PCoI on the Easter Sunday attacks will be in accordance with the standard judicial procedures.

The Parliamentary Committee is not expected to intervene in the process," the statement added.

## Three Sri Lankans charged in US

The Department of Justice of the United States, on January 8, charged three Sri Lankans with terrorism offences, including conspiring to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organisation (ISIS).

According to a media release, the US Justice Department identified the men as Mohamed Naufar, Mohamed Anwar Mohamed Riskan and Ahamed Milhan Hayathu Mohamed. It said the men were part of the group called 'ISIS in Sri Lanka', which was responsible for the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks.

They were charged with conspiring to provide, providing and attempting to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organisation, while Naufar and Milhan are charged with military-type training from the ISIS.

complaint, along with other sus-

tained in Sri Lanka, where a criminal investigation is ongoing," the statement added.

Assistant Attorney General for National Security John C. Demers in the US said they will support Sri Lanka's investigations to hold the defendants accountable for their crimes

According to the charges, the defendants were committed supporters of ISIS, recruited others to ISIS's violent cause, purchased materials for and made Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), helped prepare and train others who participated in the attacks and murdered in the name of this deadly foreign terrorist organisation.

'They are in custody in Sri Lanka. We fully support the Sri aiding and abetting the receipt of Lankan investigation and prosecution of these terrorists and will continue to work with the authori-"The defendants named in the ties there to pursue our shared goal of holding these defendants

mendations on the course of action contained in the final report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) into the attacks and the report of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security which has been submitted to Parliament.

The final report of the PCoI, appointed by former President Sirisena on September 22, 2019, was handed over to President Rajapaksa by the Chairman of the Commission, Supreme Court Judge Janak de Silva at the Presidential Secretariat on February 1. The first and second interim reports were handed over to the President on December 20, 2019 and on March 2, 2020.

Ministers Johnston Fernando, Udaya Gammanpila, Ramesh Pathirana, Prasanna Ranatunga and Rohitha

drasas, it added, need to be registered with a due authority and foreign funds to the institutions to be strictly regulated. It also called for the regulation of all Sunday schools, including Ahadiya and Thakkiya schools under a single state body.

They also recommended monitoring and due action against other institutions, including Sinhala Ravaya, Mahason Balakaya, Sinhala National Movement, Sinhale National Organisation and Shivsena for extremist activities

The report added that a criminal case must be considered against Islamic scholar Usthaz Pashid Hajjul Akbar of the Jamaat-e-Islami organisation on charges of conspiracy to establish an Islamic State in Sri Lanka and also recommended considering filing criminal

The final PCOI report has recommended the Attorney General that criminal proceedings be instituted against Sirisena and his intelligence heads for failing to prevent the attacks.

A press communiqué released by the party revealed the reasons for the rejection of the final report;

• It is the general opinion of our party that this report does not contain positive answers, conclusions and recommendations for the achievement of the objectives established by this Commission.

• The conclusions and recommenda-

The final report of PCoI into the Easter Sunday attacks being handed over to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa by the Commission's Chairman Supreme Court Judge Janak de Silva

## Eyewitness account of the attacks

t was a haunting image. The time on the clock which stands in the left upper corner of St. Anthony's Church aka Kochchikade Shrine showed the time as 8.45 am which had stopped functioning. At 8.45am on April 21, 2019, a terrorist detonated a bomb leaving carnage.

J. Dickson, a resident in the area, had been to the church in the morning to participate in the Easter Sunday Mass. He recalled that he had been at the place where the bomb blasted. As he had lost sight of the priests, he had gone towards the aisle

'I was at the church when the bomb went off. I stayed near the place where the blast occurred and moved forward as I lost my way. There were around 300 people in the church. We lit candles around 8.30 am and in another 15 minutes, the bomb exploded followed by a cloud of smoke all over the place. Some parts of the church roof also collapsed.

"After the bomb went off, I heard nothing for some time because of the impact of the blast. However, the police came within five minutes and took us all out," he said.

Sumith Eranga Silva, 33, an employee of Kingsbury Hotel, sharing his experience shortly after the bombings with the Sunday Observer said, "The bomb went off at the Harbour Court. I was working in a station close to it. It was around 8.45am. I was working with a colleague when we heard a loud sound. I immediately sat down. I felt something like a current shock running across my body. When I touched my head, I found blood pouring down my face. The area was engulfed with smoke and dust. One of my colleagues called me and I followed her. The security personnel guided me to the reception.

There were about 40 customers and eight staffers in the place where the bomb exploded."

- There are reports that weapons ۰ found during the inspection of the mosque after the Easter attack were imported by ships, but the report does not look for its depth.
- Sara alias Pulasthini Rajendran, the wife of Achchi Mohammadu Mohammadu Hastun (a suicide bomber), has been hiding in Batticaloa for a long time and has fled to India. But the investigation not only pays no attention to it, but also ignores the information that could have been revealed by her.

The SLFP also questions the legitimacy of indictments against the former President based on not executing his constitutional discretionary powers. The party also cites examples from the US and New Zealand quoting that intelligent information regarding the 9/11 attack in the US and the Christchurch attack in New Zealand had been reported prior to the attacks, but the political leadership and security forces in both countries had not been charged for the incidents.

### Precedent

The Executive Council of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) said that such action aimed at former President Sirisena will set a precedent for bringing criminal charges against any head of state in the future and that it is a dangerous and short-sighted act.

Secretary General of Bodu Bala Sena Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara Thera said that something that should not have happened has happened during the PCol

"I think I am the most disturbed bhikkhus because of this Commission. I went more than seven or eight davs to the police station and gave statements. Based on the statements given, we were questioned before the members of the Commission. One day, I argued with the Chairman of the Commission. My conclusion was not to look for political answers to a religious question."

"We are vigilant about the recommendations of the Commission. We must go for a program to control, disarm and rehabilitate gangs armed with religious principles. At the same time, all those convicted of the Easter Sunday attacks politically, financially or coordinating the attacks, should be sent to prison."

"We also ask the Government to give us a copy of the report. We have not yet seen those recommendations," the Thera said.

pects linked to the attacks, are de- accountable for their crimes."



Feb 25: Final report of the Presdential Commission handed over to Attorney General



• Apr 21: Eight suicide bombers targeted three catholic churches and three high profile hotels

> 270 lives were lost and 500 were injured and maimed due to terror attacks



309 High Level Rd, Colombo 00600

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## To our driver partners,

From the 26th of February, PickMe is announcing a scheme to enable our drivers to take time off work to get the COVID19 vaccination.

If you are a Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze driver, we plan to support you with the following payments once you get your vaccination.

Platinum and Gold drivers	Entitled up to Rs. 1000
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We at PickMe value our driver partners and in supporting them, we hope to get Sri Lanka moving again, safer.

Stay safe everyone.

**Jiffry Zulfer** CEO



## News/Obituaries

## 23RD YEAR REMEMBRANCE

In loving memory of my beloved husband of

## NANDA

Today in loving memory of you "NANDA" and our darling "PUTHA SHAMIL" a Sangeeka Heel Dana will be offered to the Maha Sangha of Seruwila Temple, Borella.

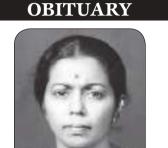
I look forward in this long trek through Sansara to join you Nanda and our darling Putha SHAMIL to walk in the path to Nirwana. May you my beloved Nanda and my darling Putha SHAMIL attain the Supreme Bliss of

Nirwana. Missed forever and fondly remembered by

your ever loving wife.

SANDYA JINASENA

F/3Elvitigala Flats, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08



## **MRS. BALESWARY SELVARAJAH (BA,MA)**

Passed away peacefully in New York City on 15th February 2021.

Born on 24th June 1934, Baleswary Elizabeth Selvarajah was a much respected English Teacher and Lecturer in Sri Lanka, Nigeria and New York City.

She was the beloved wife of late Thampoo Selvarajah, daughter of late Lawyer Appacuddy Nalliah & Rasamany Vaithilingam, daughter-in-law of late Namasivavam Thampoo (Surveyor) and Annamma, ever-loving mother of Mythily (USA), Thayaparan (UK) and Mahila (USA), loving mother-in-law of Ramanathan and Mangaleswary and much-loved grandmother of Abarna and Abiman.

She was the loving sister of late Balasubramanium, late Balakrishnan, late Balendra, late Balachandran, late Rupavathy, and late Rajeswary.

She was the loving sister-in-law of late Panchacharam, Selvaranee, Thevarajah, late Vasanthathevi, Indranee, Anandarajah, and Raveendrarajah.

Funeral service will be held on Friday, 05th March 2021, at 10 a.m. at 125, Hillside Avenue, New Hyde Park, NY 11040, USA.



Words such as 'Sir fail' have come into the limelight these days because there is no proper mechanism in the Government to reply to such fabrications. The Government needs a proper mechanism to reply to such falsehood, the Head of the Department of Sanskrit and Eastern Studies, Faculty of Humanities, University of Kelaniya, Senior Prof. Ven. Induragare

Dhammarathana Thera said. The Thera was speaking at the launch of two books authored by Ven. Muruththettuwe Ananda Thera, at the Abhayaramaya, Nara-

henpita on Thursday, February 25. The ceremony was held under the patronage of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.

media lies against Govt

The Ven. Professor said that various people said things against this Government. The current Government has been in office for only one year and three months. "We brought in this Government as the people rejected the previous Government due to its many shortcomings.

"Which Government in Sri Lanka provided employment for those who failed the GCE Ordinary Level examination? During the past few months the Government has provided over 37,000 jobs to those from needy families who had failed the Ordinary Level examination. This Government has provided employment opportunities



Ven. Prof. Induragare Dhammarathana Thera

**Mechanism needed to counter social** 

to over 60,000 jobs for graduates during the past few months. I ask whether Sir has failed? If so, then who has passed?"

The Ven. Thera said no one can find fault with the Government as it did not sign the MCC Agreement and has said that the Eastern Container Terminal of the Colombo harbour will not be given to anyone

How is it that the Yahapalana regime which tried its best to sign the MCC Agreement was better than this Government? Is the Yahapalana Government that sold the entire Hambantota Harbour better than this Government?, he said.

Ven. Prof. Dhammarathana Thera said many rich countries did not pay due salaries and pensions to their citizens due to Covid-19 but the Government paid all salaries and pensions on time while having to repay loans amounting to 18 trillion rupees. If this success is a failure then what is a success? he said.

The Thera said some people co-sponsored proposals against Sri Lanka at the United Nations Human Rights Commission. But this Government bravely withdrew the co-sponsorship of the Resolution. Can we speak against a Govern-

## **Charles Henry de Soysa** - a philanthropist of all times

## **BY K. BALAPATABENDI**

The 185th anniversary of the birth of Warusahennedige Charles Henry de Soysa (1836-1890) falls on March 3, 2021. He is known in Sri Lanka's history as the greatest Sri Lankan philanthropist of all times. A grateful public" erected his statue in 1917, which stands at the center of the De Soysa Circus opposite the old Eve Hospital in Colombo. It is the first statue of a Sri Lankan to be erected in Colombo. For the past 103 vears, without fail even during the Second World War, his birth has been commemorated at this statue on March 3 Minister of Education Prof. GL Pieris will be the chief guest at the commemoration ceremony at the foot of the statue at 3.30 pm on Wednesday, March 3. He built at his own expense the De Soysa Hospital for Women in 1877. He also built at his own expense several other hospitals. de Soysa, was the only child of ayurvedic physician, Jeronis de Soysa, who had mastered indigenous medicine from the Nayaka Thera of the Palliyagodella Temple in Moratuwa. Sadly, he died at the early age of 53 of an unfortunate accident. Charles Henry was very critical of the British for neglecting the health needs of the country, which was then a British colony. Since he could not get the British rulers of the time to focus adequately on the health sector, he spent his own wealth to build hospitals and medical institutions for the Sri Lankan people. While criticising the British rulers for neglecting our health needs, Charles Henry showed the British by his own practice what the Buddhist values of Compassion (Karuna) and Loving Kindness (*Metta*) are all about. He also built several schools.

ment that does not sell national assets, does not imprison bhikkhus, and freed war heroes? Now arrangements have been made to recruit 10,000 more undergraduates to state Universities. Can we call these things a failure?

- Ven. Prof. Induragare Dhammarathana Thera

This Government stopped importing turmeric and pepper. Now a kilogram of turmeric is just Rs. 180 and the Indian High Commissioner says that Indian turmeric cultivators do not get an adequate income now. This Government stopped the flow of millions of rupees to foreign countries. Unfortunately the Government does not have a proper mechanism to tell these things to the people. It is a major weakness.

Words such as 'Sir Fail' are being created and circulated on social media. There is no one to reply to them. Some say bhikkhus should reply, others say professors should reply, or that Parliament should reply and yet others say the Abhayaramaya should reply.

The final report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) into the Easter Sunday attacks has recommended direct punishment for people who are away while not recommending adequate punishment for the culprits directly responsible for the attack. This is like the Sinhala saying, `Muwa hamata thadi bema' and like a judgment given by King Kekille. Maybe another Commission will be needed to inquire about this commission which produced the final report.

It is 206 years since the destruction of Sinhala society in Sri Lanka. According to history, the Sinhala Kingdom was handed over to the British by Sinhala Ministers. John Doyle made use of the disunity among the Sinhala Nilames (then Ministers) to capture the Sin-

## Former ANCL staffer passes away

ject of engineering.

Ven. Prof. Induragare

attached to the

Dhammarathana Thera is

**Department of Sanskrit** 

University of Kelaniya. He

obtained his Ph.D from

the University of Pune in

India in 2000. The Thera

books and is the editor of

hala King and hand him over to

England. That is how the Sinhala

Kingdom was totally destroyed. It

is very sad if some people try to

destroy the Government built by

away around 6,400 ancient histori-

cal valuable Sri Lankan books, es-

pecially those such as Hugh Nev-

ille. Now those books are in British

museums. Sri Lankan-made rifles

are now in museums in the Neth-

erlands. They took away our heri-

technology was found in ancient

Sri Lanka. Now individuals who

cannot put their knowledge into

action are being produced by the Sri Lankan education system.

Today agriculture is taught in

schools but there are not many

paddy fields. In the past there was

no subject called `Agriculture' in

the school syllabus but there were

100,000 paddy fields. That is why

it was called `Wellassa, and 33,000

tanks were built without the sub-

It is believed that airplane

In the past, colonialists took

them with much hardship.

has authored several

many publications and

has presented several

abstract papers.

and Eastern Studies,

W. P. Silva, a former Senior Wharf Manager at Lake House, passed away on Friday, February 26. His body lies at 47, Parakumba Road, Kolonnawa. The final rites

tage

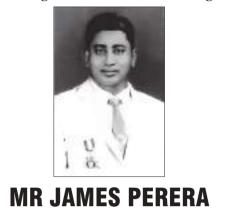


**JAYANTHI RAMYA UDALAGAMA** 

## **1ST YEAR REMEMBRANCE**

Ŧ

of My Loving Husband & Our Loving Father



### 01.03.2021

Always so good unselfish and kind none on this earth your equal I'll find. Honorable and true in all your ways loving and faithful to the need of your days. One in a million, that husband & a father was you.

One year has passed, our hearts still sore

What beautiful memories you left behind but we hope some day to meet you And to be with you always

Sadly mised by your ever loving wife Sriya, daughters Krishanthi & Vyomi, son-in-law's Aruna, Jude and your grandchildren Oshadi, Thilina & Gihan.





## In commemoration of 3rd Month's Remembrance,

Sermon (Bana) and Alms Giving was held during the weekend at our residence.

> "Your life was a blessing Your memory a treasure You are loved beyond words And missed beyond measure"

## **"MAY YOU ATTAIN THE** ETERNAL BLISS OF NIBBANA" !

Lovingly remembered by husband Themiya and his Family Members Brother Mahipala & Family

Staff of T-Jay Enterprises (Pvt) Ltd., & Family Members

X. All Friends

He was also a patron of Sinhala literature and funded the publication of sev-



**Charles Henry de Soysa** 

eral books written by leading Buddhist scholars of his time.

His modern worldview finds expression in his attitude to religion. Though he was a Christian, he readily supported Buddhist, Hindu, Christian and Muslim religious institutions.

He built several temples, churches, Hindu Kovils. All this philanthropy he was able to do with the wealth he earned as the father of Sri Lankan Private Enterprise in the mid nineteenth century. He planted nearly 34,000 acres of cash crops in diverse parts of the country, managing his vast plantations with skill and acumen.

He not only was the first Sri Lankan planter and exporter of plantations products but he was also the first Sri Lankan banker for he was instrumental in setting up the Bank of Kandy in 1860 with De Soysa Capital.

de Soysa is a direct descendant of the Warusahannedige family which, according to tradition, held the administration of the Devinuwara Maha Vishnu as its Basnayaka Nilame when it was sacked by the Portuguese in the early 17th century, Charles Henry's great grandfather migrated from Devinuwara in the Matara district to Moratuwa in the early 17th century, bringing with him the entrepreneurial skills and vision of Ruhana to mesh them with the new economic opportunities that had emerged in the newly developing Western Province around the capital city of Colombo.

The writer is a former Secretary to the President

will be held today at the Kolonnawa cemetery.



## **In Memoriam**

FERNANDO - ELLEN CATHERINE -Life is but a stopping place a pause in what is to be a resting place along the road to sweet eternity. "Regilands" Katana. 009718

## **Obituaries**

**CALUPERUMA - GAMINI DE SOYZA** - Dearly beloved husband of Kumudini (nee De Silva), loving father of Devinda and Mihiri and father-in-law of Erangi and Bobby Jones. Much loved grandfather

of Ethan, Derek, Nathan, Sophia and Kyrin. Loving brother of Mitra Gunatilleke, Nandana (deceased), Sumitra (deceased) and Indrajith, died peacefully in Texas, USA on 19th February 2021. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Texas Buddhist Meditation Center, 11209, Brownfield Drive, Burleson, TX 76028, USA or Parkinsons's Voice Project, 646 N Coit Road #2250, Richardson, TX 75080 or at www.parkinsonvoiceproject. org Those wishing to send condolences or sign the online guestbook may visit **www**. sparkmanrichardson.com Email: kumid esoyza@netscape.net. 014898

MR. RAJAGULASINGAM HARIHARAN (Formerly worked at Standard Life Canada & Old Boy of St. Joseph's College Maradana) - Beloved son of the late Kulasegarampillai Rajagulasingam from Malaysia, and Rajarajeswary Rajagulasingam of Kondavil-West, dearest brother of Paraneetharan, Krishanthe and Niranjani, brother-in-law of Aruni, Vijendra (Rajan) and Kugatharsan, beloved uncle of Christina, Lessica, Nathan, Tameela, Rachel, Archana, Tarunee and Joy, adored nephew of Eswaranathan, Sathyadevi, Mangayarkarasai, Rajesegaran, Chandrathevy, Maharani, Rameswary, Mithereswaray and late Kirupa, passed away on 22nd February 2021 in Canada. His funeral is on the 28th February 2021 in Canada. May his soul rest in peace. Contact No: Nira (Canada) + 1-416-6271422, Kugan (Canada) +1-647-5024652, Parnee (Australia) + 61 429-913-302, Krisha (Australia) + 61-421-892-864, Mithra (Colombo) +94777-916-223, Anusha (Colombo) + 94112-674-910. 015665

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## **RECRUITMENT OF SPECIAL APPRENTICES** IN ENGINEERING 2020/2021 FOR NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN ENGINEERING SCIENCE (NDES) COURSE

Please refer the gazette no. 2271 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on 25th February 2021 or visit the web site www.iet.edu.lk for full details

Downloading facility of the same application is also provide our web site (www.iet.edu.lk)

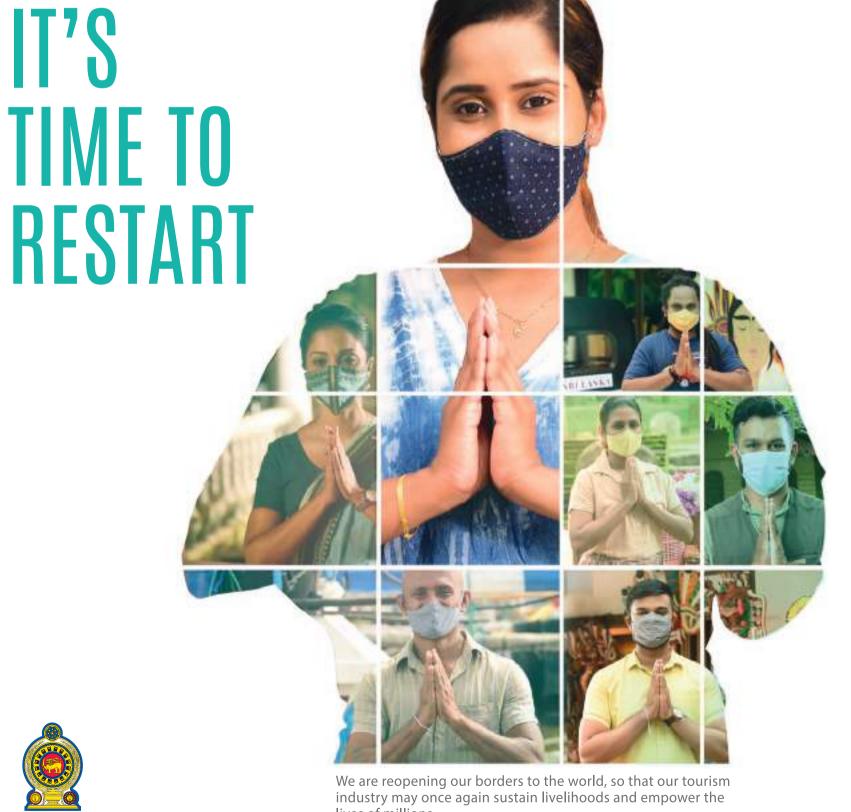
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සංචාරක අමාතතාංශය சுற்றுலாத்துறை அமைச்சு **MINISTRY OF TOURISM** 

## Features

## Bachelet's report has overtones of martyrdom for LTTE - Lord Naseby

n a note sent to UN Human Rights High Commissioner, British Conservative Party politician Lord Naseby criticised her recent report on Sri Lanka.

The report, which called on member states for punitive action against Sri Lankans who fought against ruthless LTTE, he said "glosses over the full extent of the war" and "the tenor of the writing almost has overtones of martyrdom for the Tamil Tigers". Lord Naseby is the Honorary President of the All Party Parliamentary British-Sri Lanka Group. Britain, a member of the Core Group on Sri Lanka, is leading another negative resolution against Sri Lanka to be taken up during the final days of the on going 46th Human Rights Council sessions.

The following is the full text of his note to Human Rights High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet.

I have just finished a careful read of this extraordinary document which glosses over the full extent of the war when a group of vindictive terrorists tried to create a Tamil quasi neo-socialist revolutionary state by first murdering all the moderate Tamil leaders, then murdering President Ranasighe Premadasa and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, as well as countless Ministers, Parliamentarians, civil society leaders and finally using extreme violence to wage war against the security forces of the democratically elected Government of Sri Lanka. All in the name of 'Eelam'. It accuses the Government of Sri Lanka and its armed forces of 'heinous crimes' unspecified from so called 'credible evidence sources' all undefined. The tenor of the writing almost has over tones of martyrdom for the Tamil Tigers. Indeed the language reflects that of the Panel of Experts (Darusman) and OISL reports both now discredited by real evidence rather than conjecture.

Certainly there is little in the Report to help move 'reconciliation' forward.

I have studied the history of Sri Lanka in depth since I started the All Party British Sri Lanka Parliamentary Group in 1975. For nearly 50 years I have had a unique insight into Sri Lanka both internally and externally.

I have written a book based on extensive research, properly referenced with sources. Indeed I have given two copies to the FCDO South Asia Department.

The title of the book is: 'Sri Lanka – Paradise Lost- Paradise Regained'.

I suggest Chapters 12 to 19 have more relevant facts than anything produced to date by the UN.

The Key Issues that the UNHRC ignore are:

**1.** The law that operates in war is the law of armed conflict otherwise known as International Humanitarian Law. This was confirmed by Sir Desmond de Silva QC the former Chief Prosecutor of a UN- sponsored War Crimes Tribunal. He made the point that The European Convention on Human Rights is wholly inappropriate for application in combat and battlefield conditions.

**2.** There is now a volume of independently verified evidence that civilian ca-

Soldiers is a British Citizen, Mrs Adele Balasingham residing in the UK.

There is absolutely no mention of her by the UN. One has to ask why the UK has not itself either asked the UN to investigate into this matter or made its own genuine attempt at investigating Mrs Balasingham, given Britain's interest in seeking the truth and accountability for human rights violations. Evidence of Mrs Balasingham confessing her involvement in the LTTE's activites and adorning suicide cyanide capsule chains on the necks of female child soldiers may be readily seen in the documentary 'Inside Story: Suicide Killers' broadcast on BBC 1 on October 23 1991 at 21:30 (Producer: Stephen Lambert, Executive producer Paul Hamann)

(https:// vimeo.com/304944042). It is high time that the Crown Prosecution service considered this matter with seriousness and vigour.

4. The UK government has the evidence of the UK Defence attache Lt. Col. Gash during his period of service in Sri Lanka. Following a Freedom of Information Request from myself which took nearly 3 years, Col. Gash's Despatches from the war front are now, in heavily redacted copies, in the public domain. There is ample evidence in these despatches that Sri Lanka's government at the time and its armed forces did not have a policy to kill Tamil civilians indeed they went out of their way to rescue them with considerable success despite danger and losses to themselves.

Removal of the redactions might well make it even clearer. By not providing these despatches in un-redacted form, the British Government is hindering the process of establishing the truth of what really happened at the end of the Sri Lanka conflict.

**5.** Reference is made on page 8 para 27 to an incident of disappearances of 11 persons in 2008-9. I make no comment BUT contrast this with the cold blooded murder of 600 policemen in the Eastern Province who surrendered to the LTTE on 11 June 1990 evoking no comment from the UN.

**6.** Reference is made on Page 4 para 9 'Credible allegations of indiscriminate shelling by government forces including densely populated No fire Zones'. Surely the UN is well aware that the NO FIRE Zone

supplies by the Government... caused additional deaths and suffering'. The only reason there was a reduction in supplies was that the LTTE refused to allow safe passage. It is worth noting that despite the LTTE taking all they needed for their troops there were still adequate supplies in the warehouses run by the Government Agent (civil servant). The truth is the LTTE semistarved the civilians who were in their Human Shield policy. There was nothing the Government could do to mitigate this and certainly they were not responsible. The Paranagama Commission report covered this issue in some detail (denial of Humanitarian Assistance p122-127).

8. The report on page 4 para 9 states that LTTE cadres and their dependents are believed to have been extra - judicially executed after handing themselves over to Sri Lankan armed forces. This appears to be a new claim and does not stand up to examination. Col. Gash in his Despatches records that following extensive aerial leaflets offering safe passage to any Tamil civilian or military; hundreds came over and were looked after. I am aware of the socalled alleged killings at the end of the conflict which the Paranagama Commission describes as the extra-judicial executions of 18 May 2009 that were dubbed 'White Flag Killings' in the Channel 4 programe. This is an isolated incident and I concur with the Commissioner's statement; 'Due to the seriousness of these allegations, the Commission has come to the conclusion that an independent judicial inquiry is necessary to establish the facts, determine responsibility and arrive at the truth'.

**9.** Again in Para 9 the statement is made 'More than 250,000 people were detained for months in military-run closed camps for internally displaced persons'. These were set up as thousands of civilians escaped through the lines from the clutches of the LTTE, indeed not all were civilians as hidden in their midst were hundreds of LTTE fighters who threw away their uniforms and pretended to be civilians.

The camps were set up as these shell shocked and half starved poor people who had been forced from their homes as a human shield, suffered 5 months of hell and now had nowhere to go. The emotive word 'closed' is used by the UN conveniently omitting that from Day 1. the International Red Cross (ICRC) were present helping to look after these poor deeply distressed people. Of course the Human Rights brigade demanded entrance which was refused primarily because it was known there were mixed in with the genuine refugees LTTE cadres, in fact over 11,000 of them.

The ICRC did a brilliant job as they have done all over the world. It did not need other parties interfering. Nevertheless it was reassuring that a group of Tamil



Lord Naseby

last three official visits about this claim of torture as they operate in depth and island wide. The response from three different heads has been the same' no torture but some heavy handling'.

## Current situation

The report of the UN High commissioner for Human Rights fails to understand what has happened in the three Presidential periods from the end of the War up to the present day.

Phase 1. President Mahinda Rajapaksa

It was his leadership allied with his brother Gotabaya Rajapaksa that build up the armed forces to a level and competence where they could face the military might of the Tamil Tigers. Regretfully the West refused to sell modern armaments leaving Sri Lanka with no option but to seek help from China which was forthcoming. If the LTTE Tamil Tigers a terrorist group proscribed in over 30 countries had not been defeated then there would undoubtedly have been a rogue State of Eelam created. In the immediate post period up to

the 2015 Presidential election the whole of the Northern Province infrastructure was rebuilt or restored particularly: power, roads, railways and schools. There was a conscious effort to return to the private sector those facilities that had been run by the military. There was a new major housing programme for the over 250,000 displaced persons supported by several countries but not the UK.

Finally, and vitally a major de-mining operation was set up and still going on today although it is made doubly difficult because the Tamil Tigers left no plans of what ground had been mined. By any yardstick all this post war

restoration work was a huge achievement and rather quicker than the allies achieved after WW2. Phase 2. 2015 – 2019:President Sirisena (SLFP) with Ranil Wickremesinghe

## **(UNP) as PM.** Despite the fanfare of a 100 day action apa

Phase 3. Presidential Election 2019.

This saw Gotabaya Rajapaksa swept into power. He is a strong leader with a plan to develop the talent and opportunities of all Sri Lankans. I said on the pen-ultimate page of my book 'Sri Lanka Paradise Lost – Paradise Regained'

'Time for the newly elected Executive President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to re-establish Sri Lanka as a dynamic creative economy with his proven powers of leadership

Time for him to sort out the difficult economic landscape Time for him to be allowed to prove his

engagement with all minorities'. His actions so far have vindicated

my faith. He has reorganised the Office of Missing Persons as well as the Office for Reparations which have sorted out provisions for death certificates particularly for widows of missing persons and making where appropriate compensation payments. New commissioners have also been appointed to the Office of National Unity and Reconciliation. If the West genuinely wanted to help then they could share names of missing persons, some of whom have just turned up alive and well somewhere in the world; Canada and UK are the two obvious countries to have a trial.

Criticism is made of the little progress to setting up the Truth and Reconciliation system. How the UNHRC expect much progress on any issue in the middle of a world pandemic is unbelievable . He has made a strong public com-

mitment to all minorities.

He has restored the security system which had been down graded by the previous government resulting in the terrorist Easter attack on Christian Churches despite India sending warnings. The UN makes criticism of ex military personnel doing civilian jobs and in certain cases taking over the function. I remind the UN that after the WW2. in the UK the experience and commitment of former Military personnel was put to good use by both Prime Minister Attlee and Churchill. Sri Lanka is in exactly the same situation post war.

The UNHRC would do well to recognise the relative success of Sri Lanka's response to the pandemic where an immediate shut down was made and the whole programme run by combination of the Military, Medics and Scientists. The decision to ban burials was made on local scientific advice concerning the water table and thus affecting the safety of the water. At the time of decision there was no WHO advice.

The Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has now announced in Parliament that burials will also be allowed tacks he responded

"To live in a post-conflict country requires courage. It requires vision, the recognition that reconciliation- the issue of reconciliation in a post- conflict country is one that takes generations. Even in Europe, where the last great war in Western Europe was in 1945. We have made one of the best examples of reconciliation anywhere in the world after one of the worst examples of war. But yet, there are still things that have to be dealt with. Reconciliation is a generational process". WW2 lasted 6 years whereas the conflict with the LTTE lasted nearly three decades largely sustained by global Tamil diaspora communities from various countries including the UK where the LTTE was able to establish its international headquarters. The LTTE was militarily defeated in Sri Lanka in 2009, its many external supporters never largely faced any justice. The LTTE could never have challenged a democratic country if it had not been financed, resourced and supported by a highly sophisticated network of terrorism activists that raised huge funds, often using criminal means.

For many years the terrorist nature and threat that the LTTE posed was never recognised in the West and the proscription of the Tamil Tigers was only established in the UK in 2001. Whilst the UN Human Rights High Commissioner never mentions the Tamil diaspora as a stakeholder in the conflict, the Paranagama Commission report determined how justice solutions need to encompass those who actively aided and abetted LTTE atrocities committed in Sri Lanka (such as Adele Balasingham) but who funded them from abroad. I quote "The Commission is of the view that international criminal law is capable of supporting the concept of prosecuting those who fund terrorist organisations in the knowledge that such funds will be used for the commission of war crimes or crimes against humanity." (Paranagama p.174 para686)

The UN Human rights Council needs to take some steps to address this issue with countries that have been known centers of LTTE fundraising. To avoid such investigation is to allow the perpetrators of crimes to feel that they are empowered to repeat their previous actions with impunity.

Today there are clear attempts being made to resurrect the LTTE from outside Sri Lanka, yet law enforcement in foreign countries seem reluctant or blind to this threat. Surely no one wants to allow funds to be raised to finance another war in Sri Lanka. I finish on a positive note from the world famous Legatum Institute. In their latest report published in late November 2020 they praise Sri Lanka for the real progress made over the last 10 years. I quote from page 62 of the report 'Over the past decade, Sri Lanka has made significant progress in addressing the constraints to its development. This progress has resulted from concerted efforts to build the institutional capacity and quality of the healthcare and education sectors. increasing access for its citizens to these key enablers of prosperity, especially in rural areas. The results have been nothing short short of remarkable.' The Report concludes by stating that Sri Lanka is the most improved nation over the past ten years. One hopes the UNHRC will recognise this achievement but I question if they are even aware of it.

sualties in the war January1- May18 2009 were 5000-7,000 and maybe less. Certainly not the 40,000+ banded about by the UN.

**3.** The most heinous War Crime was the recruitment of male & female child-soldiers by the LTTE (Tamil Tigers). UNI-CEF stated that between April 2001 and September 2004 no less than 4,259 were verified.

On July 31, 2005 they stated that 5081 under age children had been recruited. Furthermore, UNICEF estimated 60% of LTTE personnel killed in combat were children.

Despite what the UNHRC report implies on page 4 there were no child soldiers in the Security Forces of Sri Lanka.

One of the key Tamil Tiger personnel deeply involved in the recruitment, training and possibly deployment of the Child

was offered to the LTTE because of the hospitals BUT the LTTE refused and placed its artillery close to the Hospitals (itself a war crime) and fired on advancing Government forces who understandably returned fire to destroy the Tamil Tiger guns. Such action is covered by the rules of War. It is worth noting the comment made by the resident American Ambassador Robert Blake at this time (Paranagama report p60 p288): 'The LTTE often deliberately put its heavy artillerv in the midst of civilian encampments precisely to draw fire so that people would get killed in the hope that there would be an international outrage and there would be essentially demands on the Sri Lankan Government to stop fighting and (agree to)

some form of negotiated settlement'. 7. In page 4 para 9 the statement is

made; 'Strict controls over humanitarian

Nadu MP's visited the camp and issued a statement thanking the Sri Lanka Government. My wife is a doctor and I visited Manik Farm too and were impressed with care of everyone with medical facilities and even schooling for the Children. The LTTE cadres were separated but looked after and many of them went for rehabilitation which most welcomed. The Government correctly granted total freedom to all the 'Child soldiers' who had survived. There is an implied criticism that the camps were run by the military. One has to observe that given the numbers involved and the possible need for protection, the military were the obvious choice.

**10.** Torture is highlighted in paral3 page 5 with the phrase: 'Torture by the security forces and paramilitary groups'. I have now approached the ICRC on my

programme the new Prime Minister proved to be weak and indecisive. He set up Commissions for the new Office of Missing Persons and Office of reparations, however all the good solid work recommended by the Paranagama Commision was not implemented. There was talk about linking with Civil Societies but with no concrete plans, proposals or strategic purpose. The Country was seen to be drifting by its people. The decision to co-sponsor the UN HRC initiative taken by Mangala Samaraweera off his own bat without agreement from Cabinet or the Executive President. This meant that there was no real in-depth commitment by the country at large. It was clear to observers like myself that tension was rising between the President and the Prime Minister particularly as a General Election approached.

in addition to cremations. Controversial scientific advice was also made and implemented in the UK. One might reflect that Sri Lanka's death toll is under 400 for a population of 21m whereas the UK death toll is now well over 110,000 on a population of around 66m. Criticism is made that Sri Lanka's Parliament should have been recalled, however Britain is hardly the gold standard as the UK Government for the first 6 months of 'Lockdown' acted on emergency powers with virtually no involvement of Parliament. The UN Human Rights High Commissioner should realise that the real prize for the people of Sri Lanka is the attainment of a sustainable peace. When the Archbishop of Canterbury was asked about his assessment of Sri Lanka at the end of his visit after the Easter Sunday at-

## **Counteracting spread of false information**



Misinformation is simply described as; incorrect, false, and misleading information spread deliberately to harm someone. In politics, sinister information can be fabricated as news and can be delivered to the public as disinformation. Such news is always unethical, malicious, and detrimental. The incumbent government is compelled to confront a barrage of misrepresented and sometimes fabricated news spread by the parties with vested interests to discredit every action taken by the government.

Throughout the previous *Yahapalana* government, under a weak, petty, and insecure leadership the country witnessed inefficiency, deceit, fraud, and frequent lame decision making. Right from the birth of the then government, the general public also have observed political victimisation and attempts to derail the democratic process to the whims and fancies of a few who were looking for political mileage or financial gains.

The irony is that the present opposition is acting as if they have no clue about what has transpired during the period of their administration. They have not been able to keep the country in the proper path in any sphere amidst distrust, fear of backstabbing and political rivalry prevailed at the top level. The coalition was a complete flop from the beginning of their term.

On more than one occasion, it was revealed by none other than the then President himself that severe differences of opinion existed throughout the period. Although many of them attempted to conceal the disturbing facts at the time, the general public was aware of the tug of war inside the government. Due to the obvious incompetence of the previous government, the vast majority of the general public was completely disgruntled so they offered a clear mandate to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Corrupt actions such as the Central Bank Bond scam have further distanced voters from them. The Opposition calling him a candidate with inadequate political experience was grossly neglected by the masses. Hence, the country outvoted the ruling government by sizeable margins, three times in a row within a period of two years.

### Insecure

The Easter Sunday bombing incident made the entire country feel insecure about the obvious weakness of *yahapalana* administration. People placed trust in the leadership of candidate Gotabaya Rajapaksa believing that he will set things right for the benefit of the country. Besides, his election manifesto, 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour' was an exceptionally attractive, effective, and pragmatic document.

Regrettably, barely three months into President Rajapaksa's election to office came the worst disaster the world has confronted in recent history, the Covid-19 pandemic. Then the country witnessed the President's non-political, robust, and timely decision-making from the beginning of this grueling health issue. Despite what his critics say, moves such as deploying the military machinery, appointing Presidential Task Forces, lockdowns on health authority advice were extremely effective and timely. Such moves prevented the spread of the virus successfully at first instance. People can clearly imagine what would have happened if they had to face such a demanding issue during the period of the previous regime.

In contrast, as disclosed by the media during the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Easter Sunday attacks, the previous government even with many warnings by both local and international intelligence agencies had not taken proper action to prevent the disaster. The ardent critics of the present administration were part of the said failed government, most of them were also cabinet members, and yet none of them are prepared to take responsibility of this grave mistake. Instead, they criticize any move by the government's attempts to bring the culprits to justice.

These dubious politicians, more than once, attempted to derail the investigation proceedings by spreading false information from time to time and blaming others including respected clergy.

However, despite various calls by several interested parties such as the Catholic Church and the Attorney General, the Presidential Secretariat has not yet released the copies. The public deserves an explanation on the matter and the delay provided the opposition an opportunity to launch scathing attacks.

### Sensitive information

This writer has witnessed a senior official in the Presidential legal unit offering a reasonable and credible justification in a recent television interview. The official explained that the document is 100,000 pages including attachments that contains extremely sensitive information on national security, regional and international politics, racial harmony, religious issues, and so forth. Therefore, clearly, no leader of a state anywhere in the world will release such a sensitive paper without completely and comprehensively studying the contents. That was a simple but an understandable and effective explanation.

Similarly, from the beginning of March last year they kept spreading misinformation about Covid-19. Even when the truth was obvious, the opposition that had no credible slogan to criticise the government, pointed at every petty issue to discredit the government and health authorities. Without any knowledge or experience about the disease or medications, they went as far as recommending the wrong medicine to patients just to show off false ingenuity.

Even after the vaccines were first ordered, the Opposition politicians attempted to convince the public that the government is not making any effort to bring down them. When the authorities commenced the vaccination programme without credible evidence, they tried hard to create doubts about the efficacy of the vaccine. President Rajapaksa constantly states that his government is doing the right thing for the people at the right time despite criticisms leveled at him. The present government, regardless of the exhausting health issues and the extremely critical economic downturn, does not seem to be postponing any development effort. The key issue and the focal point is whether the response of the government is adequate, timely, or effective on the spread of misinformation. Surely, they must be having a strong media team comprising professionals. However, these misinformation campaigns by collective Opposition through press briefings, social media, gossip websites, and even the mainstream print and electronic media seem to be far ahead of the government's counteraction.

The government's counter-action on many of the negative propaganda is mediocre and often late. The vigour and efficiency of media response during the presidential election campaign has disappeared. The government stakeholders must realise that merely responding through political talk shows or isolated press briefings is not effective enough. Currently, the trust of the general public in such publicity stunts has tremendously diminished.

The good news for the ruling party is that the common citizens seem to overwhelmingly trust the President as a nonpolitical, honest, and forthright individual. The relentless attempts to tarnish his image have not succeeded. Yet, with the habitual Sri Lankan mentality, the Presidential media team must be alert on countering destructive propaganda. President Gotabaya Rajapkasa still seems to be taking a soft stance on many issues even though he has been conferred with considerable powers through the 20th amendment.

### **Enormous impact**

Although controversial, applying some of the Machiavellian theories now and again may bring results and the common citizen too may be expecting such action. Despite the occasional lame criticisms, the enormous impact created in the 'Dialog With the Village' (*Gama samaga pilisandara*) programme can offer solutions to many public welfare issues at the grassroots.

However, the issue is that whether his directives and instructions are being carried out by the public officers. If they falter as they often do, the public image can be reversed and damage to the President's image will be detrimental. Therefore, an effective monitoring process must be in place. The Opposition is already vehemently criticizing and they will observe the programs like hawks to strike whenever they can.

Finally, the government must take effective action on negative propaganda and misinformation, particularly circulating in social media. People usually like to listen to negative comments on common issues even if those critics belong to fast-fading left wing political parties that oppose any and every move made by the government. Hence, they must be given the accurate picture at all times. Therefore, the best remedy would be to make the government media team more active, efficient, and aggressive.



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FEBRUARY 28, 2021

## Religion enters the fray as cricket followers await the coming of a Deliverer

### **BY CALLISTUS DAVY**

At a time when clergymen in Sri Lanka are either sucked into politics or willingly enter it, a Buddhist monk lodged a virtual protest by entering and exiting a field that analysts say is now unavoidable even for faith keepers given the extent to which the public has been frowning on widespread financial mismanagement and injustice in cricket.

larathana Thera, appeared from almost out of the blues to contest an election of office bearers who may become the so-called guardians of the country's most adored sport of cricket which is currently embroiled in a never ending saga of financial greed and power abuse.

The monk, Battaramulle See- Cricket. "They (club-elected officials) come and go spending millions in money. Join us all.

"The best sportsmen are among the clergy, said Seelar-athana Thera after submitting his nomination to contest the election on May 20 only to be disqualified a day later on technical grounds.

But cricket watchers said the "Billions of dollars are lost in Buddhist priest got what he wantcorruption and fraud at Sri Lanka ed and that was to draw media at-

tention and add his opposition to the governance of the sport that some are too afraid to confront either through fear of repercussions or that it could be a waste of time. Seelarathana Thera submitted his papers to contest the vice presidency supposedly nominated by a club named in honour of a Catholic saint, St. Anthony's Sports Club, in the country's north.

chosen few running the affairs of cricket is also seen as nudging the clergy of other religions, particularly in Christian schools that have guided many sporting personalities to don the Sri Lankan colours in cricket, rugby and athletics.

"We Sri Lankans have a lot of faith in sport as it showcases our country to the world while it also teaches fair-play and human val-

The monk's opposition to the ues like religion does," said Rizly osen few running the affairs of Illyas, who heads Sri Lanka Rugby.

The administration of cricket has currently been taken to court by former players and administrators calling for a Constitutional change ahead of the election in what is been seen as a now-ornever stand against allegations of corruption at one of the richest money making public enterprises in the island.

## Vaas goes to Parliament as cricket's latest casualty

## **BY CALLISTUS DAVY**

Chaminda Vaas joined the list of ex-players to be forced out of national cricket coaching which has exposed a cruel and forbidden system that the powers that be are yet to address as the sport has been placed in the dock awaiting its fate or salvation.

Vaas and cricket have not only gone to parliament for debate but has shed light on a free-for-all set up at Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) where nepotism and cronvism is the name of the game that has led to an unprecedented crash of the team.

The scenario could not have been explained any better than by Vaas himself who said in a public message that "justice will prevail" after he failed to secure a payment to condition the Sri Lanka team on a current tour of the West Indies that was outside the obligations of his contract as a fast bowling consultant.

"I made a humble request to SLC and they turned it down," Vaas said.

But his employer Sri Lanka Cricket went to the extent of branding Vaas an unreasonable rebel just



two village boys, Steven Soosai (left) and MRM Rimzi at a private clinic in Colombo

to holding the administration, the administration's refusal to accede to compared to what the head of

But a close aide of Vaas told the cricketers and indeed the game to Sunday Observer that the amount ransom by handing in his resigna- requested by the former World Cup tion at the eleventh hour, citing the champion was only half the amount

He claimed SLC was losing its home grown coaches and experts by the plane loads, snapped up by rival nations with lucrative deals over the past 15 years as the country looked for foreign expertise with little or no success while paying much more.

Vaas found a voice in parliament when an Opposition MP argued that the only Sri Lankan fast bowler to bend his back and claim over 400 Test scalps was ridiculed by SLC.

But SLC found a defence in Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa who counter-argued saying that to accede to the request made by Vaas would only create a precedent where coaches and players will be influenced to demand additional payments as a condition to perform.

To cap it all Vaas found an unexpected promoter in a Buddhist priest, Battaramulla Seelarathana Thera who accused SLC of squandering funds on foreigners.

"Why is so much of money been spent on foreign coaches when we have capable people like Chaminda Vaas. All the money goes out of the country," said Seelarathana Thera after handing over his nomination

## **First Class Honours for ex-Royal captain**



Former Royal College cricket captain in 2015 and Observer-Mobitel Most Popular Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year 2014 (Platinum Winner ) Harith Samarasinghe graduated with a First Class Honours Degree in Mechatronics Engineering at the General Sir John Kotelawela Defence University convocation last Tuesday at the BMICH presided over by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Here Harith Samarasinghe, son of former Navy Commander Thisara Samarasinghe, receiving his honours from the Chancellor of the KDU, General J Silva. The Vice Chancellor of the KDU Major General Milinda Peiris is also in the picture

## Dharmasoka, Devananda tie for trophy

Dharmasoka College and Sri Devananda College were declared joint champions when they ended their final encounter in a thrilling tie in the WCD Boteju Challenge Trophy cricket tournament played at the UC ground last week.

Dharmasoka scored 243 for nine wickets in 50 overs as Randul Samarahewa top scored with 85. In their turn Devananda also



scored 243 runs for nine wickets at the end of 50 overs as Hirusha Akash top scored with 78. The tournament was organized

by Balapitiya Youth SC and many school teams from the region participated.

Sasindu de Silva of Sri Devananda was adjudged the best batsman of the tournament and man of the tournament while Randul Samarahewa of Dharmasoka won the best batsman's award at the final. Kaveesh Lakpahan of Sri Devananda was the best bowler and Hasitha Rajapakse of Dharmasoka bagged the best fielder's award. SCORES:

to take wing to the Caribbean. "Chaminda Vaas has resorted

creased USD (US dollars) remunera- Jayaratne is paid to accompany the tion," SLC said in a media statement. team as manager.

hours before he and the players were an unjustifiable demand for an in- SLC's coaching department Jerome

papers to contest a vice presidency post at SLC which was subsequently rejected.

## Antonian duo hit centuries

### **BY HAFIZ MARIKAR**

The inter school cricket match between St. Anthony's College and Isipathana College ended in a draw at Katugastota yesterday.

Continuing from their overnight score of 20 for 1 the Antonians went on to score 423 for the loss of five wickets at the end of the second day as Mohamed Kamil made 157 with 11 hits to the fence while Chandimal Herath was unbeaten on 105 with nine fours.

Isipathana 191 (Tharusha Nethasara 82, Thinula Liyanage 65, Asitha Wanninayake 3 for 35)

St. Anthony's 423 for 5 (Mohamed Kamil 157, Chandimal Herath 105 not out, Tharindu Lamahewege 47, Asitha Wanninayake 40, Damith Bandara 27 not out)

## **Netball player** tested positive

Former Sri Lanka netball captain Chathurangi Jayasuriya who is also in the current national pool has tested positive for coronavirus and is currently in quarantine.

## **Savini and Janali to** clash in Women's final



Savini Jayasuriya and Janali Manamperi set up a final showdown in the Women's Open Singles when they won their respective semi-finals on the penultimate day of the SSC Open Tennis Tournament, which continued at the SSC Courts at Maitland Place yester-

Savini defeated Tanya Doloswala in straight sets 6-1, 6-2 while Janali had the better of Denethya Dharmarathne even more convincingly 6-0, 6-0 in the semi-finals.

In the Men's Open Singles semi-finals Luca Knese beat Kiran Vairawanathan 6-2, 6-1 and Vibuda Wijebandara beat Sankha Athukorala 6-4, 0-6, 6-4.





Randul Samarahewa of Dharmasoka receiving the best batsman's award from the chief guest (Pic by Wimal Karunathilaka)

Dharmasoka: 243/9 in 50 overs (Randul Samarahewa 85, Chamidu Tharaka 35, Lohan de Soysa 32, Hasitha Rajapakse 20, Sahan Sankalpa 20, Lasindu Lakshan 3/33, Kaveesha Kalpana 3/63)

Sri Devananda: 243/9 in 50 overs (Hirusha Akash 78, Sasindu de Silva 52, Kanchana de Livera 42, Kaveesha Kalpana 34, Lohan de Soysa 4/41)



The Dialog Enterprise Rotary Metro Par 3 Golf Classic will be held on March 13 at the RCGC course with over 150 players in action. The presentation of the sponsorship cheque to the Rotary Club was held on Wednesday at the RCGC club where Ruwan Gunasena (left, president Rotary Club) received the sponsorship from Ramanan David Senior GM of Dialog (Pic by Jagath Niroshana)

## **South Africa cricket looks** for independent directors

Under its new Constitutional changes under an Interim Committee, Cricket South Africa has advertised for independent cricket directors without conflicts of interests which is exactly what a group of Petitioners to the Appeal Court in Sri Lanka has sought.

According to a news report, Cricket South Africa is seeking to form a board of skilled professional directors experienced in Human

Resources, Finance, Marketing, Public Relations, Media, IT, Strategic Thinking, Disciplined and Value Driven, Diversity Management Skills, Conflict Management and Resolution Skills, Decision Making Ability, High Level Integrity, Enterprise Management and Result Oriented Attitude among other requirements along with Social and Transformation Goals in a professional environment.

## Ratnam footballers on show today for first time

## **BY ALTHAF NAWAZ**

Ratnam will take on Blue Star while Blue Eagles will confront New Young in their pre-league inter club football encounters at the Sugathadasa Stadium today with the first match scheduled to kick-off at 5 pm.

Ratnam make their first appearance in this tournament after several months of isolation in Kotahena due to the second wave of the coronavirus and will now have an opportunity to gear up for the major

event which is the inaugural Super League scheduled to commence from mid-April.

As a pioneer club Ratnam possess young but highly skilled players in their ranks who are capable of turning tables in this competition. They will be led by EE Methan the Ivory Coast player who had donned their jersey for quite some time.

He will have the services of two more players from his country while another player from Japan is due to arrive in Sri Lanka by mid next month. Nevertheless Ratnam are pumped up for a belligerent perfor-

mance to notch up their first win. Their rivals Blue Star had a winning start to their tournament when they defeated their home town team Red Star in the curtain raiser ten days ago. They are another side with some top players who were recruited particularly for this tournament.

In the second game under lights at 8 pm Blue Eagles will confront New Young after suffering their first

defeat (2-0) at the hands of Colombo Football Club last week.

As a team Blue Eagles have a wellbalanced unit and with the progress of the tournament they are likely to fall into winning ways. Their rivals New Young from Wennappuwa managed to force a 1-1 draw against Sea Hawks in their tournament opener.

The team from Wennappuwa has come a long way in this game and have contracted several top local and foreign players and a keenly contested match is expected.



**FEBRUARY 28, 2021** 

## Are the Core Group members intellectual mediocrities?

### **BY JAYANTHA GUNASEKERA**

f we are to continue to remain a sovereign nation it is mandatory that new laws should be enacted to make any attempt of separation either in word or in deed to amount to 'high treason punishable with loss of civic rights, confiscation of property and death. The State must act swiftly. The present laws to curb traitors such as some Tamil politicians and others, is totally inadequate.

US Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega warned his countrymen. He has urged his Government not to resort to double standards and to stop bullying a country strategically important to the US, unnecessarily antagonising 21 million Sri Lankans by catering to a few thousand criminal LTTE diaspora agents.

Quoting the Sunday Times of 21/2/2021 under the caption 'Lord Naseby slams Bachelet's report', "The tenor of the writing almost has overtones of martyrdom of the Tamil Tiger". He says the report "glosses over the full extent of the war when a group of vindictive terrorists tried to create a Tamil Quasi Neo Socialist Revolutionary state by first murdering all the moderate Tamil leaders, then assasinating President Premadasa and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, and countless Ministers, Parliamentarians, civil society leaders and finally using violence to wage war against the armed forces of the democratically elected Government of Sri Lanka. All this was in the name of Eelam"

Britain is the lead member of the Core Group on the UNHRC Resolution 30/1, 34/1, 40/1. There is little in Bachelet's report to help move reconciliation forward.

Bachelet is not paid a stupendous salary by the member countries to suppress the truth and blindly side the core group.

## **Panel of experts**

It is sickening to think of the 'holier than thou' attitude of the Western countries who are attempting to probe human rights violations of Sri Lanka while they violate human rights with a vengeance. This mock panel of experts



proved that they are a set of insignificant people picked up from nowhere by the partial Ban Ki Moon. They have proved that they are not worthy of their standing in any bar of any country. Their report is based on hearsay, unsubstantiated video clips and not based on any rational law followed in any civilised democratic country; not English Law, not Roman Dutch Law, not American Law. In short, they have followed the law of the jungle.

The standard and quality of US and UK politicians have deteriorated to such an extent that they will also compromise their honour for the LTTE diaspora vote they can secure at elections.

This is a recent trend in the West and these political leaders have now become a national disgrace. Honourable politicians of the calibre of Sir Winston Churchill, Sir Harold Macmillan Truman and Eisenhower et al are a dying breed.

In our conflict, the corrupt and foolish Western politicians by taking the side of criminal gangs and their diaspora, are steadily and surely inviting hatred towards their nations. The Arabs detest them. The South American countries spurn them. So do Afghanistan, Pakistan, the African Union, Sri Lanka and a majority of Indians. Almost all Non-Aligned countries do not approve of their ways and their interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states.

the CDN, "The European Parliament on May 13, 2011 defeated an attempt to seek the immediate establishment of an international justice mechanism on Sri Lanka during an urgent debate called by the Socialist Green Parties at the Strasbourg Plenary Sessions, to draw attention to the so called UN Panel report, on accountability issues in Sri Lanka". However, the remarks made about the Sri Lankan judiciary were baseless and unwarranted.

### **Extremist elements**

Geoffrey Van Orden heading a group in the EU parliament said, "We regret that we are having this debate today. I suspect that it has been prompted by extremist elements in the Tamil diaspora – the same people who have helped to sustain the LTTE terrorist campaign over many years, through political activities and funding, often from the proceeds of crime. Instead of trying to bring together the people of Sri Lanka, there are those that seek to continue a campaign of hatred and division. They see this Darusman report as a weapon in this campaign and just want to put the SL government in the dock. This approach is malicious and counterproductive."

He said, "let us do all we can to support the government of Sri Lanka, instead of attacking them." He urged the EU Parliament to remain vigilant concerning those that seek to re-ignite

tremists in our midst," he added. This position was confirmed by the German MEP, Thomas Mann.

Representing the European Conservatives and Reformists the MEP for UK, Dr Charles Tannock said, "the report is a far cry from reality and was heavy on criticism but light in substance." This appears to be a direct hit on the intellectual capacity of the mediocre former Attorney General Marzuki Darusman, and also a hit on the other two panellists, Yasmin Sooka of South Africa and Steven Ratner of the

Dr Charles Tannock said, "Sri Lanka has finally achieved peace by defeating a ruthless terrorist organisation such as the LTTE, which had rejected all peace bids made by the government. The word genocide is being mentioned by some, even without knowledge of its meaning." He questioned the Socialists and Greens, asking, "How anyone could accuse the Sri Lanka Army for genocide, of crimes against humanity, when the same army rescued more than 300,000 Tamil civilians from the LTTE, and has now helped re-settle most of them."

However, some of those within the European Parliament - influenced by the LTTE diaspora, have still not given up maligning Sri Lanka. This is a damning indictment on the intellectual capacity and integrity of not only Ban Ki moon, but also his so-called expert panel, Darusman, Sooka and Ratner.

Western powers and their corrupt stooges in the UN, regarding human rights violations.

A mock panel was appointed by Ban Ki Moon without the sanction of (a) the General Assembly, (b) the Security Council nor, (c) the Human Rights Council. This was a unilateral decision of Ban, in consequence of being pressurised by some Western powers. For such people, human rights is only a facade.

They blindly go on the basis that 'Friendship with the West can be revoltingly rewarding while enmity could be revealingly reviling."

### **Highly principled forces**

Excesses are an accepted reality in war, but on the contrary, the humanitarian exercise by the Sri Lankan Forces to save 300,000 Tamil civilians from the grip of the LTTE proves their bonafides. They were a highly principled forces, with no intention (mens rea), to inflict harm on unarmed civilians.

As regards violation of human rights by the US targeting and killing thousands of unarmed civilians by unmanned aerial vehicles - drones, in Pakistan and Afghanistan, this is what a Judge of the US Federal Court said in his judgment, "There is a painful conflict between human rights and national security. Fundamental human rights have to be sacrificed at the altar of naof Osama Bin Laden in Pakistan and the killing of Libyan leader Gadaffi's son and grandchildren.

Hillary Clinton must apply the same principle enunciated by the US Federal Court as regards the Sri Lankan conflict which took place 12 years ago and was a forgotten chapter till some Western countries prodded their stooge Ban Ki Moon to appoint a panel of so called experts. By the actions of a few leading politicians in the US, UK, France and EU, these leaders are inviting hatred towards their countries.

Navaneethan Pillai, the Tamil UN Human Rights Chief influenced by the Tamil diaspora has obviously been an enormous influence in securing this laughable report. Her outlook is entirely communal.

If Sri Lanka's Security Forces wanted to kill the Tamils, all they had to do without wasting their bullets was to watch Velupillai Prabakaran and his men massacring the Tamils when they were running away from the clutches of the LTTE to the Government side. These Tamils were herded like cattle with no food or medicine and forcibly moved from place to place, using them as human shields.

Ban and his mock panel have not had a word of praise for the Security Forces saving the lives of these 300,000 Tamils when the SL Forces put their own lives in harm's way to save them. This was perhaps the only massive humanitarian exercise in the whole world, which cost the lives of hundreds of SL Security Forces.

After the death of Prabakaran and his cohorts, the Government fed the refugees, provided them shelter, medicine and other sanitary facilities to prevent an outbreak of cholera.

Every conceivable precaution was taken for their wellbeing, while the Tamil daispora contributed nothing to look after their own displaced people for whom they now shed crocodile tears

At the the 17th UN Human Rights Council Session held in New York, Cuba, Pakistan and China among other countries vehemently opposed any intervention in Sri Lanka. The Western countries, US, UK, France and the EU had a major setback. These western countries are clearly influenced by the Tamil diaspora and their filthy lucre. Human Rights is only a façade to justify their conduct. The writer is a President's Counsel.

have been very pliable and yielded to the influence of the Tamil diaspora. They have by their shallow report

has now become wiser and realised that on the EU and European governments

It appears that the EU Parliament the embers of LTTE terrorism. "I call the LTTE diaspora is a fraud. Quoting to be more active in dealing with ex-

They are no experts than the man in the moon.

This is now settled law in the US Sri Lanka is being accused by the and is often cited regarding the killing

tional security".

## How did the Pearl of the Orient miss the bus?

## **BY AIR VICE MARSHAL** (RTD) A.B. SOSA

It is said in several fora that when we were given Independence on a platter by the British in 1948, our economy in Asia was only second to that of Japan. In this context it is relevant that Japan which was ravaged in the Second World War in 1945 had recovered to the extent of being the first ranked economy within three years.

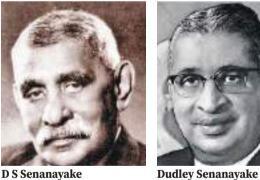
The "Jewel in the British Crown", India which had been sapped dry by their colonial masters and other Asian countries were at this stage economically struggling with a sizeable proportion of their citizens in abject poverty and virtually starving as they could only have one meal per day. Of course, quite a number virtually starved to death.

Our ancestors and their progeny did not face this tragedy. On being granted independence with not one bullet fired in anger, the tragic slide of our economy commenced. Within a couple of years, most other Asian countries which were referred to as Tigers [not to be confused with the LTTE] made rapid progress.

## **Democracy vs development**

I was the only Executive Director of a multi-national Korean company for 12 years after my retirement from the Air Force. At informal meetings with my Korean colleagues, they asked me, "What went wrong"? My considered reply was that, "We ate what we had and frittered that which we earned". They joked with me that on our being gifted our Independence, we opted for "democracy" while they who had got over the ravages of war had opted for "development".

We had got our wires crossed and were belatedly trying to emulate them while they were on the path of democracy only after they had reached an acceptable level of development. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Any Sri Lankan visiting an "Asian Tiger" land will only stand and stare in awe and weep for our motherland.



D S Senanavake

In retrospect, I have pondered on and manoeuvered for Javatilleke to be the tragedy that has befallen us from 1948 to date. My conclusion is that we with our sense of democracy elected self-seeking scoundrels from the time of our much bandied Universal suffrage. My thoughts on this subject are briefly as follows. The rightful person who should have been at the helm in leading the then Ceylon was the incomparable philanthropist Sir Don Baron Jayatilleke. He gifted his prized possession "Thurban House" on Bauddhaloka Mawatha to be utilised to house the Department of the Public Trustee. To date, this magnificent edifice houses this department.

He also gifted his coconut estate: viz "Pitakanda Estate" at Maduragoda, Kurunegala. All proceeds from the estate were to be utilised for the maintenance of the "Thurban House". Any unutilised funds were willed to be distributed for educational, charitable and social work as decided by the Public Trustee.

### **Machinations**

This Oxford University educated gentleman was not a typical "Lord of the Manor". In 1924, he stood for election in the Legislative Council. He was so hugely popular to the extent that no one dared to contest him. Thus, having been elected uncontested, his Deputy was D S Senanayake. The latter realised that the Colonial rulers will quit Ceylon in the foreseeable future and the first Prime Minister will be Sir D B Jayatilleke. He hence, activated an internal conspiracy to oust Sir D B Jayatilleke



S W R D Bandaranaike

posted to India as our High Commissioner there. This honourable gentleman agreed to proceed without realising that he was committing "political hara kiri". It was several years later that he realised that his throat was slit by some of his political colleagues. He died in India a heart broken person.

When D S Senanayake became Prime Minister, his deputy was the suave Oxford Educated luminary S W R D Bandaranaike. The scheming Senanayake who was a master of Nepotism made political life difficult for his deputy as he desired to make his son Dudley his successor. Fawning lackeys have created the illusion that D S Senanayaka was to be considered the "Father of the Nation".

When he fell off a horse and expired, it was an open sesame for Dudley Senanayake to step into the Prime Minister's Office. The deception continued. The lackeys described this person as a gentleman. This is far from reality. If he was a Gentleman and not a common hypocrite he should have invited Bandaranaike to his rightful position: viz the Premiership.

Bandaranaike had struck out on his own and the rest is History. While this father and son schemers were at the helm, there were rumblings that the populace was experiencing difficulties in making ends meet. Hence, they decided to give massive subsidies in food and other essentials. This largesse could not be sustained for long. Hence, a couple of years later, the disgruntled masses came out in an uprising which is referred to as a "harthal". The so



Don Baron Javatilleke

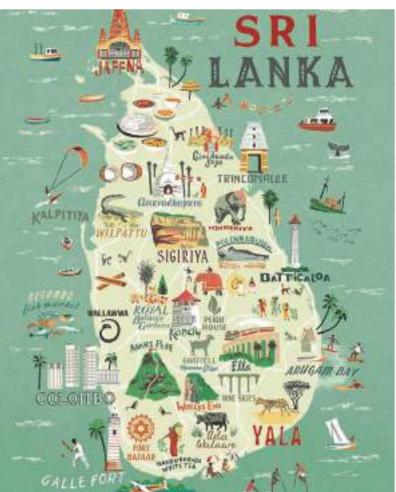
called "gentleman" Dudley could not stomach this situation and hence handed over the reins to his colleague Sir John Kotelawala", a man of the world".

This Prime Minister was trounced at the subsequent polls by Bandaranaike who had marshalled the support of the panchabalavegaya: viz the Sangha, Teachers, Ayurvedic Doctors, Farmers and the Labour Class. He too had promised more than that which was possible. The rest is history.

One of the crucial factors that accelerated our downward slide were unscrupulous politicos who got involved in Trade Union activities. They cunningly advocated the so-called Buddhimathjanatawa to demand unreasonable increases of wages and to desist from diligent work. They indoctrinated that the "capitalist class" inclusive of the Government was exploiting the "sweat and tears" of the proletariat. As a result of this, productivity suffered and thus the cost of production of goods kept increasing which resulted in them not being competitive in the international market.

### **Concessions and subsidies**

To make matters worse, these politicos when in the Opposition kept instilling in the masses the concept that the Government in power must succor to their demands. Hence, the public were demanding concessions and subsidies across the board which the Government even though it could ill afford was compelled to give in if it was to retain power in a subsequent national poll. Thus, funds that should have been



utilised for the development of the country were frittered away to appease the misguided public.

This unfortunate phenomenon was an occurrence irrespective of any group of persons who were in power. My contention is borne out that recently when some tremors were felt in Digana, the people residing there were virtually demanding that the Government must step in to sort out the threat of a major earthquake!

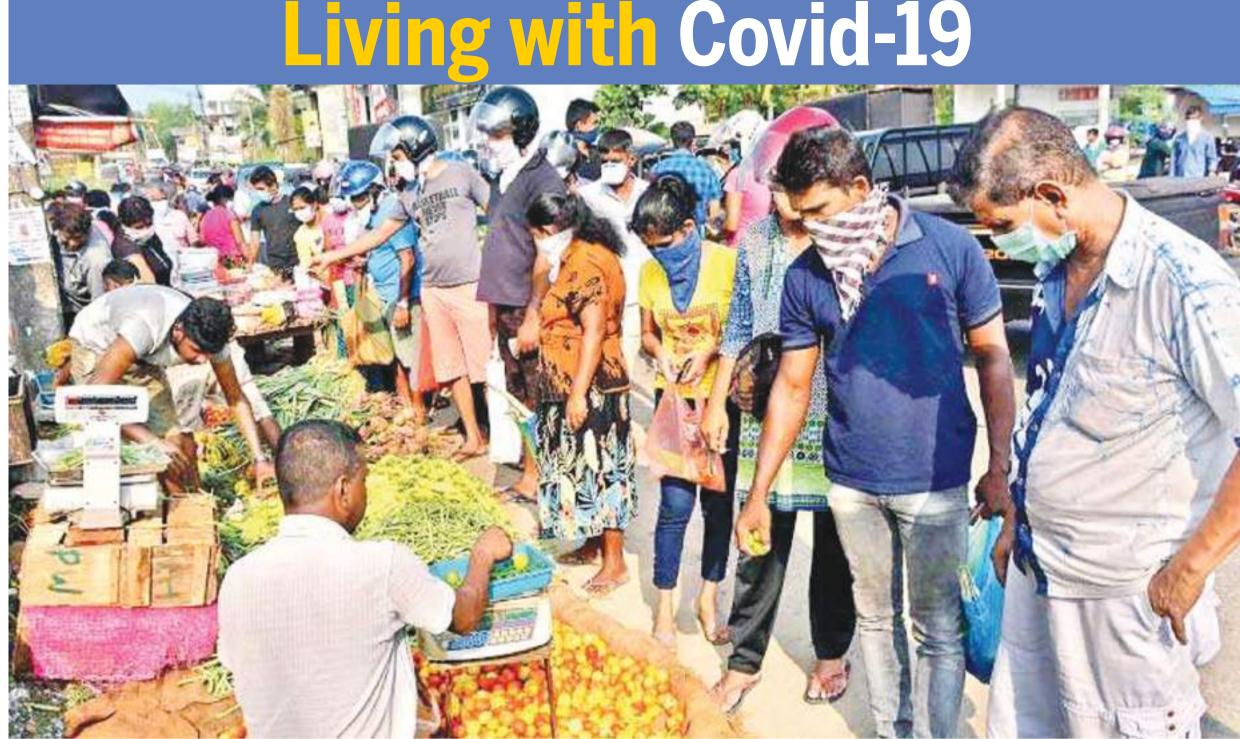
When such a regrettable national mentality prevails, is it a surprise that due to the initial nepotism of the leaders who selfishly clung to their positions from the time of our getting independence on a platter until now manoeuvered themselves into office and made

all possible efforts to retain it? Can we expect complete accountability similar to that prevailing in South Korea where its former President is now serving a prison sentence for her corrupt practices while in office?

In this context I quote Justice Khanna of the Indian Supreme Court,"Experience should teach us to be most on our guard to protect liberty when the Government's purposes are beneficent. The greatest danger lies in insidious encroachment by men of zeal, well meaning but lacking in due deference to the rule of Law".Hence, we can only ponder on the machinations of the selfish persons who monopolised the seats of power for the past 72 years.

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## Feature





"It is going to disappear one day. It is like a miracle it will disappear" repeated Donald Trump former President of the United States of America

Let the above be our wishful thinking though living with Covid-19 is frightening and disturbing. But since we are compelled to live with it the challenge is ours and depends on how we react and fight the virus, following guidelines and medical advice. We are not experts to advise on any form of treatment or invisible forces to combat the virus. The news we receive are uncertain with no credible or scientific sources, leaving us tries and continents. We must forge all available energies to build new avenues and different paths. The whole world is in danger. The poor are the worst hit and left alone with no vaccine or assistance while the West is full of excesses which is the reality, based on the success of the fittest based on Charles Darwin's theory, survival of the fittest.

The USA, the richest and the most powerful, is one of the worst hit. Often when you think you are at the end of something you do not realise that you are at the beginning of something else which may be exceptionally good. Let us wish to belong to this category. Let us be the beginning of a new successful post Corona world of our own. May the next year bring an end to the pandemic and the beginning of a normal lifestyle.

We have gone through worse situations before and it is inevitable that hubours will be closer and inter dependent on each other which may lead to new ventures in trade and business. Once secluded and confined in houses for long periods the friendship, relationship and neighbourhood bonds are bound to enhance and lead to developments and new thinking as groups. It will strengthen family ties and cooperation in all areas including joint livelihoods. This is the period of innovations such as in Israel where every other person is an innovator converted to a start-up company owner and SME for the development of the nation.

The youth in Sri Lanka today are innovative and computer literate with IT knowledge and computer centres at every junction with basic IT facilities available for payment of utility bills and data for the children for online education. The transport system has been changed The newly set up Technology State Ministries tend to attend seminars and meetings without getting into business and it is time the Minister of Education gives them specific instructions. The nation should rise above all in education and assist all other groups to emerge during the pandemic.

## Road discipline and behaviour

The number of accidents is on the rise in Sri Lanka compared to deaths due to Covid-19 and Dengue that we successfully minimised. Road accidents are mainly due to indiscipline and loss of effective control by the governance that has failed to curtail accidents. Relating to the environment sector many youth had fallen victim to ruthless sand trans-



of rupees in all sectors worldwide. Sri Lanka feels it more due to less reserves while the pinch is bearable to UK, USA, Japan and EU with their food and fund tories before they occur will fast spread, which shows the need for sharing of knowledge and international network in combating the menace. Every country

Life amid Covid-19

in the dark. Whether the injections are effective will be decided in the future but it appears that UK is slowing down a bit.

No slowdown is yet shown in many rich countries after immunisation of the vaccine. There is no guarantee on the success of the vaccine and the side-effects. Progress is slow and every innovation has side effects and time is needed to test them. Rich countries have given the vaccinations to a majority while many poor nations have not been given the treatment at all. As this is a worldwide pandemic the solution too should be applied worldwide.

For example, Sri Lanka's immediate neighbour India is densely populated and the close association with fishermen, - smuggling, drug trafficking and involved in the import-export trade are mediums of close contact and transmission between cross - border countries.

The Japanese way of prevention is strict adherence to the rules while Britain is engaged in educating their citizens on social distancing and adherence to rules. Despite the best NHS system, supposed to be the best in the world the death toll in the UK is increasing day by day with some reduction due to the vaccine. China, Taiwan and North Korea are extremely strict but some Western countries have a liberal attitude. All in all unless the entre globe acts as one unit the danger would spread faster than expected increasing the death toll and spreading the disease.

### Abide by health guidelines

The Sri Lankan situation is unique though unsatisfactory due to indiscipline in the society acting in defiance of the regulations. The information and statistics received vary on a daily basis worldwide with uncertainty. We are trying to live with this menace and the best and easy way to meet the challenge is to be clean and abide by the directions given by the experts. Sri Lanka started well and if continued would have been one of the best success stories in the world. Some sections of society defy the most dedicated health sector advice. Now the situation has become worse and the pandemic appears to be fast spreading.

This is the time to turn to technology and digitalisation to combat the unseen but powerful enemy successfully. Technology today allows people to connect with anyone, anywhere in the world from almost any device. This has automatically changed people's work facilitating 24/7 collaborations with colleagues who are disposed across time zones, counmans will emerge victorious, with the power they possess of imagination, innovation and determination. We must protect and save the environment we live in for our own good and the existence of Mother Earth. Covid-19 and the environment are interconnected as food pattern and the way of life has direct relevance to the menace we are confronted with.

There are many theories on the origin and source of the pandemic that started presumably in Wuhan, China and spread paralysing the entire world with the threat to continue and cause further destructions, and there is no possibility that it will end any time soon. Preventive measures were prepared for the community worldwide with little variations to be followed by citizens of all ages.

The preventive measures are as simple as follows: (1) Wash hands frequently and thoroughly (2) Avoid touching mouth, nose and eyes (3) Cover mouth when you cough or sneeze with elbow or with tissues (4) Dispose used tissue into a closed bin and wash hands or sanitise (5) Avoid crowded places (6)Practise physical distancing and maintain at least 1 m distance (7) Routinely disinfect surfaces (8) Stay at home if you do not feel well (8) If you have symptoms of fever, cough or difficulty in breathing consult a doctor.

In short it is mooting to live with nature and be clean, in an environment friendly atmosphere consuming healthy food preferably devoid of meat or fish obtained from worldwide food chains and consuming junk including poisonous beverages, especially the young. This is what "Ayurveda" medicine too has taught us Asians for over 5,000 years and we have not come across pandemics or diseases such as cancer in our history. It is simple and effective to adhere to these rules.

## Transform disaster to success

This pandemic has magnified every inequality in our society, such as, racism, gender inequality, and poverty. The citizen should transform disaster into success and opportunity by adopting to new challenges and circumstances with the help of people friendly innovations on livelihood, environment, employment, medicine, education and generally the way of life in pre– Covid-19 times.

This pandemic may give rise to stronger societies out of necessity and livelihood whereby families and neighwith fewer public transport and cheaper three wheeler services, thereby preventing congestion on the roads.

Working from home and flexible office hours have strengthened family ties with less household expenditure. It has increased the resilience to crisis, ensuring sustainable developments. Digital transformation and setting of new digital platforms are inevitable adaptations that have resulted in drastic changes in the economy with a strong political will by the governance also out of compulsion and circumstances.

## Education, a badly hit area

Education is a widely hit area in Sri Lanka where the students, parents and the school managements have bounced back successfully despite school closures and interrupted transport systems. Sri Lankan parents have resolved to invest on children's education for a better future for them and the nation which is a good move. Parents with difficulties invested on expensive data, giving their personal smartphones to the children for their e- education.

E- education is booming in private schools as expected. There were news reports that children in village areas climbed water tanks for Wi-Fi which is a sorry affair and an encouraging news on their capability to adaptation with determination. This is an opportunity to improve e-education and to link with international players through the Ministry of Education and our University system, especially, the Moratuwa University should lead the process. Education should be linked with e education, e business, and e news and information based on advanced IT with ICTA.



porters in heavy trucks who have taken the law unto their hands with political patronage, linked to environmental destruction. In fact accidents should be on the decline due to less vehicular movements. However, greedy politicos eat into forests and sand on river banks according to the helpless Minister of Environment. Covid-19 is a by-product of the mismanagement of environment and it is the duty of the citizen to exert pressure on perpetrators destroying the environment that we have saved for millions of years.

## Trade, employment and Commerce

The economy is bound to set back due to inactivity in all sectors and working from home with the loss of billions

THE ECONOMY IS BOUND TO SET BACK DUE TO INACTIVITY IN ALL SECTORS AND WORKING FROM HOME WITH THE LOSS OF BILLIONS OF RUPEES IN ALL SECTORS WORLDWIDE. SRI LANKA FEELS IT MORE DUE TO LESS RESERVES WHILE THE PINCH IS BEARABLE TO UK, USA, JAPAN AND EU WITH THEIR FOOD AND FUND RESERVES AND ASSISTANCE FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS. reserves and assistance from International Organisations. Although there are improvements in the agriculture sector, employment, commerce and trade including exports have decreased. Sri Lankans have been brave and resilient to challenges by bouncing back after the tsunami that hit Sri Lanka and many countries. We won the Tsunami over and winning Covid-19 is certain! Let us raise our nation to be a world power such as Israel during the difficult period.

## Covid-19 cremation or burial

During the ancient period, the Muslims who arrived in Cevlon obtained permission from the kings and lived in Sri Lanka for thousands of years as traders and friends having married Sri Lankan women with the freedom to practise their religion. They did not come as invaders- like some other ethnic groups did. Islam is a rigid religion unlike Buddhism, which is a philosophy and a religion with lots of freedom as free thinkers. Many Muslims became mild due to the association of Buddhists and bhikkhus while some became rigid due to fundamentalists' influence of Middle East contacts.

Sri Lankans are friendly and work together in international and inter-governmental Muslim groups, helping each other in international issues fighting together against rich and powerful groups. Covid-19 deaths are comparatively less and we should and could have taken all the precautions as guided by the committee, and as Prime Minister, Mahinda Rajapaksa, an experienced politician. supposed to be the most senior politician in Asia, indicated his views with few words in Parliament. We are in an internationalised world community and it is appropriate to adjust ourselves to the views of the international brotherhood which has an adverse effect on Geneva deliberation for no reasonable reason.

## Be safe, be smart and be kind - DG, WHO

The virus will mutilate and live on with variants with permanent changes unless we outsmart the virus. The Israelis are the best innovators and best partners in this process to combat the virus. Variants will thrive in poor countries in the way they live with lack of necessary facilities.

The detection of variants in labora-

must have budgetary requirements and or diversion of other funds for this important venture which is an investment for the future. Monitoring and organising the population to be vigilant and collection of data are important. It is not possible to keep countries in isolation or lockdown too long which could be disastrous.

## Way forward to be free from Covid-19

As former President Donald Trump said the miracle will reach mankind as this affects the entire world. As the Director General of WHO stated we have to be smart, kind and safe. Are we? Very unlikely. If we are clean and follow the Ayurveda advice to go through the cleaning process there is no way that the virus would spread.

If we live with nature protecting Mother Earth, she will look after her children. It is time to change for the good or face the danger. Mankind went through many similar disasters of larger magnitude and escaped but the time factor is the issue despite the advancement of technology and science. We should expect the worst and start adapting to modern technology with new platforms and devices, as well as be innovative, for success.

We must have a global program and approach and not a national approach as it is a worldwide pandemic spreading fast so that the world has to act as one. There could be climatic changes and mass destruction of deforestation and release of mass scale garbage to the environment which will have an adverse effect of Covid-19 spread. World leaders must get together and exert a collective approach to face the menace with the scientists and the NGOs headed by the United Nations. This is a matter that cannot be resolved in isolation and therefore sharing of knowledge, experience and data is essential.

The IMF may think of keeping developments aside for a while and start helping members of the world family to get over the most difficult threat. Small is powerful and we will be victorious if we follow the adage that "you are your own saviour and no one else". (The Buddha) Therefore, follow the simple rules to the last word and be safe, smart and kind. May everybody be healthy and happy. Sarth7@hotmail.co.uk

The writer is a President's Counsel, former Ambassador to UAE and Israel and President, Ambassadors' Forum

## Impact

## St. Stephen's Church, Marawila stands tall



is resurrection in stained glass above the altar confirms his presence every minute of the day to eternity. The feel of his presence is experienced by his disciples who are willing to spend time spiritually, whether day or night. Jesus is there as He promised. He lives in every heart.

Consecrated in 1870 and handed over to the Diocese of Colombo by then Bishop Claughton, and known as St. Stephen's Church of the Chilaw District long before being demarcated to Marawila by the then government of Ceylon, this quaint church with its imposing dome atop is one of the oldest churches in the country.

This beautiful little abode of Jesus, stands tall and strong in spirituality. Not a church of resplendent glory but a calm recall of Lord Jesus. It has much to do with the great vision, for the church remains as a glow over Marawila and may help us find hints of the world that speaks of hope through heaven and great things to be achieved.

Thus, the Church of St. Stephen's came into existence, the construction of which was a challenge at that time. People then had not built large buildings in less privileged Asian countries such as Ceylon, or around the world. They built the church on the basis of the idea as a church for God in heaven.

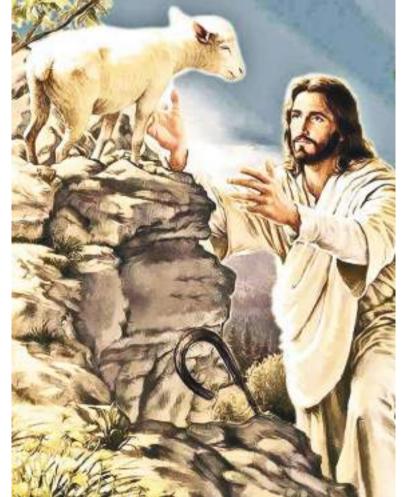
Originally, the syntheses probably had to be by a third element, but when put together, it made sense.

The symbol of Christ's resurrection and victory, surviving and emphasising the Gospel when read from the pulpit and heard, the glory of God becomes more tangible.

Nestled among the lush greenery, ascending towards the eastern sky at dawn, is this magnificent but small abode of God.

nurtured among its simple community, an Archdeacon from the clergy; intellectuals and professionals; the first Sri Lankan (Ceylon) Envoy to the United Nations, a Foreign Minister, doctors, lawyers, those from the Corporate sector; a postgraduate from Oxford University, authors as well as housemaids to sustain their loved ones.

Together, they have lived and





## Neuralgia as a pain condition

Neuralgias occur due to altered sensations in the nerves. It may be due to Ageing Damage to nerves Diabetes Multiple sclerosis Infections such as Shingles Cancer There are three main types of neuralgia

Post Herpetic Neuralgia (PHN) Trigeminal Neuralgia Glossopharyngeal Neuralgia

### POST HERPETIC NEURALGIA

### HERPES ZOSTER INFECTION



This is caused by the virus which causes chicken pox (Varicella Zoster). Following a chicken pox infection the virus can stay dormant (inactive) in a ganglion of a nerve in the human body. These viruses can get activated at times i.e. in old age, immune deficiency situations and during infections after a long time. The virus starts multiplying and spreads along a nerve. As a result the infection is limited to a distribution of a nerve and you don't get blisters all over the body but along a nerve root. Infection is called Herpes Zoster and the pain arising from that is called post herpetic neuralgia. The commonest areas of infection are the trunk and the face. Following the infection extreme pain along the nerve can be a feature. Not all will develop pain, but those who develop pain can be very unfortunate as it could last forever in some cases. I have developed heroes zoster in my 20s but was lucky enough not to develop post herpetic neuralgia.

### TRIGEMINAL NEURALGIA

This is due to an increased sensitivity in one of the branches of the Trigeminal nerve. Trigeminal nerve is the 5th cranial nerve arising from the brain supplying the face. There are three branches of the nerve.

St. Stephen's Church stands upright even though for a small Anglican community in Chilaw.

Down the years, the church has



worshipped like one family which is the strength of the church upon the resonate voice of God on man.

### Jesus Christ, the Shepherd

As one enters the church, it is the figure of Jesus that comes in contact at eye-level on stained glass done in myriads of colour, meticulously put together as homage to the gentle Shepherd who carries the staff in his left hand. It is great art work considering the time it was created over a century ago and still sits well. Here, Jesus gives the impression of the Risen Lord. Either way, Jesus protects us all, his chosen flock.

## The font

Primary and original, the fountain-head for baptismal, the font is as old as the church itself. Erected in fine timber with the baptismal well inlaid deep in transparent crystal of a green hue with no cracks or damage whatsoever, holds the holy water for Christian babies as their lives are dedicated to God by their parents. It is a spiritual journey as the years move on and as they grow up in the spirit of God.

## The cemetery

In the graveyard the spirits of the deceased rest in peace under the



watchful eyes of angels built in marble that guard the graves. Some of them hold generations in their family vaults. A few of the marble statues are classic with clear-cut features and worth a colossal sum as they are priceless today.

No one dare steal them because they are protected by the unseen hand as Jesus abides over them. The vicar of St. Stepen's Church is Rev. Fr. Harold Paul.



AS ONE ENTERS THE CHURCH. IT IS THE FIGURE **OF JESUS THAT COMES IN CONTACT AT EYE-LEVEL ON STAINED GLASS DONE** IN MYRIADS OF COLOUR, METICULOUSLY PUT TOGETHER AS HOMAGE TO THE GENTLE SHEPHERD WHO CARRIES THE STAFF IN HIS LEFT HAND. IT IS GREAT ART **WORK CONSIDERING THE** TIME IT WAS CREATED OVER A CENTURY AGO AND STILL SITS WELL. HERE, JESUS GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF THE RISEN LORD. EITHER WAY, JESUS PROTECTS US ALL, HIS CHOSEN FLOCK

Ophthalmic, Maxillary and Mandibular. The pain can be excruciating. It can be suicidal.

Pain is increased with exposure to the cold and the wind. Treatment is challenging. Commonly the pain is caused by pressure exerted on the nerve from a blood vessel.

### GLOSSOPHARYNGEAL NEURALGIA

This is uncommon. Symptoms are pain in the throat and neck.



Trigeminal nerves distribution. Yellow is the area supplied by the Ophthalmic branch, Pink is the area supplied by the Maxillary branch and blue is the area supplied by the Mandibular branch. All branches arise from the Trigeminal nerve.

### DIAGNOSIS

By history and examination. Treatment of Neuralgia Better control of blood sugar in diabetics Physical therapy Nerve blocks such as Intercostal nerve blocks in PHN and Trigeminal ganglion block in Trigeminal neuralgia. Surgery as in Trigeminal neuralgia Medications A variety of medications are available including topical applications for PHN such as Lidocaine patches and Capscaisin ointment. Antidepressants – Amitriptyline, Nortriptyline, Dothiepin AntiepilecticsPregablin, Carbamazepine, Gabapentin Simple and Strong analgesics

There is no cure for neuralgia. Medications and interventions can help the pain. It can settle down with time.

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## Features

## **Footprints in the City of Negombo**



he 'City of Negombo' can be christened as the 'City of Peace' in Sri Lanka due to the serenity that triumphs amid its multi-religious, multi-ethnic and multi-cultural background. It is a coastal city dotted with churches that has lingered over 500 years. The city is popularly known for its beaches, lagoons, catamarans and coconut trees. The economy of Negombo is mainly based on tourism and the fishing industry.

For centuries, Negombo has lived up to its image as Sri Lanka's 'Little Rome.' The city has never experienced sectarian violence even during years of racial riots or in the aftermath of the recent Easter Sunday carnage. No one was hurt here and no property destroyed. Everyone felt safe. It is a safe haven for all. A major credit for this tranquility goes to the city's predominant Roman Catholics.

The name 'Negombo' is the Portuguese tainted name of its Tamil name Neerkolombu. The Sinhala name Mee-Gomuwa means 'Village of the Honeycomb,' gaining its name from a legend revealed in the 17thcentury historical chronicle 'Rajaveliya.' The army of King Kavantissa found bee honey in a canoe near the seashore, for Viharamahadevi who was pregnant with Prince Dutugemunu.

The famed Negombo Lagoon is a large semi-enclosed coastal water body with plenty of natural resources. The fishermen at the Negombo lagoon use outrigger canoes carved from tree trunks and nylon nets to bring in modest catches. Their boats are made in two forms - 'oruva' (a type of sailing canoe) and 'paruva' (a man-powered catamaran fitted with kurlon dividers).

## Early history of Negombo

The shallow waters of the Negombo Lagoon provided safe shelter for seafaring vessels and became one of the key ports. The Kingdom of Jaffna that controlled greater parts of the North-West coast used Negombo for trading activity.

As many other coastal towns, Negombo was an important spice port long before the Portuguese set foot on the island. The enterprising Moors set up a trading system, whereby native labour hauled cinish Priest of Grand Street in 1857 and served for 38 years. All Catholics of Negombo cherish his name with love and devotion as 'Sammanas Swamy', the angelic priest.

His cheerful labour among the poor and the sick is unique. The foundation for the present church, the fifth, was laid on June 4, 1874 by late Rev. Fr. Vistarini. In recognition of his services to the church, the Holy Father honoured him with the title 'Monsignor' to mark his Golden Jubilee of the Priestly Ordination in 1890.

The life of Monsignor Vistarini was like a many sided gem, the beauty of which can be admired by looking at it from different angles. He died in 1895 and was laid to rest at the side altar where his grave is identified with his statue in repose.

The art and architecture of the church demonstrate the cultural amalgamation of European practice with Sri Lankan art and architecture during the early years of the 20th century. Along the aisles are pillars on which the statues of saints are mounted. On each side are long spacious aisles - in black and white marble tiles.

The bells of the church with their distinct and melodious sounds, imported from France were installed in 1911. The set of statues depicting the 'Coronation of Our Lady' above the main altar have truly enhanced the beauty and majesty of the church.

The stained glass windows are another delight. The magnificent altar keeps you totally mesmerised. The three large paintings that adorn the main dome depict the Birth of Jesus, Mary's Ascension to Heaven and Jesus' Death. On the right side of the altar is the picture of Adam and Eve in Eden looking up at the Lord and on the left is the painting of the rising of the dead.

The walls at the upper level are fixed with sculptures of religious saints, and twelve murals adorn the church walls depicting the life of Christ. It is heartening to see the enthralling workmanship of Norbert Stephen Godamanna (1914 - 1994). The work of a local Buddhist artist in the church aptly accentuates how all communities have lived in religious tolerance in Negombo.

These efforts of Godamanna earned him the nickname, 'Little Michelangelo of Little Rome.' The most impressive to me among his masterpieces is that of the miracle of 'Feeding the 5,000.' His brush strokes of Winsor and Newton oil paints have captured this story in perfect reality.



The façade of St. Mary's Church, Grand Street

## IN THE HEART OF THE CITY STANDS AN ELEGANT AND MAJESTIC BUILDING OF SPLENDID GRANDEUR, POPULARLY KNOWN AS ST. MARY'S CHURCH - GRAND STREET AND ITS IMPOSING PRESENCE USHERS AN AURA OF CALM

parted for 150 long years.

The late Monsignor Vistarini saw the necessity and importance of English education and took steps to start an English school for the benefit of the youngsters of Negombo. He sheltered the embrvo school in the Mission House and later established the College in a new building in 1871. He also started the Sodality of the Immaculate Conception in 1884.

My first Rector was the late Rev.

beautiful bronze statue of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary in the niche of the main building.

## Distinguished son of 'Little Rome'

Archbishop Nicholas Marcus Fernando (1932 - 2020) of revered memory was a product of Negombo. He was beckoned by God while he

eral directions. He was a spontaneous and a compelling priest, whose interests gave him new strength and greater depth.

As I linger down memory lane, many nostalgic events of my association with him flash before my mind. His Grace installed me as the youngest President of the Old Boys' Association of St. Mary's College. I was privileged to confer on him the make a sheer commitment and ensure prestigious award, 'Old Maryite of

preceding the personal names and a Surname following the personal names.

Some scholars believe that all Karavas in ancient times had a distinct clan name and identity. Such identities are still strongly evident in Negombo.

This 'Karava pride' has been observed even by the modern author Bryce Ryan of 'Caste in Ceylon' fame. He says, "The Karava, whether village or urbanite, never covers up his caste; to the contrary he is usually proud of it

It is recorded that Colonel Olcott's design for the Buddhist Flag was based on the colours of the stripes of the Karava flag which are blue, gold, red, white and purple.

The use of surnames by Sri Lankans commenced during the Portugese era. The Dutch and the British followed with their own influence on Sri Lankan names and surnames. The westernised elite were the first to take on surnames. However, it is important to note that most surnames of Sri Lankan families date from the British period.

## Impressions from **Grand Street**

I am truly blessed to have sailed the early years of my life on the course steered by my loving Dad. We were born and christened at St. Mary's Church, Grand Street; educated at St. Mary's College, Grand Street and grew up in the confines of St. Mary's Church, Grand Street.

In life, a good first impression is of vital importance. My parents have done the honours by giving me a unique name 'Shemal'. In the Register of Baptism at St. Mary's Church, my name appears as 'Kurukulasuriya Joseph Conrad Shemal Fernando' and to my greatest joy I was baptised on December 25, the Christmas Day.

I vividly remember kneeling and praying with my Dad at the majestic St. Mary's Church on my way to the college on the first day. I spent a good nigh decade at the hallowed portals and the first memories are winning the first gold in 50m in athletics and receiving the first College Report with 91 to 100 marks for all subjects.

I owe all my achievements in academics and sports to my parents - the late Camillus and Freeda Fernando. It was my Dad, who groomed me to excel in sports. He was my athletic and cricket coach. His presence and encouragement surely motivated me to that I reach all the goals set in life.

namon to the coast. The Portuguese took over Negombo about 1600 and raised a small fort.

The Dutch claimed the stronghold in 1640 and refortified it. The legacy of the Dutch can be seen in the fort constructed in 1672, churches and the extensive canal system that runs 120 km from Colombo to Puttalam. The British found the fort abandoned in 1796. Sir Thomas Maitland, Governor of Ceylon granted the Catholics their religious freedom and the British helped the Catholic faith to flourish and mingle with other religions.

## St. Mary's Church, Grand Street

The influence of the early priests still dominates the spiritual essence of Negombo. In the heart of the city stands an elegant and majestic building of splendid grandeur, popularly known as St. Mary's Church, Grand Street and its imposing presence ushers an aura of calm.

The locals call the spectacular church the 'Maha Veediya Palliya'. Every year on the Sunday after September 8, the church celebrates the feast of our Heavenly Patroness. St. Mary's Church has been a spiritual haven for centuries and continues the good work.

Under the Dutch, the Catholics suffered severe oppression, victimisation and humiliation. The first church was destroyed in 1603. The late Bishop Rev. Edmund Peiris in 'Early Christianity in Ceylon' refers to it, 'In the fortress of Negombo. we have a beautiful church dedicated to the Mother of God.' The Catholic population was about 2,000 in 1628.

After the arrival of the British, a second church was built at the site where the convent now stands. In 1796, when the Dutch handed over the Maritime Provinces to the British, there were 14,000 Catholics in Negombo. In 1811, the third church was built and in 1822, the fourth church was built on the site where the present church stands. The majestic Mission House was built in 1851.

The city was blessed with the services of an Italian priest, Rev. Fr. John Vistarini (1817 - 1895). He had been ordained a priest in 1840 in Lombardo, Italy, and arrived in Sri Lanka in 1846. He was made the Par-

## St. Mary's College, **Grand Street**

St. Mary's College always reminds me of a child who has grown up without ever straying from its mother's side. The mother, of course is St. Mary's Church, which has a close influence on the lives of its Catholics known for their daunting courage, intrepid bravery and allround versatility.

The bond between mother and child indeed is very close. They share the same compound and lie within the same walls, which is an outward sign of the inward links that have always made the church and the College inseparable. If you look closely, you are sure to find the blessings imFr. Neville Emmanuel who stepped into the breach and steadfastly held the alma mater with unparalleled courage and determination. And for him the Providence reserved the singular honour of seeing the centenary nrough in 1971.

My second Rector was the late Rev. Fr. Stanley Mellewa, a brilliant administrator. His silent and determined approach stimulated all concerned with enthusiasm and devotion. During his era, the college achieved magnificent victories in sports and reached higher echelons in academics.

The nostalgias of that era were the College Anthem, the College Logo and the College Motto, Viam Sapientiae Monstrabo Tibi (I will show you the way of wisdom) and the

was a student at St. Mary's College. The effusive showering of talents and the providential timing of his birth made him more and more conscious of his obligations before God.

These ideas and ideals which matured in him from childhood made him a priest in 1959 and an Archbishop in 1977. He became the first Diocesan Priest and the youngest to be elevated to the office of the Archbishop of Colombo at 44.

I remember how the bells of the grand old church peeled and the people of all walks of life thronged to the precincts to share the joy of his appointment. A scholar, preacher and spiritual colossus, Archbishop Fernando, during his 25 years as Chief Shepherd from 1977 to 2002, expanded the Archdiocese in sev-

the Century' and deliver the keynote speech at the Silver Jubilee of his Episcopal Ordination.

He chose St. Mary's Church that nourished him, to celebrate his Golden Jubilee of the Priestly Ordination in 2009. He passed away in 2020 and was laid to rest at the side altar. His entire life has been nothing short of miraculous events.

## The *Karavas*, names and surnames

Most of the Karavas in Sri Lanka show a traditional military heritage and confirms the Kshatriya origins of the group as claimed by Karava legends and family accounts. A Karava typically has a Clan or 'Ge' name



The Blessed Virgin Mary's Ascension to Heaven

It was my Mom who planted and nurtured the first seeds of good within me. She opened my heart to God; awakened my understanding and extended my horizon and her percepts exerted an everlasting influence upon the course of my life.

Our 25th Wedding Anniversary was a milestone. Archbishop Fernando renewed our vows at a Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop Valence Mendis. His Holiness Pope Francis blessed us in the Vatican with a Private Holy Mass and a Private Audience warmly welcoming, "Children are a blessing to be cherished and nurtured."

We have christened our three daughters with the names of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Anne - Mary Anne Shanil, Mary Anne Shalini and Mary Anne Shenali. We named our only son after Saint Joseph, the spouse of the Blessed Mother Mary, and combining three generations, 'Joseph Camillus Shemal'. All these blessings resulted through our infinite love for the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph instilled in me and my wife, Carmel at St. Mary's College and Ave Maria Convent.

Our youngest daughter Shenali and Sherveen, son of Lloyd and Rukmani Fernando of Negombo will be united to each other with Jesus in marriage at St. Mary's Church -Grand Street. It will be a breathtaking experience for us to trace footprints of our lives and times in the city of Negombo.

The dear church stands as a steadfast monument to the undying devotion of the people of Negombo to the faith of their forefathers, a testimony of their trust, confidence and love for the Mother of Jesus. Thankfully, that good spirit still continues and the church continues to draw her flock. As Jesus himself said in the Holy Scriptures, "My House shall be a House of Prayer".

The life-size statue of late Monsignor John Vistarini erected before the left façade of the church is truly a living monument that inspired many for 100 years. Let me urge the parishioners to erect a similar marble statue on the right façade in memory of Archbishop Nicholas Marcus Fernando, the greatest churchman produced by St. Mary's Church, Grand Street.

(The author maintains a lively interest of his birth city where he has been touched by many legends)

## **Country boy Upul** Tharanga calls it a day

## **BY DHAMMIKA** RATNAWEERA

Upul Tharanga announced his retirement from international cricket after a near 15-year career at the highest level saying he had no regrets for moving out.

"I believe it is time for me to



Upul Tharanga: Time to move on

bid farewell to my international career after over 15 years of giving the game my all,' the 36 year old left hander said in a statement on Twitter.

He further stated: "I leave behind a road travelled with fond memories and great friendships. I am thankful to Sri Lanka Cricket for always having faith and the trust vested in me. I am grateful to the many cricket loving fans, friends and my family for standing by me during my highest of highs and even at my lowest points in my career."

A product of Dharmasoka College Ambalangoda, Tharanga showed his abilities from a young age and played in the Premier league for Singha SC at the age of 15.

He however signalled his arrival during the Under 19 world Cup in 2004 when he cracked 117 against South Africa and then 61 in 42 balls against India.

He played for NCC and captained the side while his big break came in 2005 when he was selected to the Sri Lanka ODI squad, a year after the Asian tsunami took a heavy toll on his family home in Ambalangoda.

He made a superb hundred against England at Lord's on a tour in 2006 as Sri Lanka won the ODI series 5-0.

In that same series he put on a record opening stand of 286 in 32 overs with Sanath Jayasuriya.

Some of Tharanga's other feats were 133 against Zimbabwe and 102 against England in the quarter finals of the 2011 World Cup.

Tharanga also played 31 Tests scoring 1754 runs but his best performances were in ODIs as he aggregated 6951 runs from 235 matches with 15 centuries and a career-best 174 against India.

## **Over 550 Sri Lankans die as Qatar prepares for World Cup**

More than 6,500 migrant work ers have died in Qatar amid the nation's preparation to host the 2022 World Cup, The Guardian reports.

The report cites government data from the home nations of migrant workers, including India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The data have been compiled since Qatar was awarded the World Cup in 2010, working out to an average of 12 deaths per week, according to the report.

FIFA awarded the World Cup to Qatar despite widespread concerns over human rights violations and treatment of migrant workers. Amnesty International has since documented conditions of workers being "exploited" and "subjected to forced labor.'

"They can't change jobs, they can't leave the country, and they often wait months to get paid," a report from the human rights organization states.

According to The Guardian, 2,711 workers from India, 1,641 from Nepal, 1,018 from Bangladesh, 824 from Pakistan and 557 from Sri Lanka have died working in Qatar since 2010. The Guardian estimates that the actual death toll of migrant workers is "considerably higher" since the data it cites is limited to the listed countries.

The nation with a population of less than 3 million is depending on 2 million migrant workers to man its labor force. The Philippines and Kenya are among other nations to send migrant workers to Qatar, according to the report.

The listed causes of death include electrocution, blunt injuries

due to a fall from height and suicide. Most of the deaths are listed as "natural" while citing heart or respiratory failure, according to the report.

Workers at a construction site of a World Cup venue in Qatar

Daytime temperatures in Qatar can approach 120 degrees during the summer.

Normally played in the summer, Qatar's World Cup will be held in November and December because of the oppressive heat.

Nick McGeehan of labor rights

organization FairSquare Projects told The Guardian that World Cup construction accounts for much of the death toll.

"A very significant proportion of the migrant workers who have died since 2011 were only in the country because Qatar won the right to host the World Cup," he said.

Qatar has built or is building seven new stadiums in addition to significant infrastructure upgrades,

including roadways, hotels and an airport in preparation to host the World Cup. The opening and closing matches will be held at Lusail Iconic Stadium in Lusail, a city being built from the ground up ahead of the World Cup.

Qatar's government didn't dispute The Guardian's findings and characterized the death toll as "expected" in a statement to publication. (yahoo sports)

## **Beach volleyball players protest against body-covering attire**

Germany's beach volleyball try and the only tournament stars Karla Borger and Julia Sude have said they will boycott a tournament in Qatar next month because it was "the only country" where players were forbidden from wearing bikinis on court.

"We are there to do our job, but are being prevented from where a government tells us how to do our job -- we are criticising that."

The Qatar volleyball association reacted to the news by explaining they were "committed to ensuring that all athletes are made to feel welcome and com-

"We would like to make clear that we are not making any demand on what athletes should wear at the event," a statement insisted.

Qatar is hosting the upcoming FIVB World Tour event but asked to wear shirts and long strict rules about on-court clothing have led to world champion-

the first time that Doha has hosted a women's World Tour event. though the city has been a regular fixture on the men's tour for seven years.

Yet female players have been trousers rather than the usual bikinis, a rule which the world

## **Ex-England rugby star** arrested for 'drug driving'

Former England rugby star Sam Burgess was arrested for traffic offences and possible drug use in Australia on Monday in his latest run-in with authorities, local media reported.

Burgess, 32, was reportedly pulled over by police while driving down a highway about 100 kilometres (60 miles) southwest of Sydney and given a roadside drug test, which he alleg-



wearing our work clothes," Borger told radio station Deutschlandfunk on Sunday.

"This is really the only coun-

fortable at next month's event." They said all athletes were free to compete in their international uniforms.

ships silver medallist Borger and her doubles partner Sude shunning the event. The tournament in March is

beach volleyball federation FIVB claims is "out of respect for the culture and traditions of the host country".(AFP)



Karla Borger competing for Germany in the 2016 Olympics in Rio

edly failed. Sam Burgess

Police would only say they stopped a 32-year-old man in the area and took him to a local police station where he was given a second drug test and then arrested for driving without a license in an unregistered car.

Results of the second drug test are pending, they said in a statement.

Police would not confirm the identity of the man, citing privacy rules, but an official noted they would not normally put out a press release concerning a traffic violation if it did not concern a "person of interest". The man was released and ordered to appear in court on May 4, police said.

Burgess, a former dual rugby international, is currently on a two-year good behaviour bond after being convicted early this month of intimidating the father of his ex-wife during a confrontation in October 2019.

## India showcases latest spin sensation

India unveiled the latest spin hero from its production line when Axar Patel claimed 11 wickets in the lightning fast two-day Test win over England.

The 27-year-old started off his cricket life as a fast bowler and only got his place in this crucial series because of an injury to star spinner Ravindra Jadeja.

Captain Virat Kohli said England may have been "relieved" when Jadeja was injured.

"But then this guy comes in. Bowls it quicker and from a bigger height as well. It is a tribute to his hard work, his accuracy," said Kohli. "It is impossible to sweep him, impossible to defend him all day. If the wicket gives him anything he is just a lethal bowler."

While England's batsmen may have been poor, Patel played the central role in bowling them out for 112 and 81 in the day-night third Test in Ahmedabad.

The batsmen expected the ball to turn on the devilish track, but it kept going straight -- 28 of the wickets to fall went to spinners and 21 were straight balls. Patel even put Ravichandran Ashwin in the shade, even though the senior spinner's seven wickets took him past 400 in Tests.

"My strength is always about bowling wicket-to-wicket," Patel said after being named man of the match.

"It's about playing on the mindset of the batsmen. Strangle them for runs and then get them make the mistakes. Bowling more and more dot balls is my strength."



Axar Patel talks with Virat Kohli

## Tiger Woods lucky to be alive

LOMITA, Calif. - Shortly after 7 a.m on Tuesday morning, a Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy arrived at the scene of a one-car rollover crash on a notoriously treacherous stretch of road near Rancho Palos Verdes.

Deputy Carlos Gonzalez approached the overturned SUV and found the driver "lucid and calm" despite being trapped inside the mangled vehicle.

"What's your name?" Gonzalez asked.

"Tiger," the man responded.

Tiger Woods is "very fortunate to come out of this alive," Gonzalez said Tuesday afternoon at a news conference outside the sheriff's office in Lomita. Los Angeles County Fire Department personnel had to use tools to extricate Woods from the vehicle through the windshield.

Woods was transported to Harbor-UCLA Medical Center with injuries to both legs that were described as serious but "non-life-threatening." By late Tuesday night, his team said in a statement that he was "awake, responsive and recovering at the

hospital" after undergoing a "long surgical procedure on his lower right leg and ankle.

As part of the official statement on Woods' Twitter account, Dr. Aniish Mahajan, the hospital's interim CEO, said that the golfer suffered "comminuted open fractures" affecting both the tibia and fibula bones in his right leg. That suggests the bones were broken into more than two pieces and had broken through the skin.

Mahajan said Woods had a rod placed in his tibia and screws and

pins inserted into his foot and ankle during surgery to stabilize them. Damage to the muscle and soft-tissue of the leg also required "a surgical release of the covering of the muscles to relieve pressure due to swelling."

LA County Sheriff Alex Villanueva indicated there was "no evidence of impairment" when observing Woods at the scene. Officers saw no signs that Woods was under the influence of narcotics or pain medicine, according to Villanueva, nor did they smell alcohol on his breath. (Yahoo sports)



## SPORTS

## Sri Lanka rugby players tackle world's worst beach polluter

To overcome the shame of been branded as one of the world's worst marine polluters, Sri Lanka Rugby (SLR) and its commercial partner Dialog, the island's premier connectivity provider, inaugurated the first phase of the 'Sayura Rakina Rella' sustainable beach clean-up programme by the Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) deployed to protect and preserve the island's coastline.

The initiative kickstarted with the collection of over 770 kilograms of rotten waste material from the Sarakkuwa beach in Negombo which was handed over to the Wattala Pradeshiya Sabha for its safe and sustainable disposal.

Players from the present Sri Lanka men's and women's rugby teams as well as former Tuskers Asoka Jayasena, Hisham Abdeen, Dilroy Fernando, Ajith Upawansa, RMS Ratnayake and Jude Pillai, MEPA goodwill ambassadors, musical artists Bathiya and Santhush, young rugby players from the Western Lions Academy, officials from SLR together with the Dialog team volunteered to the twohour clean-up to restore the beach to what it should be.

"When we were school children, we used to come to the beach often to play touch rugby. However, due to increased pollution, the beaches are not safe to come to as one can easily hurt himself from household waste that is buried in the sand.

"Under this sustainability initiative, we would like to discourage the public from polluting and to take on their roles as responsible citizens by following proper garbage disposal methods", said Sri Lanka Rugby chief Rizly Illyas.

Illyas said that interestingly rugby and the beach are near and dear to some of the world's top rugby playing nations especially in the Asia pacific region.

"Rugby Sevens giants in the Pacific Ocean like Fiji, Samoa and Tonga play most of their rugby on the beaches. They play touch rugby especially on the beach to develop their ball handling skills, which is something that I don't see much today in Sri Lanka," said Ilyas.

At present, Sri Lanka ranks poorly according to a pollution index transcribed by the World Bank, ranking as the fifth worst beach pol-



Rugby head Rizly Illyas (left) and Dialog's Brand, Marketing and Media manager Harsha Samaranayake lead the way



Sri Lanka rugby players taking part in the clean-up

luter of the world in 2015, mainly t due to poor disposal of plastic waste.

On average, a Sri Lanka produces 500 kilos of non-degradable waste per day resulting in a mammoth amount of 100 million of solid waste added into Sri Lanka's coastal waters, according to 2017 records.

During the total two-hour collec-

tion process, 275.89 kilos of plastic, 102 kilos of metal, 83 kilos of glass, 250 kilos of organic and 63 kilos of

paper waste was collected. "We are thankful for Dialog and SLR for coming forward for this important initiative to safeguard Sri Lanka's natural assets. We at MEPA sincerely hope that these initiatives, in the long run, inspire other sporting bodies, corporates and civil society to come forth and do their civic duty and we believe that initiatives of this nature enable corporates to be an agent of change in building a better tomorrow.

"We hope that by paving the way for initiatives of this nature, we can turnaround the present status quo especially as the country is opening its borders for tourism," said Dharshani Lahandapura, Chairperson of MEPA.

Being the ace sponsor of Sri Lanka Rugby, Senior General Manager, Brand and Media, Group Marketing at Dialog Harsha Samaranayake said his company jumped at the idea to foster the beach clean-up.

"Dialog is pleased to join hands with SLR and MEPA to conserve our marine resources which have been under threat as a result of careless waste disposal," said Samaranayake.

"It is our belief that sports, like rugby with a large following, will be a game changer in influencing its followers and the public on the necessity of preserving one of our country's greatest natural assets."

## Golf players in big drive for charity

### **BY TB RAHAMAN**

Playing golf for a worthy cause can be a great pleasure and this is what over a 150 golfers will be doing on March 13 when they tee off at the RCGC course in Colombo for the Rotary Metro Par 3 Golf Classic.

This tournament is organized by the Rotary club of Colombo Metropolitan in partnership with Dialog Enterprise to raise funds that will be spent on children with urgent needs, organisers said.

The event could not be held last year due to the pandemic and promises to be a day of competitive golf for the members of Royal Colombo Golf Club (RCGC) that is set to tee off at 7 am and 11.30 am in two separate groups.

Although, only 150 golfers have already entered more golfers who are willing to participate will be entertained before the day of the event.

The winners will be picked from the players who obtain the highest stableford points. Besides, the entire course will be converted to a par 54 course with each hole to be reached in three strokes.

Ruwan Gunasena the presi-

dent of the Rotary Club said this is the fifth time the event is organized to raise funds and help sustain the less privileged children.

tain the less privileged children. This will also give the gift of life for 50 children with congenital heart diseases where an operation will cost Rs 300,000. Even the children of caddies will benefit from this scheme.

Ramanan David, Senior General Manager of Dialog Axiata said they are honoured to be partners in this humanitarian project.

They have been supporters in the development of golf, sponsoring golf tournaments and leading golfers.

Hasith Prematillake the managing director of Hayleys Fentons who are celebrating 100 years said they are also honoured to support this tournament for the first time as the Gold sponsor.

With Dialog being the main sponsor, Cinnamon Life are the Silver sponsors. The other partners include Cargills, Mercantile Investments and Finance, M. Power Capital, Widac, People's Bank, Asia Securities, Appigo, Chatham, Victoria Villa, DRTV, Akbar Brothers, Park Street Gourmet and Favourite Group.



Niluka Karunaratne in action at last week's Nationals before announcing his retirement from domestic events but still keeping an eye on international matches

## Karunaratne throws in the

## India pick promising stars for T20 England series

India have brought rising IPL stars Varun Chakravarthy, Rahul Tewatia, Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav into their squad for the Twenty20 series against England next month.

But India will rest star fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah for the five-match series to be played in Ahamedabad from March 12.

Chakravarthy has had a rags-toriches rise in the Indian Premier League.

The architect turned leg-spinner only got a first selection with Kings XI Punjab in 2019 at the age of 27 but he gave away 25 runs in his first over, played only one match and was released at the end of the season.

Given a second chance by Kolkata Knight Riders last year, Chakravarthy took 5-20 in one game and ended as one of the top 10 wicket-takers.

He was called up for India's T20 side in Australia in December but had to withdraw because of a shoulder injury.

Tewatia made his mark on the IPL with some spectacular batting for Rajasthan Royals, including hitting five sixes in an over against Punjab's Sheldon Cottrell.

Batsman Yadav and wicketkeeperbatsman Kishan were standout performers for Mumbai Indians as they won a fifth IPL title last year.

Veteran fast bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar returns to the 19-man squad after a long injury layoff.

England have already named their T20 squad for the games to be played on March 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 at the world's biggest cricket stadium.

## INDIAT201 SQUAD:

Virat Kohli (capt), Rohit Sharma, K.L. Rahul, Shikhar Dhawan, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Rishabh Pant, Ishan Kishan, Yuzvendra Chahal, Varun Chakravarthy, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Rahul Tewatia, T. Natarajan, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Deepak Chahar, Navdeep Saini, Shardul Thakur. **(AFP)** 

## **Promising golfer Kumara emerges overall winner**





Young golfer Yannik Kumara emerged the winner of the Aggregate Gold Medal and the overall winner at the South-West Monsoon golf tournament sponsored by Dialog that concluded at the Ridgeways course on February 21.

Playing consistently good golf throughout the four rounds he collected 305 gross score the highest by an individual.

He was also the runnerup in the Squadron Cup event for nett scores with 289 to fall behind the winner Vinuda Weerasinghe by just one stroke.

Ravi Liyanage was the only player to get a hole at the 15th hole. **(TBR)** 

## **RESULTS:**

### Calcutta Medal:

Winner: Mahendra Jayasekera 68 Nett B/B 9 Runner-up: Chanaka Perera 68 Nett Victoria Cup: Winner: Avanka Herat 72+68 = 140 Nett

**Runner-up:** Mahendra Jayasekera 68+77 = 145 Nett

## Squadron Cup:

**Winner:** Vinuda Weerasinghe 74+74+74+66 = 288 Nett **Runner-up:** Yannik Kumara 75+68+75+71 = 289 Nett

Aggregate Gold Medal: Winner: Yannik Kumara 79+72+79+75 = 305 Gross Runner-up: Sachin de Silva 77+75+77+82 = 311 Gross Hole in One:

Ravi Liyanage at the 15th Hole

## towel but eyes Olympics

## BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

National badminton champion Niluka Karunaratne has indicated that he will be retiring from local events after having stayed on top for several years in Sri Lanka's rankings.

"I never thought of retiring before the commencement of the 17th national championship but my youngest brother Chamika gave me the idea to retire on a winning note," said the undisputed champion Niluka in an interview with the Sunday Observer.

The two time Olympian 36-yearold Karunaratne said that he will be competing in the international arena for one more year with the focus on the Tokyo Olympics which is scheduled to begin on July 23. But he has not yet reached the qualifying standard and the deadline for this has been extended to June 15 due to the Covid-19.

"I have four international tournaments to compete in, commencing in April, to reach the qualification standard. At present I am 112 in the world ranking and if I can reach 85-90 that would be sufficient for Olympic qualification," noted Karunaratne.

Karunaratne's best win was over world eighth ranked Kenichi Tago of Japan at the London Olympics in 2012.

He has also reached the highest ranking of 34 in 2013 having participated in more than 20 international tournaments. He has won nine gold, eight silver and four bronze medals during that time. But he has won only two silver and two bronze medals at South Asian Games.

"I took to badminton at the age of eight years. My coach was my father Louie Karunaratne who is still my coach. I had the opportunity to represent the country in five Commonwealth Games and two Olympics. I have dedicated my life to the game and worked hard to achieve my present status," said Karunaratne.

The 17 times national singles champion has also clinched the men's doubles and mixed doubles titles several times. His younger brother Dinuka has won the national singles title three times.

"I like to see many youngsters come up with good skills. They try to defeat me but I always used my experience to overcome them. The journey in badminton in Sri Lanka is good and recognized internationally. We are on par with cricket, rugby and athletics. My advice to youngsters is to maintain fitness and be more dedicated to the game," said Karunaratne.

## Chris Morris wants to follow in father's footsteps

Cricket multi-millionaire Chris Morris said on Thursday he wants to follow in his father's footsteps by playing for the South African province that dad Willie represented for 12 seasons.

Morris, 33, will play for the Rajasthan Royals in the 2021 Indian Premier League after the franchise bought him for US\$2.2-million, an IPL auction record.

His projected fee will take him past \$8-million in earnings from the IPL alone.

It is a different cricketing world from that in which Willie Morris

played for what was then known as Northern Transvaal between 1979/80 and 1991/92.

Chris Morris said that cricket had been his life because of his father.

"I always say I was born with a bat in my hand. He (dad) would come back from a long day at work and still have the energy to throw balls at me," said Morris.

South Africa will be scrapping its current franchise system next season and will return to an interprovincial set-up similar to that in which Willie Morris played. (AFP)

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## Chinese offer big money for Sri Lanka Volleyball tourney

## **BY BERNARD PERERA**

The biggest ever purse in prize money is on offer to the winners of volleyball for the first time when the first Under-25 volleyball championship for the Galaxy Cup will be played from March 16 to 27 in Galle and the semifinals and final at the NYSC indoor stadium in Maharagama.

Baosheng Lanka Investment, a foreign based company in Colombo being the main sponsor has made this generous contribution to be given away as prize money.

Speaking to the media at the NOC Auditorium, president of the Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation (SLVBF) Ranjith Siyambalapitiya said the total prize money will be Rs. 3.4 million. The winners in the men's and women's category will be presented with rupees one million each while the runners-up will receive Rs. 500,000 each and the third placed teams Rs.200,000 each.

This also happens to be the first ever sponsorship by a foreign Company towards the development of volleyball in Sri Lanka

Chairman of Baosheng Lanka Investment Fu Zhong Yue said that Sri Lanka and China have a cultural and mutual friendship spanning over four decades.

"Our Company is here to help Sri Lanka develop in all aspects including sporting activities. I have witnessed many young Sri Lankans playing volleyball in every part of the country.

The Volleyball Federation too is playing an enthusiastic role in developing the game here. I hope the younger generation will make the best from this championship to improve their talents in the best possible way," Fu Zhong said.

### The teams:

Women: - Army SC, Navy SC, Air Force SC, National Youth Services Council SC, Hirdaramani SC, Mahauswewa SC, Casual Line SC, Golden Birds SC, Hungama Vijayaba SC and Ampara Kings SC

Men: - Army SC, Navy SC, Air Force SC, National Youth Services Council SC, Nattandiya United SC, Ceylon Electricity Board SC, Joseph Vaz SC, Kalutara Golden Tigers SC



Deputy Speaker and President of SLVBF Ranjith Siyambalapitiya receiving the sponsorship from Chairman of Baosheng Lanka Investment Fu Zhong Yue for the Galaxy Cup under-25 Volleyball Championship. (Pic by Ranjth Asanka)



## Imran Khan, Sri Lankan cricketers recall bygone era

### **BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA**

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, in his efforts to strengthen sports diplomacy, participated at an interactive session with the sports community of Sri Lanka on Wednesday at the Shangri- La Hotel in Colombo during his two day visit.

The former Pakistan cricket captain Khan fondly recalled his visit to Sri Lanka as a fresh university graduate and as a young player and commended the Sri Lankan players in attendance especially Arjuna Ranatunga as the team captain in the World Cup win in Pakistan.

The Pakistan PM said he could recall Sri Lanka's rise to interna-

tional cricket as early as in 1975. Khan also revealed that political failures in Pakistan did not deter him from rising to the ranks of



Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa receives a signed bat from Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan

the Prime Minister after 14 years of active public life.

Khan was presented with a proposed project for a high perfor-

mance sports complex by Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa which is to be named after him (Khan). The high-performance cen-

tre proposed to be constructed in Nawala, Kotte will focus purely on track and field sports and it will also feature a state-of-the-art sports analytics centre along with a sports science laboratory.

The proposed centre aims to be a hub in the nation as well as the region for high performance athletes who aim to compete at the highest level of global sport.

Minister Rajapaksa presented a memento to Prime Minister Khan who in turn presented his signed cricket bat to him.

Former Sri Lanka cricketers Arjuna Ranatunga, Roy Dias, Sidath Wettimuny, Brendon Kuruppu, Muttiah Muralidaran, Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Hashan Tillekaratne, Chaminda Vaas and Aravinda de Silva along with Olympic Silver medallist Susanthika Jayasinghe graced the occasion.

## **Empowering women: Bonita gets another** stint as travel trade sports head

Bonita Odayar the General Manager of Amadeus Lanka, was unanimously re-elected for a record breaking fourth term as the President of the Travel Trade



## Sri Lanka boxing takes another step into the future

Boxing Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) President Dian Gomes extolled the virtues of discipline and education after granting official recognition to the Hishaam Ousman Boxing Academy on February 17. "Boxing is a great sport because it teaches you discipline and fair play. In life that's important. It's not about winning. Your ultimate goal will be to box at the Olympic Games which Sri Lanka did after 40 years, when Anuruddha Ratnayake qualified in 2007. 'Our target is to win medals at international tournaments and eventually a gold medal at the Olympics," Gomes told academy students, after donating boxing equipment to the academy named after the late Hishaam Ousman, one of the finest scientific boxers ever produced by legendary Royal College boxing coach Danton Obeyesekere. Allaam Ousman, a former junior national champion is the Technical Director while Dickson de Saram, a former Sri Lanka international bodybuilder is the Fitness Coach, at the academy situated in YMBA, Fort. The Director Marketing/Promotions is the former Trinity College boxer and rugby star Reza Odayar of Hellbies Racing, who have partnered with the Academy. Among the students of the academy is 10-year-old Deyan de Saram, younger brother of Dimash de Saram, who has won the L.V. Jayaweera, T.B. Jayah and Stubbs Shield meets representing Mahanama College.



Sports Club at its 45th Annual General Meeting held last week at the Ramada, Colombo.

The TTSC Executive Committee took this bold decision to extend the term of the Presidency by empowering women as Bonita Odayar's previous terms were severely disturbed by the Easter bombings (2019) and the present pandemic (2020) which had an adverse bearing on the travel trade.

Bonita managed to keep the travel trade active and resilient by introducing several new events in the digital arena ensuring both safety and continuity

The newest entry to the Committee is Shavinda Jinadasa from Cinnamon City Hotels.

The list of office bearers for 2021/22:

President: Bonita Odayar (Amadeus Lanka)

Immediate Past President: Prabath Harshakumar (Walkers Tours) Vice Presidents: Anil Hapugoda (Aitken Spence Travels), Mani Sugathapala (Citrus Hotels), Shan Perera (Singapore Airlines)

Seated from left: Chinthaka Daluwatte, Camy Gunasekera, Dilshan Gnanapragasam, Prabath Harshakumar, Bonita Odayar (President), Anil Hapugoda, Shan Perera, Mani Sugathapala and Tyronne Perera. Standing from left: Suranjith de Fonseka, Anushka Perera, Asanka Fernando, Chaminda Perera, Nilika Abeysuriya, Senpathi Jayawickrama, Sunethra Blok, Bandula Withana, Adrian Jansz, Marvan Madanayake, Ramesh Vidanarachchi, Shavinda Jinadasa

**General Secretary:** Dilshan Gnanapragasam (Resplended Ceylon)

Assistant Secretary: Bandula Withana (Jetwing Travels) Treasurer: Anushka Perera (Connaissance de Ceylan) Assistant Treasurer: Adrian Jansz (Serendib Leisure) Joint Social Secretaries: Chintha-

ka Daluwatte (Mt. Lavinia Hotels Group), Camy Gunasekera (Villuxer Holidays)

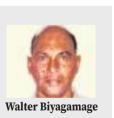
**General Committee:** Suranjith de Fonseka (Deithlem Travels), Nilika Abeysuriya (Walkers and Whittalls), Senpathi Jayawickrama (Hemas Travels), Asanka Fernando (Amaya Resorts), Ramesh Vidanarachchi (Ramada Colom-

bo), Shavinda Jinadasa (Cinnamon City Hotels, Chaminda Perera (Emirates), Marvan Madanayake (Mack Air), Saman Ratnayake (Sri Lankan Airlines)

Administrative Staff: Sunethra Blok (Secretary Admin), E.B Silva (Accountant), Tyronne Perera (Media and Sports Events Co-coordinator)

## Veteran football player passes away

Former veteran soccer player and all island Justice of Peace Walter Biyagamage passed way on February 21. His funeral took place on February 23 at the Digana cemetery in Kottawa from his residence at No.303, Ban galawatta, Kottawa Pannipitiya.



## Warner for maiden 100-ball cricket

Australian opening batsman David Warner has rejoined Southern Brave for the inaugural edition of English cricket's Hundred competition, it was announced on Tuesday

The 100 balls-per-side franchise tournament was meant to have been launched last year but was delayed by the corona-



virus pandemic. All eight franchises will feature both men's and women's teams, with the two competitions running side by side.

Thirty-five men's players were revealed on Tuesday out of more than 500 overseas and domestic players vying to fill the remaining spots.

The Brave had just two slots to fill and managed to secure Warner, who was a first-round pick by the franchise for the 2020 tournament before he dropped out due to other commitments.

The 34-year-old was one of only 10 overseas players in the draft with the highest available reserve price of £100,000 (\$141,000) and was the third pick. (AFP)

Another keen boxing student is Anishra Odayar, a former Sri Lanka BASL President Dian Gomes presenting gear to the Hishaam Ousman Boxing Academy's technical director and former junior national champion Allaam Ousman in the presence of Schools Boxing Association officials

shooting star and also a fine athlete.

"To become a professional or to go to a university. Boxing should be number two. That will help you with studies, discipline," reiterated Gomes, a former Royal College boxing champion.

## Thirimanne, Dhananjaya

## passed fit

Lahiru Thirimanne who tested positive for COVID-19 earlier this month and Dhananjaya de Silva have successfully done the two kilo metre fitness test at the Sugathadasa Stadium on Thursday (25).

They will now be available for selection for Sri Lanka's upcoming Test tour of the West Indies.

Players are expected to cover the two kilometre distance within eight minutes and 35 seconds. Thirimanne had clocked eight minutes 21 seconds, while de Silva had clocked eight min-



utes and two seconds.

Earlier this month, Thirimanne tested positive for COVID-19 and could not take part in the initial test, while de Silva was under rehabilitation for an injury suffered during the tour of South Africa. (TBR)

## **Kotmale Hill Climb** on May 1 and 2

**BY HAFIZ MARIKAR** 

There has been good news for motor sportsmen as Kandy's Senkadagala Motor Sports Club in association with the Sri Lanka Motor Cycle Club will be conducting a speed hill climb on May 1 and 2 in the form Kotmale Hill Climb.

President of the Senkadagala Motor Sports Club Thusith de Silva is keen on making this event a success with the backing coming from the rest of the committee members, Secretary Poorna Dah anayake, Treasurer Dammika Bambaradeniya and committee members John Baskaran, PHN Solomon, Errol Kemps, Lakshman Issac, Oshada Wijesekara, Sarath Tennekoon, Charminda Weerasinghe, EM Dissanayake, Akila Senanayake, Darshana Abeysinghe, Gihan Deerasekara, Eranga Ranasinghe, M Alawala, Thilanka Abeysinghe and Anuradha Navaratne.

Nissan March, Mini 7, Modified Cars, Ford Lasers, SLGT up to 3500cc, Subaru Legacy, Formular cars, truck and Jeeps, motor bikes from 250cc to 1000cc, Volkswagen Beetles, Classic Cars and Minis will be on show.

At this event, there will be two special awards for the fastest racing driver and rider in memory of the late Ananda Krishnaratne who was a motor racing live wire and Nimal Chandrasoma.

A tree planting program will coincide with the Kotmale Hill Climb where all invitees, drivers, riders, officials and well wishers will take part. Entry forms could be obtained from AU Motors at 82B, S de Jayasinghe Mawatha, Kohuwala, Nugegoda and Sujeewa Opticals at 88, Kotugodalla Street, Kandy.



**FEBRUARY 28, 2021** 



## Imran Khan's **Motivational Recipe**

ast week this column described Imran Khan as the Star that is cuddled by the Crescent Moon in Pakistan's Flag. This week that Star stole the hearts and minds of Sri Lankans as Prime Minister Imran Khan made what was one of the most motivational speeches heard in as many years as we have played international cricket. The audience of sport fans, politicos and other enthusiasts. Imran Khan got adrenaline running all through their systems as never before! He also paid a special tribute to Arjuna Ranatunga.

Imran said: After my first appearance for the Pakistan side I was dropped. And so were others . The majority never come back again. So there are two ways you could deal with this he said: you could either give up and enter another career or you could actually learn from your first Test appearance. I had that ability to analyze my mistakes better than others, work harder than most others and then succeed. That's why if you have that ability you will keep improving.

Paraphrasing the great Poet Iqbal he referred to Hawk who's flying way above everyone else being told don't be scared of the force of wind that hits you, its meant to make you fly higher. When you have resistance the Almighty has made us human beings such that the moment we face resistance if we stand up to resistance we get stronger.

Referring to his Islamic faith he said he believes the human being was made by Almighty God even above Angels; giving people immense power --incredible power-inside us, but that "power will only come out when in light of the resistance we face, we pick ourselves up, and only then that power comes out, and the real human potential comes out. The problem, he said is if somewhere along the line we give up and that's when we lose. So more vou face up to resistance the stronger you get physically. If you put your arm against a heavy weight you are able to get stronger. The mind is the powerhouse and the more you put your mind into the to challenge it just gets stronger and stronger."

Referring to the time we won the World Cup, he said the lesson is simple: All of us can become whatever we dream of. We should never stop dreaming anything that you can dream you can achieve provided you are prepared to struggle for it and provided you do not get demoralized from the bad times; instead every bad time is a time of reflection self-analysis so that you even come back much

## Mahanama: 'We had role models unlike today'



Observer-Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year 2021 will get greater attention with the commencement of the postponed inter-school matches from early next month.

encounters as this year the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association (SLSCA) will confine its matches to a championship decided by one-day matches only.

A team will play up to a maximum eight tournament matches including five in the qualifying round league. The final round matches will be from the quarter final knockout

Cricketers of the Year had a humble start in 1979. Even in the previous 1978, there had been a similar event in Galle. In both 1978 and 1979, the present Chief ICC Match Referee Ranjan Madugalle emerged as the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year.

da won the Observer School Cricketer of the Year for the second time in 1982, another champion cricketer from the adjoining Nalanda created history, winning the back to back Observer School Cricketers of the Year titles in 1983 and 1984.

Nalanda captain Roshan Mahanama who was well popular even from his schoolboy days.

Mahanama was a born star who marked his presence from school level to international world as a for-

Match Referee. Having first made his mark at Na-



**Roshan Mahanama** 

men.

as one of the stylish top order bats-

et, Mahanama believes that there

should be a balance in the number

of matches a school team has to play

during a season if the quality of the

In a recent interview on school

However, it should not be done at

Looking back at school crick-

But only a few two-day matches will be played as non-tournament

stage.

The Observer-Mobitel School

After Arjuna Ranatunga of Anan-

He is none other than former

game is to be maintained. cricket, he agreed that more oppormer Sri Lanka captain and ex-ICC tunities should be given to outstation

teams. the expense of quality. landa, he is a classic example to all







Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year titles in 1980 and 1982, it was Mahanama who became the first schoolboy to win the prestigious title in successive years in 1983 and 1984.

The Connection

He first won the 'Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year' title in 1983 with a rich harvest of runs with the willow.

He continued to let his willow to do the talking in the following year too and his superb form won him the title for the second successive year in 1984.

Besides Ranatunga and Mahanama, the others to win the title twice were Thilan Samaraweera (1994 and 1995), Lahiru Peiris (2004 and 2005), Bhanuka Rajapakse (2010 and 2011) and Charith Asalanka (2015 and 2016).

It was his late father Upali Mahanama who had been a tower of strength behind the celebrated cricketer's success story.

"My late father was a great source of encouragement. He stressed the importance of adding values and discipline to our lives. Then I was lucky to come under the watchful eyes of Lionel Sir (Lionel Mendis)".

"He set us targets as young players and groomed us well. Most importantly, we were taught to respect the game, its culture and to follow team ethics. Even the coaches and masters in charge during our time conducted themselves in an exemplary manner to earn respect. We also had the highest respect and regard for umpires," said Mahanama, recalling the early part of his distinguished career.

He said the deteriorating standards in school cricket has prevented youngsters from directly marching into the national team like in the past.

"In the past, there were players such as Ranjan Madugalle who earned their places in the national team directly from school level and even made it to the World Cup. Unfortunately, we do not often find consistent players in school cricket, ready to face that challenge," he said. Mahanama is of the view that his crowning glory as the 'Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year' in 1983 and 1984 was a major milestone in his career. "To be adjudged the best schoolboy cricketer and be honored for the hard work during the season was a great encouragement. I was privileged to achieve it as one of my dreams," he said. Mahanama, who turns 55 on May 31, represented Sri Lanka in 52 Tests with an aggregate of 2576 runs with four centuries and 11 fifties.

stronger

"I must say that it's a pleasure for me to see my old colleagues here. I have watched Sri Lanka since I came here first time straight out of University in 1975. I always thought Sri Lankan teams had great talent especially batting talent, but then they did not have the self-belief that they could win". And then he recalled "it was exactly the same with us when as an 18 year old first played for my country against England, I remember my senior players telling me "look do not think we can beat the English we've just come here to learn"! My own players were saying do not think we can beat the English. As it happened in the series which we should have won but the English snatched defeat from the jaws of victory because we didn't have self-belief. So I remember in 1975 Sri Lanka faced the same problem. But gradually I saw the team develop self-belief and I must say I commend you Arjuna , because you were the one who actually instilled that great determination and self-belief. And we were very pleased to watch you win the World Cup.

The improvement process never stops. So when I came into politics it was just like my first Test match. My party never got one seat. We were wiped out and you know everyone wrote my obituary in politics saying that this is the last you will ever see of him and I became the butt end of all jokes in the political circles. For almost 14 years people laughed at me as they thought that this guy will never ever make it . But I took the untrodden path. I started alone with no political background. It's the lessons I learned in cricket that helped in politics. The key lesson is that you only lose when you give up. As long as you don't give up you don't lose. You lose when you give up.

Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa who has his ears to the ground when it comes to sport in the country earned encomiums all round when he invited former illustrious cricketers to form a Technical Advisory Committee to the Ministry of Sport which will also function as a Cricket Committee at Sri Lanka Cricket.

Aravinda de Silva was the first Sri Lankan to score a century when the country won the World Cup tournament in Lahore, Pakistan by beating Australia in the final and he will have his team members Roshan Mahanama and Muttiah Muralidaran while Kumar Sangakkara also joins him.

The foursome and their deeds are all known by the cricketing public and are in the record books and needs no reiteration. During their glory days they were colossus' who took the field and were better than the best known during that era when Sri Lanka Cricket was better than the best known.

This Technical Advisory Committee will advise the Sports Minister, Ministry officials and the National Sports Council which has the incomparable Mahela Jayawardena as Chairman on matters that are all cricket.

The committee has also been asked to work closely with SLC 'in order to uplift the standard of cricket both domestically and internationally thereby ensuring and inculcating sustainable high standards of cricket in Sri Lanka'.

While this move by the Sports Minister will be appreciated by all, it will be interesting to watch how this foursome will put their cricketing brains together and lift the game Phoenix-like from the Ashes that it is in now. erodrigopulle@gmail.com



## **ROSHAN MAHANAMA OBSERVER SCHOOLBOY CRICKETER OF THE YEAR 1983 & 1984**

Roshan Mahanama, representing Nalanda, emerged the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year twice in 1983 and 1984.

The former Nalanda captain is the first schoolboy to win this prestigious award in successive years although Arjuna Ranatunga won it in 1980 and 1982.



He was also a 1996 World Cup winning team and later captained Sri Lanka ODI team. Roshan Siriwardene Mahanama,who turns 55 years on May 31, represented Sri Lanka in 52 Tests with an aggregate of 2.576 runs with four centuries and 11 fifties.

His career-best innings of 225was registered against India in 1997 while sharing a record partnership of 576 runs with Sanath Jayasuriya (340) at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo that helped Sri Lanka

## **ROSHAN MAHANAMA STATS**

record the highest team total in a Test.

BATTING STATS (LEFT-HANDED BATSMAN)							
Format	М	Inn	Runs	HS	Avg	100s	50s
Test [1989–99]	52	89	2576	225	29.27	4	11
ODI [1989-99]	213	198	5162	119*	29.49	4	35

BOWLING STATS (RIGHT-ARM MEDIUM BOWLER)						
Format	М	Inn	Runs	W	BB	Econ
Test [1989–99]	52	2	36	30	0	5.00
ODI [1989-99]	213	2	2	7	0	21.00

📕 He made a half century in his last Test for Sri Lanka – against South Africa at Centurion Park in 1998.

> Mahanama played in 213 One DayInternationals for Sri Lanka to enjoy an aggregate of 5.162 runs with four centuries and 35 half centuries.

> > After retirement from international cricket, he served as an ICC Match Referee. During his 61-Test career as an ICC official, he also became the first man to have stood as a match referee in a day-night Test.

ment to be adjudged the best schoolboy cricketer and be honored for the hard work during the season.

He said it was a great encourage-

Roshan Mahanama, as Nalanda

captain, won back to back Ob-

server Schoolboy Cricketer of

He said that the country's first

Premier school cricket award - Ob-

server Schoolboy Cricketer of the

Year, has always motivated school-

boy cricketers as they look forward

to being rewarded and recognized at

us as emerging cricketers. It is al-

ways a great feeling when you know

that your achievements are being

"Events of this nature motivated

the end of each season.

recognized," he said.

the Year titles in 1983 and 1984

"It was one of my dreams and I was privileged to receive this wonderful award at the end of my school career," Mahanama recalled.

"Winning the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year in successive years was a memorable occasion. It was a great feeling to win that and step into club cricket and thereafter to the national team. When I was crowned the best Schoolboy Cricketer, it gave me even more determination to work harder at top level," he added.

"Unlike today, we had packed houses to witness the inter-school matches. I had watched some of the former Nalanda cricketers such as Bandula Warnapura in action. It was a passion and the school authorities too encouraged the boys to watch matches."

Mahanama said there are no shortcuts to success and one must go through the hard process. "Young schoolboy cricketers must have a genuine willingness and desire to work towards their targets with dedication. They must remember that there are no shortcuts for success", said Mahanama who was also an exceptionally clever fielder during his days.

"During our era, we did not get many opportunities to play international matches at school level. I had played for Nalanda for five First X1 Seasons, but got only two overseas tours.

"In contrast, the present day players had more and more opportunities until 2019. Players must make full use of these tours," he said.

Mahanama urged schoolboys to work hard to achieve their targets in a disciplined manner, maintaining the high traditions of the game - instead of being 'remote-controlled'.

The stylish top order bat, recalling his days as a schoolboy cricketer at Nalanda, said that it was a great feeling to have their names on the team's fixture card.

Mahanama said even their old boys made it a point to skip all other engagements to watch their school team in action, adding it was a great honour to see their names in the fixture card - first as a player, then as a coloursman and later as vice-captain or captain.

Although former Ananda captain Arjuna Ranatunga won the Observer

His career-best double century (225) was registered against India in 1997.

In the same match Sri Lanka posted the highest Test innings total as Mahanama shared a record partnership of 576 runs with Sanath Jayasuriya (340) at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo.

In a creditable move in his last Test for Sri Lanka - against South Africa at Centurion Park in 1998, he scored a half century.

Mahanama played in 213 One Day Internationals for Sri Lanka to enjoy an aggregate of 5,162 runs with four centuries and 35 half centuries.

Meanwhile, Chairman of Sri Lanka Telecom and SLT Mobitel, Rohan Fernando has given every possible assistance to the Mega Show which will march forward with more power and strength.

SLT Mobitel 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 Fernando, the former Thomian ace rower.

The management of Lake House has strongly backed the Mega Show. Its current Chairman, W. Dayaratne and the team of Board of Directors – Dharma Sri 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-Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year forward.

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PAGE DEALING WITH LIARS **26** IN THE WORKPLACE





**27** CHALLENGE



PAGE TEACHING AND **29** TRAINING SALES STAFF



**29** SHARES TO BUY



## SLS 1531:2016 "GUIDELINES FOR HAIR AND BEAUTY INDUSTRY"

The guidelines in this Standard are applicable to hair and beauty care entities performing activities/ treatments related to beautification and management of its system to ensure health and safety of the customers in these pandemic times.

## **BIZ SNIPPETS**

## Sethsiripaya Stage III: **Construction work commences**

Sethsiripaya Stage III, the third phase of the Government's administration hub in Battaramulla, is a 25-storey modern office building with a floor area of over 1.3 million square feet – making it the largest public sector building and the largest office complex in the country.

The new complex will bring ministries, public corporations, departments, and government offices that were scattered around the city to a centralised location, which will reduce traffic congestion, streamline access to services for the public, and provide much-needed office space for government and semigovernment institutions.



## **SWAP DEAL WITH CHINA TO BE FINALISED SOON** - CABRAAL

## Debt repayment will be through non-debt foreign inflows

Sri Lanka plans to repay Interna-tional Sovereign Bonds (ISB) amounting to around USD 14 billion or 17 percent of the debt repayment through non-debt foreign inflows such as exports and not through access to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for funding, State Minister of Finance AjithNivardCabraal told the media during a briefing on the current status of debt repayment.

Allaying fears and countering claims that the country is in a major debt crisis, Cabraal said the country has already repaid USD 1 billion of the USD 15 ISBs and is in a comfortable position to repay the remaining debts without having recourse to foreign borrowings. "Sri Lanka has never

defaulted even one cent for the past 70 years and would never in the future," Cabraal said, adding that recourse to borrowing will only aggravate the country's debt burden and would plunge the country further into the economic abyss.

He said as of now the total ISBs outstanding is USD 14 billion, which is only 16.7 percent of Sri Lanka's total debt. None of the other creditors who hold 83.3 percent of Sri Lanka's debt seem to show any sign of concern or stress about its repayment ability.

He said a task force has been set up by Basil Rajapaksa to help boost foreign inflows with the help of the Central Bank. "Non-debt inflows will help restore economic stability. Cur-



tailing imports on non-essential goods helped the country in the repayment of debts," the Minister said, adding that there would be forex inflows of around USD 32 billion this year and about USD 2-3 billion more each year thereafter.

"We are working on the USD 1.5 billion swap arrangement with China and hopefully complete it within a couple of weeks," Cabraal said.

"We have to re-pay only around USD 1.0 to 1.5 billion each year until 2029 in its ISB amortisations for the next eight years," Cabraal said.

However, rating agencies downgraded the country's sovereign rat-ings reflecting the low debt repayment ability.

The Opposition has been harping on the need for the country to seek IMF assistance to get over the foreign reserves shortage adding that in this background, will the authorities default on a payment of around USD 1.0 to 1.5 billion per annum and risk its entire economy and impeccable credit history. Central Bank Governor Prof. W.D Lakshman said Sri Lanka will be a debt-free... TO PAGE 28

## Weak currency, rise in oil prices to burden economy - Analysts

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The economy could face severe pressure as global commodity prices including oil are again on an upward trajectory following the gradual recovery of economic activities across the globe.

Sri Lanka Standards

Institution

Oil prices jumped by over \$1 early last week reaching the mid USD 60 levels per barrel. Crude oil in the OPEC Basket touched USD 62 while Brent moved up to USD 66.

According to global reports this was due to slow US output after a deep freeze in Texas shut crude production last week.

The weak currency will increase the oil import bills as the Rupee continues to hover in the mid 190 levels.

Brent crude was up \$1.06, or 1.6%, at \$65.30 a barrel by 0204 GMT, after earlier hitting a high of \$66.38. US crude rose 81 cents, or 1.4%, to \$62.51 a barrel, after... TO PAGE 28

Lanka Sugar Company posts Rs 1,200 m net profit in 2020

## SLT among '10 Most Admired Companies'

Sri Lanka Telecom PLC (SLT) has been recognised as one of the '10 Most Admired Companies in 2020' in Sri Lanka, for its continuous efforts in empowering Sri Lankans. The title was presented to SLT at the awards ceremony held recently, for being a role model to other organisations and entrepreneurs through the remarkable financial achievements and the valuable contribution to society.

The Most Admired Company Awards is an annual event hosted by the International Chamber of Commerce Sri Lanka (ICCSL) and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), Group CEO of SLT.



## SDB bank opts for paperless processes

SDB bank has introduced paperless processes. This follows the bank's implementation of a lean, e- signature system for customer loan agreements last year.

SDB bank's paperless customer onboarding effort will replace its current customer onboarding process which is fully paper-based.

The use of digital technology in this key process across the bank's 94 branches islandwide promises a host of benefits to their personal customer base, proudly covering people belonging to all walks of life with small-scale entrepreneurial and personal finance needs.





Sugar production has been revived enabling the country to stem the drain of foreign exchange spent on imports each year. The increased extent of cultivation and new technology has helped boost production. Here farmers harvest sugarcane in a plantation belonging to Lanka Sugar Company. Insert: The Sevanagala sugar factory.

### Weekly Performance of Indices 7.597.51 7,600 3,100 3,029.79 7.500 3.000 2,966.63 7.476.34 š **ASPI** 2.898.43 2,899.00 7,400 2.900 7,371.86 7.329.21 2,800 7,300 22-Feb-21 23-Feb-21 24-Feb-21 25-Feb-21 -ASPI S&P SL20

**Courtesy: The Colombo Stock Exchange** 

ΕX	СНА	N G	E R	A T E	S
Feb 22 - Feb 26	US Dollar	Euro	Japanese yen	Pound sterling	Chinese Yuan
Monday	197.53	239.82	1.8750	277.36	30.783
Tuesday	195.93	238.78	1.8678	276.03	30.556
Wednesday	196.40	239.03	1.8628	278.36	30.598
Thursday	196.62	239.63	1.8579	272.41	30.689
Friday	-	-	-	-	-

## No issue whatsover in repaying debt Forex inflows to be around \$ 32 b this year - Cabraal

The economy will generate Forex Inflows of around USD 32 billion this year and possibly about USD 2-3 billion more than that amount, each year thereafter, said State Minister of Finance Ajith Nivard Cabraal.

He said as of now (February 2021), the total ISBs outstanding is USD 14 billion, which is only 16.7 percent of Sri Lanka's total debt. None of the other creditors who hold 83.3 percent of Sri Lanka's debt seem to show any sign of concern or stress

## German Supply Chain Law

about its repayment ability. "We have to re-pay only around USD 1.0 to 1.5 billion each year until 2029 in its ISB amortisations for the next eight

### years," Cabraal said, adding that in this background, will the authorities default on a payment of around USD 1.0 to 1.5 billion per annum and risk its entire economy and impeccable credit history.

Meanwhile Central Bank Governor Prof. W.D. Lakshman at a media briefing last week said the country has maintained an unblemished record in debt repayment and it will continue to maintain this status contrary to the ... TO PAGE 28

## Supplier respect for business and human rights, key for sourcing

Sri Lankan exporters could face a tough path ahead as Germany plans to introduce a new law where itsimporters will be under obligation to continuously verify that their suppliers respect United Nation Guiding Principles (UNGP) of business and human rights.

Violations would be sanctioned with penalties up to 10% of the importer's annual turnover and exclusion from public tenders up to three years. A joint inter-ministerial draft law is to be presented mid next month to the German parliament. The Supply Chain Law will make

Germanycompanies legally responsible for human rights and environmental issues throughout their global supply chains. The move was immediately welcomed by the European Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights which said the proposed new law was urgently ... TO PAGE 28

Sets up crop and farmer insurance schemes

Lanka Sugar Company which operates the Pelwatte and Sevanagala sugar factories recorded Rs.1,200 million net profit last year from net loss



Janaka Nimalachandra

Rs.1,310 million in the previous year which is the highest profit earned by the company for the last 35 years, Lanka Sugar Company Chairman Janaka Nimalachandra told the Sunday Observer Business.

He said the growth in earnings was a major achievement for the company which had been loss-making in the past. "It was the visionary leadership of the new management, commitment of the staff and the team spirit that led... TO PAGE 28

## Dealing with liars in the workplace



## **BIZ TALK** with **Kishu Gomes**

With the cut throat competition compounded by Covid-19 and the economic downturn and its consequences, survival has become even harder forcing people to resort to unsustainable – unethical acts.

People lie when they don't have solutions. Your leaders and employees lie too, and it's costing businesses an enormous amount of money. Most of your stakeholders lie too as a natural tendency and a survival tactic.

What can you do to protect your business by putting in place measures to ensure that employees do not have to lie and if and when they lie they are exposed? Lets focus on employees this time.

Employees lie for many reasons; to cover up for their poor performance or lapses, to mask behavioural misalignment, to overcome internal competition and for petty advantages such as winning the boss over.

There's a pretty good probability that you have someone on your staff who will try to use lying and deception to demonstrate that his or her performance is superlative.

These people are often masters at manipulation, as most likely they may have been honing their skills since childhood. You need to make sure you are looking at actual performance and not what is coming out of someone's mouth in terms of claims. Sometimes bad things happen in business. Mistakes happen. They've hap-

pened in all businesses in the past and will happen in all businesses in the future. What you want, though, is to know when mistakes happen, so that you can fix them.

When you punish people for mistakes or for informing you about these mistakes, their inclination is to lie about things and hide them from you. Sometimes this works out and they are able to fix whatever happened on their own, but sometimes the problem gets worse.

Little white lies keep things calm and pleasant, but do too many of them and people stop believing you. When they stop believing you, they'll stop seeing the reason to be honest with you. You'll lose their trust and your own ability to sort out the truth.

### **Body language**

edge on how to spot a liar; however, the old adage that a little knowledge can be a dangerous thing is certainly applicable here. While it's fun and useful to know the warning signs, it's also important to realize that it's easy to make mistakes.

The science of 'lie spotting' is a good weapon for trained law enforcement personnel and psychologists, but it can be a dangerous tool in the hands of amateurs. Lie spotting comes with experience, instinct and power of observation.

inherent behaviour of each individual in different situations for a reasonable period of time will help acquire

It's useful to have some knowl-

Watching and understanding the

and build this skill to be accurate at most times. Developing the ability to read and interpret the body language of people is a talent most good leaders need.

As a leader you need to be fair and a good listener and provide space for flexibility and have more patience. Not doing so will attract its own negative repercussions.

Create a culture of honesty Fairness in the workplace is the top prerequisite for creating a good place to work. In addition you need honesty, respect, fair wages, appreciation, recognition for work well done, clear job descriptions and lack of favoritism, to name a few.

In short, if you create a culture of caring, your employees are more likely to respond truthfully, and in kind. While managers and business owners sometimes need to push people to give their best for the success of the

business, research shows that people resort to lying when they're stretched beyond the limit.

Setting unrealistic goals and impossibly high standards, continuously demanding faster and better results, setting constant deadlines and expecting unreasonable work hours can overwhelm people and force them to lie about their work in order to avoid problems and protect their jobs.

You need to make sure you are looking at actual performance and not what is coming out of someone's mouth in terms of claims. Sometimes bad things happen in business

If this is your style of leadership, know the perils that come with it. But the commitment to the job and loyalty to the organization are the least expectations from a performer and there is no excuse for non-delivery of performance at the agreed level. Some employees lie as a habit and we all have experience with such individuals.

Remember that, as a leader, you are always in a glass house. People get their cues from you. Guard against espousing values that you don't honour, every day, in every action. For example, don't say, "Customers come first," then treat customers poorly when you're having a bad day. Everything counts when you are a leader.

Honesty is often not given the credit it deserves among employees. An honest employee's credibility and integrity speaks for itself, allowing that person increased opportunities, and greater flexibility within the business, since the honest employee has proven his or herself.

Even if it seems as though lying will make life easier - especially in a situation where punishment could be a risk, or where a customer is upset it will more frequently only make things more complicated. If you an employee remove lying from your system completely from your list of dependencies and be determined to depend on your ability to deliver if you are serious about accelerated career progress.

## DFCC Bank among top 20 employers of CIMA members

DFCC Bank partnered for the third consecutive year with CIMA Sri Lanka as a Gold corporate partner this year too.

The Bank was also recognised again as one of the top 20 employers of CIMA members in Sri Lanka, ranking fourth. In keeping with the new normal, the award ceremony was held through a virtual platform this year, uniting CIMA Sri Lanka members despite the Covid-19 pandemic. CEO DFCC Bank Lakshman Silva said, "DFCC Bank is proud to have been once again recognized as a Top Employer for CIMA qualification holders. DFCC Bank has had a long and fruitful association with CIMA Sri Lanka and we believe the qualification is critically aligned to the real and emerging needs of the marketplace. These awards are a testament of our commitment towards offering the best services to our valued customers. We look forward to strengthening our bonds with CIMA Sri Lanka and will continue to recognise and recruit



## SLT-Mobitel launches SD-WAN services for enterprise customers

SLT-Mobitel, a leader in MPLS services for enterprise and government customers, in collaboration with Cisco and Millennium I.T. E.S.P. (Pvt) Ltd (MillenniumIT ESP), has launched its new managed SD-WAN services to accelerate digitisation of enterprise and government customers in Sri Lan-

Sri Lanka Telecom (SLT) will offer

ka.



From left: Senior Vice President Human Resources, DFCC Bank, Sonali Jayasinghe, Director and CEO, DFCC Bank, Lakshman Silva and Vice President Marketing and Sustainability DFCC Bank Nilmini Gunaratne, with the memento.

CIMA qualified candidates to our talent pool." The Bank provides CIMAqualified staff with the opportunity to obtain full or partial reimbursement of their annual membership fee. In addition, staff following CIMA and other professional educational cours-

es, degree programmes, MBAs and so on, have the option of obtaining full or partial financial assistance from DFCC Bank.

A memento was presented to Director and CEO DFCC Bank, Lakshman Silva by CIMA representatives.

## Multilac Care and SLINTEC unveil antibacterial spray to fight Coronavirus

Multilac Care and the Sri Lanka come of our collaboration and it has Institute of Nanotechnology (SLIN-TEC) launched an antiviral and antibacterial spray recently.

Surfaces sprayed with Novid antiviral and antibacterial spray have been tested to reveal that the coating can kill 99% of harmful microbes including the Coronavirus. It has been tested and certified by the Virology Research Services Labs in London, UK, a company spokesman said.

Director and CEO of Multilac Care, Mizha Mizver Ismail said, "We have been working with SLINTEC to develop an effective solution in proactively fighting the Coronavirus. Novid antiviral and antibacterial spray is the outproved to be highly effective against the Coronavirus with the anti-viral technology used in its manufacturing process." SLINTEC Chief of Research and Innovation, Dr. Azeez Mubarak said, "Innovation has always been a kev factor in economic growth of successful nations. But to translate research results to economic returns, active collaboration between R&D institutes and industry is a must. And Novid, the result of a fruitful partnership between SLINTEC and Multilac care is a prime example in this regard."

To get the maximum benefit from the spray and for easy application, users need to ensure that the surface is



COO of SLINTEC, Heminda Jayaweera (on left) with Director and CEO of Multilac Care, Mizha **Mizver Ismail.** 

clean and dry, and shake well before spraying. Users are also advised to follow health guidelines as the Novid spray alone will not assure 100% protection from Covid-19.

## DIMO wins four awards

Great Place to Work awards ceremony

DIMO was recognised as one of the Great Places To Work (GPTW) in Sri Lanka, for the eighth consecutive year at the GPTW awards ceremony held at the Hilton Colombo recently.

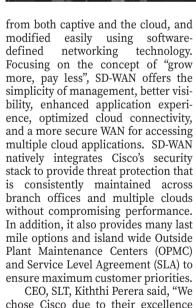
Similar to previous years, DIMO won four awards including the "Best Workplaces in Sri Lanka 2020" and "Excellence in People Initiatives -Inspiring" awards, together with Gold Awards for "Best PLC to work for in Sri Lanka 2020" and "Best Workplace in Extra Large Enterprise Category in Sri Lanka 2020". Chairman and Managing Director of DIMO, Ranjith Pandithage said, "While igniting and driving a highperforming workplace culture, The leadership team and I have had bright eyes towards addressing every aspect of our people's lives. "We have always fuelled our people to give their best, and we have also ensured that the organisation gives back the best for them through exponential growth and exposure, both personally and professionally.

We have practiced this in order to stay true to our EVP: Making Work Enjoyable & Rewarding and to truly differentiate DIMO's Employer Brand. "Therefore, to be continuously recognised for eight years in a row for our conscious efforts is certainly an affirmation to the success of the DIMO Tribe and the guidance we have given them over the years. With every crown we keep collecting year on year, DIMO's way of life just keeps getting better and remains a cut above the rest," he said.

Cisco SD-WAN's full functionality including intelligent dynamic routing, optimised cloud connectivity, and visibility into applications and performance to its enterprise customers in Sri Lanka

This collaboration brings together Cisco's intent-based networking solutions, SLT's connectivity solutions and MillenniumIT ESP's systems integration capabilities to quickly develop and deploy multiple managed services efficiently and cost-effectively across Sri Lanka. SLT will handle the deployment and operation of enterprise WAN Service combined with its underlay connectivity options with MPLS and Internet connectivity, enabling them to offer its enterprise customers a host of differentiated services in a seamless, reliable and secure manner.

As Sri Lankan businesses embrace digital transformation, many are looking at managed service providers to simplify running their IT operations, specifically around provisioning, managing and troubleshooting services. Recognizing the need and the general transition of applications to the cloud, SLT collaborated with Cisco and MillenniumIT ESP to offer SD-WAN. With this innovative leap forward, company's business customers can have their managed services turned up quickly, managed securely

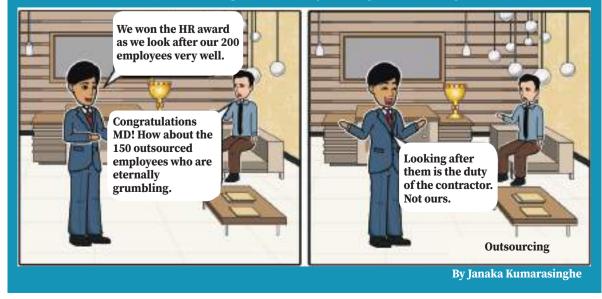


chose Cisco due to their excellence and leadership in the routing arena for more than 30 years. SD-WAN capable routers include Cisco IOS SD XE that run on the ISR series routers. Cisco's networking solutions, along with SLT's connectivity options, makes SD-WAN the most comprehensive solution. "With the true separation of the SD-

WAN Layers of Control, Management, Orchestration, and Transport, Cisco and SLT will deliver the best user experience, securely across any cloud, as a fully managed service. SLT also plans to expand the SD WAN to global customers in near future," he said. Director and CEO, MillenniumIT ESP, Shevan Goonetilleke said, "MillenniumIT ESP is proud to partner SLT to provide customers with simple and cost effective Cisco SD-WAN capabilities that would enable enterprises to realise their digital vision faster. This is a significant milestone for SLT which will enable the company to provide competitive and bleeding-edge communication solutions to its customers." Managing Director, Commercial Sales, Cisco India and SAARC, Sudhir Nayar said, "As Sri Lankan businesses move their workloads to multiple clouds, they require fast, highly secure access to applications hosted anywhere. Together, we can help Sri Lanka Telecom offer new managed SD-WAN services to Sri Lankan businesses. It can continue to expand highquality network services for the Sri Lankan market."



Outsourcing converts organisational fixed cost to a variable cost which helps overcome income fluctuations. However, outsourced staff in the same premises feel they are being discriminated against.



## The change challenge: The thrill of steering "skill and will"





### PIM Alumni

Streeting the change without turning back could be a timely need. It requires skill and will at all levels. This was the opportune theme of the annual conference of the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) held recently. It was indeed delightful to get involved in it as a session chair, with Dr. Ravi Edirisinghe as the speaker and three eminent panelists, viz. Ms. Kasturi Wilson, Mahendra Jayasekera and Dr. Prasad Samarasinghe. Today's column is a set of random reflections on it.

### **Overview**

Dr. Ravi Edirisinghe made a very comprehensive presentation on the tion resources would be to deliver need to steer the skill and will in a broadband content using cables and transitional VUCA world. He impact-

species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the ones who are most responsive to change". Whether you are distinct or extinct will depend on how you respond to change. It can be a case of being a victor or a victim. Such a scene is far more relevant to us than any other time because of Covid-19 pandemic.

It was Kurt Lewin, a change management expert who discussed way back in 1951, a three-step concept to the change management process. As he puts it briefly and brilliantly, such a process is structured around three interrelated activities:

 Unfreezing the existing organizational structures, systems, and procedures

• Implementing changes to create the desired organizational outcomes

### • Refreezing the organization.

Lewin also uses an interesting metaphor to describe the process of change. He suggested that that changing an organization is like navigating a large ship across calm waters. The captain makes the occasional adjustment to the ship's course, there is furious but coordinated activity while the ship reorients it, and then the whole ship moves off calmly in a new direction.

What Kurt Lewin stated some time ago is of direct relevance to what Prof. Nicholas Negroponte stated in his much famous best-seller, "being digital", that got translated into over forty languages.

## The Negroponte Switch

Dr. Ravi Edirisinghe referred to the Negroponte Switch in his speech, sharing its significance in the current set of events. It is attributed to the thought sharing of Prof. Negroponte and the term was coined by his colleague George Glider in 1989. Based on interaction with Nicholas Negroponte he asserted, "what goes over the air (broadcast TV and radio) will go via wire and what goes via wire (telephony) will go over the air."

Negroponte argued that the reverse situation should prevail. A better use of available communicanarrowband content using airwaves.



Session chair, Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri makes a point at the second technical session of the AAT conference. Dr. Ravi Edirisinghe, the speaker (extreme right), and the panelists, Ms. Kasturi Wilson, Mahendra Jayasekara (extreme left) and Dr. Prasad Samarasinghe look on.

difficult to believe but if works, will be the most prominent Negroponte switch in our times with a clear shift of education from its traditional forms. It in fact reminds me of the movie "Matrix" where Neo, a key character "learns kung fu" by interfacing his brain with a computer.

### Switching from skill to will

Referring to the popular matrix of Skill vs. Will by Hershey and Blanchard, Dr. Edirisinghe suggested that it is far more impactful to focus on small teams with higher will power. It rhymes well with the modern-day HR approach of hiring for attitude and training for aptitude. Empowering for action with the delegation of tasks with authority is a need of the hour. The sheer determination of such teams will go a long way in acquiring the necessary skills for achieving stretched targets. Google has proven that it is possible on a global scale.

Contributing to the panel discussion, Ms. Kasturi Wilson mentioned tribution was appreciated. It again emphasized the "will" factor in action, amidst obstacles in turning them into opportunities.

Dr. Prasad Samarasinghe, heading a communication provider, illustrated the virtues of digitalization with examples of change from analog to digital in local scenario. He emphasized the fact that the solutions provided by emerging technologies should be meaningfully explored for the betterment of humanity.

In fact, all three panelists were in harmony with regards to the need of steering change for the better with no turning back. It requires more leadership actions, where developing new business models as true leaders is more needed than running same businesses as traditional managers.

### **Steering change**

John Kotter, an authority on leadership and change claims that 70 percent of the major change initiatives in organizations fail. Based on his findings, he has identified an eight-stage

Dr. Edirisinghe suggested that it is far more impactful to focus on small teams with higher will power. It rhymes well with the modern-day HR approach of hiring for attitude and training for aptitude

fully established in Sri Lanka is a case in point. No one person, no matter how competent, is capable of single handedly doing the vital things. Sri Lankan managers also face with the dilemma of selecting the right people in driving change. Sometimes such guiding coalitions have acted as true catalysts in ensuring change whilst others have ended up being catastrophic. We have many examples for both above cases.

Step 3: Developing a Change Vision: A clear vision serves three important purposes, says Kotter. First, it simplifies hundreds or thousands of more detailed decisions. Second, it motivates people to act in the right direction even if the first steps are painful. Third, it helps to coordinate the actions of different people in a remarkably fast and efficient way. Regarding Sri Lankan scenario, we can see a growing awareness of the need to have a vision. However, forming a vision is just one step. Sharing of it and getting the required support for it from all concerned is the thing that needs major improvements.

ency are rampant. Both create stalled transformations. Sri Lankan managers are no better. We see major communication gaps in the areas of getting the buy-in for change initiatives. Every human being is interested in knowing how a new initiative can impact him or her.

Step 5: Empowering people and removing barriers: Kotter said that empowering employees involves addressing four major obstacles: structures, skills, systems, and supervisors. Structural barriers are often the internal structures of companies work as cross-purposes to the change vision. Another barrier to effective change can be troublesome supervisors. They may not actively undermine the effort, but they are simply not "wired" to go along with what the change needs. Sri Lanka has got them in abundance.

Step 6: Generating short-term wins: According to Kotter, for leaders in the middle of a long-term change effort, short-term wins are essential. Running a change effort without attention to short-term performance is extremely risky. As we have seen in Sri Lanka, short-term wins also tend to undermine cynics and self-serving resistors.

Those critics who opposed military playing a role in tackling Covid-19 pandemic in Sri Lanka are silent now. Clear improvements in performance make it difficult for people to block the needed change.

Step 7: Never Letting Up: Emphasis here is to use increased credibility to change systems, structures and policies that do not fit the vision. It also included hiring, promoting, and developing employees who can implement the vision. In Sri Lanka we are mostly starters and not finishers.

The relatively higher number of foundation stones compared to the completion plaques is one such evidence.

Step 8: Incorporating Changes into the culture: Culture is how people collectively behave with shared norms and values. Gert Hofstede, the veteran Dutch anthropologist calls it "collective mental programming". This also is a significant area for improvement for Sri Lankan manag-

fully narrated the change from a NICE to VUCA. According to him, "today, markets are no longer NICE. In fact, they have transformed to VUCA ++ hence challenging the traditional business decision making models". Here NICE refers to Non-Inflationary Consistently Expansionary. VUCA as we are aware is all about Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity. In fact, I reminded about the VUCA 2.0 as the needed response in being Visionary, Understanding, Confident and Agile.

Whether we like it or not, change has become a necessity in an increasingly competitive world. As Charles Darwin said, "It is not the strongest That came to be known as the "Negroponte Switch".

Is it relevant today? Dr. Ravi Edirisinghe dealt with this question with many examples. Newspapers to online news channels, automatic geared cars vs. self- driven cars, physical banking vs. online banking and motorcycles vs. scooters (especially in Sri Lanka).

It was interesting to see the rapid decline in the number of travel agents in the United States as opposed to the rising of the revenue of online hotel booking.

"In a decade, you will learn French by taking a pill", the visionary words of Prof. Negroponte might sound too

how her employees were empowered towards taking decision at operational levels during the peak of the first wave of COVID19 in Sri Lanka. The will mattered here with the trusting of people in achieving the expected results. The need to ensure continuous communication in building confidence and commitment was also emphasized.

Mr. Mahendra Jayasekera, sharing his thought from a manufacturing perspective, emphasized the need to have the right attitude towards productivity. As opposed to the mindset of seeking a pensionable job with less work, how his team is "walking the extra mile" in giving their fullest conprocess for achieving successful change in an organization. It is worthwhile to look into Kotter's eight-stage process and to see its relevance to Sri Lankan managers facing daunting challenges with Covid-19.

Step 1: Establishing a Sense of Urgency: According to Kotter, establishing a sense of urgency is necessary to gaining the cooperation needed to drive a significant change effort. We saw this worldwide with the wave of wearing face masks amidst COV-ID19. Sri Lankan managers, the way I see, have somewhat been successful in establishing a sense of urgency.

Step 2: Creating the Guiding Coalition: The Covid-19 task force success-

Step 4: Communicating the Vision for Buy-in: Gaining an understanding and commitment to a new direction is never an easy task, especially in complex organizations. As Kotter observe, under-communication and inconsisters. I have personally witnessed many instances how a massive change initiative dies down in the face of a leadership change.

### Way forward

The thought sharing by the speaker and the panelists of our secession in the AAT conference had a clear congruence. It is the need to change for better and the acute need to drive change as sensible business leaders. Both in the private and public sectors, change has simply become a necessity and a definite reality amidst Covid-19 pandemic. At a time where the vaccination has begun, the way we change for better in a new normal is yet to be seen.

## CSE: ASPI records double-digit YTD returns for 25 consecutive market days

The All Share Price Index (ASPI), the primary index of the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) tracking the price movements of all shares listed on the exchange has remained in double digit year-to-date (YTD) returns territory for 25 consecutive market days, over five weeks since January 15.

YTD return indicates the quantity of profit (or loss) realized by an investment since the first trading day of a calendar year. YTD calculations are

frequently used by investors to measure the performance of a stock market.

At the end of trading on February 22, the ASPI recorded 12.15% YTD returns. The strong performance of the ASPI in 2021 has also frequently placed the ASPI among the best performing primary indices in the world. The S&P SL 20 Index, which includes the 20 largest and most liquid stocks has also indicated double-digit YTD returns over the same period, and at

present indicates YTD returns of 14.85%. The ASPI and S&P SL 20 closed trading today on 7,597.51 and 3,029.79 respectively.

The ASPI recorded its highest YTD growth of 30.08% on 27 January, while the S&P SL 20 Index recorded its highest YTD growth of 33.21% on 29 Janu-

The stock market has attracted a record-breaking level of trading activity and interest during the first two months of 2021. The daily average

turnover figure, which averages the total turnover figure recorded over a particular year over the number of market days, is presently at Rs. 8.3 billion, 6.3 times more than the Rs. 1.3 billion recorded at the same point in 2020 in terms of the number of market davs.

The total turnover of Rs.275 billion recorded so far this year is already higher than the full-year figures recorded in 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

## Western Power launches waste-to-energy power plant

Sri Lanka's first waste-to-energy power plant was launched in Kerawalapitiya by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa recently.

Minister of Power Dullas Alahapperuma, Governor of the Western Province, Marshal of the Air Force (Rtd.) Roshan Goonetileke, Mayor of Colombo Rosy Senanayake and Chairman of Aitken Spence, D.H.S. Jayawardena were also present.

The Western Power Company (Pvt.) Ltd, a subsidiary of Aitken Spence PLC, was selected through a competitive bidding process. Aitken Spence has since spearheaded the implementation of the project with an investment of approximately Rs. 15 billion. Western Power Company (WPC) entered into a Waste Supply Agreement (WSA) with the CMC and a Standardised Power Purchase

Agreement (SPPA) with the Ceylon Electricity Board, for 20 years in 2017. WPC also entered into a contract with a Chinese engineering company to design, build, and transfer a modern waste incineration plant.

Engineering consultancy firm, Ramboll AG, headquartered in Denmark was the owner's engineer. Chairman of Aitken Spence Harry Javawardena said, "As a diversified conglomerate we have always taken a progressive approach to investment. This venture is guided by the principles of sustainability, responsible corporate stewardship, and progress through innovation and development.

It gives me great pleasure to see years of meticulous planning and hard work finally come to fruition. This power plant will give Sri Lankans access to

clean, reliable energy, help with beautification of the city and hopefully set a trend for clean, renewable sources of energy."

The plant will incorporate the latest technology to ensure clean energy and minimal impact on the environment. The residue ash (bottom ash) leftover from the incineration of waste is reused to produce cinder blocks for the construction industry, while the flue gas undergoes special catalytic treatment to remove all harmful particles before being released via a 60m-tall smokestack

These stack emissions will be tested regularly to ensure compliance with the stipulations of the Central Environmental Authority. The company conducted environmental and social impact assessments at multiple stages before

and during the construction of the power plant with the inspections carried out by external, independent parties. The power plant will also be monitored along a stringent social and environmental management system in its operations.

The waste-to-energy power plant will provide 10MW of electricity to the national grid and this falls within the Western Region Megapolis Plan.

The Non-conventional Renewable Energy produced by the project is compatible with the NCRE targets put in place by the Ministry of Power and Energy. The power plant has been aligned with global benchmarks for social, environmental governance, and sustainability during its construction and is set to exceed these standards during operation.

## DFCC and CBSL push towards a cashless future in Galle

DFCC Bank participated in the Central Bank of Sri Lanka's (CBSL) RataPurama QR promotional event in Galle recently.

The decision by DFCC to maintain a presence at this event came after the recent promotional campaign at the Narahenpita Economic Centre with the goal of promoting QR payments under the Central Bank of Sri Lanka's Rata Puraama Quick Response initiative.

DFCC was also able to build increased awareness and use of the DFCC Pay App that enables QR code transactions - numerous vendors and customers were able to gain insight into the convenience of using a QR-based payment method via DFCC Pay App.

The launch of DFCC's Pay App in

January 2019 resulted in the bank becoming among one of 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 Merchant App can be used by all types of merchants in the country from large corporates, SMEs to wayside vendors, while QR Merchants can accept payments even with the use of a basic feature phone as the payment confirmation can be sent as an SMS Alert.



Vice President/Head of Card Centre, DFCC Bank Denver Lewis highlights the use of Lanka QR to simplify a distribution operation as the QR code could be shared with customers and payments obtained upfront.

## **SLT-Mobitel introduces Spotify**

Unlimited music streaming platform

SLT-Mobitel, partnered with Spotify recently, to mark its launch in Sri Lanka. Spotify is a paid premium music streaming app which allows subscribers to listen to music to their heart's content. Both, SLT-Mobitel Post-Paid and Pre-Paid customers will now be able to enjoy Spotify by activating a monthly recurring subscription or one-time subscription plan and access unlimited music streaming and downloading facilities.

The subscription charges will be added to the user's customary billing, where payment will be deducted in real time. Starting from the payment date, the user will be able to access Spotify and download their favourite songs, for the next 30 days. Users who sign up for their first monthly subscription will receive an additional one month, courtesy of Spotify.The one-month subscription plan is not applicable with one-time subscription plans. SLT-Mobitel data rates, depending on the user's respective broadband charges, will apply.

Spotify also has some exciting features that will provide SLT-Mobitel customers with the opportunity to listen to ad-free music, access millions of uninterrupted music under one

platform, play any song they like, anywhere they go, and also be able to enjoy their music offline.

SLT-Mobitel customers can select their preferred premium package under four categories; Individual, Duo, Family, Student. Each category has recurring and non-recurring plans. After one month of free streaming, the package will activate once the offer period terminates. While both, the Individual and Student premiums are limited to one account user, the Duo package offers two accounts and the Family premium is accessible through six accounts.

## Comfort World launches Napper Experience Centre

Following the preliminary launch of Napper, a baby crib mattress, Sri Lanka's premier luxury bedding solutions provider Comfort World (Pvt) Ltd launched a Napper experience centre at the Comfort World flagship store in Ward Place, Colombo 7.

Mrs. Tatyana Rajapaksa, Dr. Duminda Pathirana and Dilantha Malagamuwa, Comfort World Chairman Naushad Mohideen, Group Head of Sales and Marketing Ms. Fahmida Mohamed and senior officials of the organisation were present.

Dr. Duminda Pathirana said, "During sleep is when a baby would grow and a child's health largely depends on how much sleep the child gets and the posture that the child would maintain while asleep. Parents fail to understand the importance of a good mattress and the safety of a child whilst in the crib.

I strongly believe that this introduction which has taken into consideration a child's safety and comfort can only be described as a paradigm change within the crib mattress space."

Comfort World Chairman Naushad Mohideen said,"We have added yet another product to our portfolio and now are able to cater to all age groups.

The Napper products are built with the highest quality material maintaining international standards similar to all our products we offer at Comfort World International."

## Duty-free shops at MRIA

BY RAJITHA JAGODA ARACHCHI

The State Ministry of Aviation and Export Zones Development is to open duty free shops at the Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport (MRIA) at the end of next month, the State Minister D. V. Chanaka said.

The selection of tenders was concluded recently.

Shops selling electronic items, confectionary, liquor and other fast moving goods will be included in the duty free area. A travel counter, wrapping machine facilities, bank counters, communication centres will also be installed in the premises.

INTRODUCING

potify

"As MRIA did not have a duty free shopping area over the past few years Sri Lankan and International travellers faced many difficulties as a result. Therefore, opening these facilities fulfils another important step in the journey of turning MRIA to one of the best airports in the region," the State Minister said.

As the MRIA has been dedicated to handle the "Tourist Bubble" during the pandemic and also due to temporary abolishment of grounding taxes for flights, the airport has gained more attention recently.

## Commemorative coin to mark CB's 70th anniversary

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) commenced operations in August 1950 and completed 70 years of contribution to Sri Lanka. To mark its 70th Anniversary, CBSL issued an uncirculated commemorative coin (aluminum bronze) in the denomination of Rupees 20 on December 31, 2020. CBSL has also issued a circulation standard commemorative coin (nickle plated steel) in the denomination of Rupees 20 with the same design of the above uncirculated commemorative coin.

The coin will be put into circulation on March 3 through commercial banks and can be used for payments along with other currency notes and coins in circulation.



Central Bank Governor Prof. W. D. Lakshman presents the coin to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

## NDB assets up 18%

NDB's total assets crossed the Rs. 600 bn mark in 2020, with the asset base closing at Rs. 627 bn by end 2020, resulting in an impressive YoY growth of 18% which translated to a quantum growth of Rs. 97 bn. Gross Loans and Receivables however moderated in growth at 8% YoY to Rs. 444 bn (quantum growth of Rs. 34 bn). Growth stemmed from all business sectors.

Gross income growth moderated to 3% in 2020 compared to 2019 (YoY) to Rs. 60.7 bn, reflecting reduced business volumes in the year, impact of interest rates concessions and interest deferments stemming from moratoria granted - phenomena experienced across the industry due to the effects of the pandemic.Interest income slightly dipped over that of 2019, to Rs. 53 Bn, whilst interest expenses reduced by 1% to Rs. 35 Bn, largely attributable to the rate reductions led by the CBSL as stimulus to economic growth. Pressure exerted on the NIM by interest rate concessions on loans brought the ratio down to 3.1%.

National Development Bank posted solid financial results for the financial year ended December 31, 2020, demonstrating its strength, sustainability in generating operational revenue and resilience in withstanding unprecedented challenges. The Bank and the Group's performance as reflected in the financial statements was released to the Colombo Stock Exchange on February 18, 2021.Net fee and com-

mission income bolstered overall income with a growth of 9% YoY to Rs. 4 bn. Exponential growth in the use of digital banking services, driven by the pandemic impact and the user-friendly features available in the NDB NEOS digital banking platform together with the Bank's continued focus on enhancing fee based income,were key contributors in this aspect. Net gains from trading for FY 2020 was Rs. 967 mn a marginal decrease of 2% YoY.

However, the Bank realised capital gains from Government Securities portfolio, as reflected under net gains from derecognition of financial assets amounting to Rs. 1.5 bn. Total Operating Income recorded a healthy growth of 7% to Rs. 25.4 bn. Impairment charges for loans and other losses for FY 2020 was Rs. 6.8 bn, an increase of 63% YoY. Individual impairment increased by 41%, while collective impairment increased by 113% to Rs. 3.8 bn and Rs. 2.4 bn. Provision charges increased in line with the growth in the loan book and provisions made at both collective and individual levels in response to elevated risks caused by the pandemic and other stresses.

The regulatory non-performing loan (NPL) ratio for 2020 was 5.35% (2019: 4.77%) which is on a gradual increase, reflecting the wider industry NPL behaviour.

The Bank also made significant provisions for financial investments owing to the decline in macro economic indicators.



A Napper Premium Mattress being presented to Mrs. Tatyana Rajapaksa

## Lanka Sugar ... Continued from page 25

...to the achievement," Nimalachnadra said, adding that all credit should go to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and the two ministers for their support and correct decisions at the right time.

He said that increasing production and saving the drain of valuable foreign exchange on the import of sugar is the priority of the company.

The company had cultivated 10,000 acres of sugarcane last year which included 8,500 acres at Pelwatte and 1,500 acres at Sevanagala.

"We plan to crush around 200,000 MT of additional sugarcane and add over 5,000 acres to the

cultivation this year," the chairman said.

The company produced around 40,000 MT of sugar last year and plans to add 15,000 MT of sugar this year.

"We have embarked on a factory expansion program to boost the capacity at Sevanagala and cultivation at Pelwatte.

The government allocated Rs. 475 million through the last budget to increase factory capacity at Sevanagala.

"Phase II of Sevanagala Sugar factory expansion is to be carried out this year. Crushing capacity is to be expanded from 1,250 TCD to 1,500 TCD," the chairman said, adding that through the expansion

the factory will be able to crush an extra 60,000 MT of sugarcane.

"We have already invested on factory renovation with the purchase of new machinery and vehicles for agriculture," Nimalachandra said, adding that Rs. 600 million has been allocated for irrigation of sugarcane fields at Pelwatte and Sevanagala. He said the company launched insurance schemes for sugarcane farmers and against crop damage which is another first by the company.

"We also increased the purchase price of sugarcane by Rs. 250 per MT this year in addition the increase of Rs. 500 per MT last year. A 10% increment was also given for cane transport to support sugarcane farmers. Around 2,000 employees of the Sevanagala and Pelwatta factories were given permanent appointments upon completion of five years of service.

"This is the first time employees were presented permanent appointments since the launch of the company," the chairman said, adding that certain employees were given permanent placement after 27 years of service.

He said the Cost of Living allowance of Rs. 7,800 was added to the employees' salary in two stages (March last year and January this year), which was not paid since 2013. Grade promotions were given to 900 employees after the lapse of over a decade (700 at Pelwatte and 200 at Sevanagala). Incentives and bonus for all employees were granted as a festival incentive in April (Rs. 75,000/and one month's salary per employee at the Sevanagala unit and Rs. 25,000 at the Pelwatte unit). He said simultaneously the sugarcane farmers were also awarded a retention allowance for every metric ton of sugarcane supplied to the two factories. Along with this an incentive was given to farmers based on the quality and yield of sugarcane they supplied.

A seed cane subsidiary of 50% and land preparation subsidiary of 50% was granted for sugarcane farmers to encourage them to cultivate more.

## Swap deal .... Continued from page 25

...country soon and added that it must strive to move from being a net debtor status to a net creditor status taking a cue from India and Japan. "Seeking assistance from foreign donors is not the way out. We must strive to create a Current Account surplus and not a deficit.

If there is a deficit we must try to bring it down," the Governor said.

Sri Lanka recorded Current Account surpluses in 1950-51, 1954-54 and 1977.

The country's foreign reserves stood at USD 4.8 billion as at end January 2021.

Foreign reserves stood at USD 5.7 billion towards the end of 2020.

Treasury Secretary S.R Attygalle said the Port City Bill will be presented to Parliament soon and when enacted will help boost foreign direct investments.

## Supplier respect... Continued from page 25

... needed in high-risk sectors such as textiles. During the panel discussion with company representatives of the targeted sectors of apparel, food and tourism, panellists stressed how much their businesses are related to consumer driven sustainability requirements and how important the documentation of UNGPs conform processes is.

Country Head for Sri Lanka and Bangladesh of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Hubertus von Welck emphasised that companies should be open for standards under the UN Guiding Principles and incorporate those in their in-house procedures.

In a video message German Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Holger-Seubert pointed out the relevance of the subject with regards to the upcoming Supply Chain Law in Germany.

The second hybrid conference on Sustainable Supply Chains facilitates market excess for Sri Lankan exporters to the EUmarket. The Delegation of German Industry and Commerce (AHK Sri Lanka) and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) co-organised a second hybrid conference on "Sustainable Supply Chains as drivers of global competitiveness" on February 24.

Since September 2020, the two organisations in cooperation with Loening Human Rights and Responsible Business have conducted several training programs, individual gap assessments and covered the preconditions for certifications for Sri Lankan exporters in the sectors of rubber, apparel, and food products. All project partners agreed to extend the project to the Sri Lankan tourism sector.

Chief Delegate of German Industry and Commerce and Industry in Sri Lanka Andreas Hergenroether said, "The major reason to partner for the initiative is to support Sri Lankan exporters to obtain broader market access and to enable German and European importers to import according to international sustainability standards. Sustainability standards are a reality.

They are partially politically driven, but they are also more consumer and industry driven. Besides the existing official legally binding standards, European importers require more and more consumer and industry driven standards such as Fairtrade, BSCI, SA8000 and IFS," he said.

Country Head for Sri Lanka and Bangladesh of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom Hubertus von Welck said that the initiative "Sustainable supply chains as driver for global competitiveness" has been taken up and is now been extended as a contribution to the restart of the Sri Lankan economy to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic as fast as possible. AHK Sri Lanka is part of the German Chamber Network supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi).

## Forex inflows... Continued from page 25

...doomsday predictions. He said the country will not seek bailouts from foreign donors, while stressing on putting a halt to foreign financing for the deficit.

On seeking assistance from the IMF, he said, "It is not advisable to do so and obtain guidance from the donor," the Governor said.

Rather the government hopes to raise foreign exchange inflows through currency swap arrangements with overseas agencies.

Negotiations in this regard are in progress according to the Central Bank.

According to the regulator, import restrictions on non essential commodities to manage the balance of payment

s. will continue for a certain periot od. The country's foreign n reserves stood at USD 4.8 bilt- lion as at end January 2021.

Foreign reserves stood at USD 5.7 billion towards the end of 2020.

However, with USD 1 billion of foreign debt repayment coming this year the level of reserves is speculated to be inadequate to manage the balance of payments.

However, according to the regulator economic growth is expected to be in the range of 5.5 to 6 percent this year.

Treasury Secretary S.R. Attygalle on a previous occasion said the country was quite comfortable with the level of reserves which is expected to grow this year with exports picking up and foreign direct investments starting to come in.

Sri Lanka has to repay USD 6,865 million in foreign debt this year and arrangements have been made to pay it, co-Cabinet spokesman Minister Udaya Gammanpila said early this year.

However, several rating agencies downgraded the country's sovereign credit ratings indicating Sri Lanka's low debt repayment capacity.

Sri Lanka's sovereign credit ratings were downgraded to CCC+/C from B-/B by Standard and Poor's Moody's downgraded Sri Lanka's ' long term foreign currency issuer and senior unsecured ratings' to Caal from B2.

## Weak currency, ... Continued from page 25

...hitting a session high of \$62.73. Both benchmarks have risen over 1% after climbing nearly 4% in the previous session.

Sri Lanka's foreign debt repayment and dwindling foreign reserves could worsen the plight of the economy.

The country's foreign reserves

stood at USD 4.8 billion as at end January 2021.

Foreign reserves stood at USD 5.7 billion towards the end of 2020. State Minister of Finance Ajith Nivard Cabraal said Sri Lanka has to re-pay only around USD 1.0 to 1.5 bil-

re-pay only around USD 1.0 to 1.5 billion each year until 2029 and that the economy would generate forex inflows of around USD 32 billion this

year and possibly about USD 2-3 billion more than that, each year.

Headline inflation decreased to 3.7 per cent in January 2021 from 4.6 per cent in December 2020 due to the statistical effect of the high base prevailed in January 2020. Meanwhile, Food inflation (Y-o-Y) decreased to 5.9 per cent in January 2021 from 7.5 per cent in December 2020. Non-Food inflation (Yo-Y) decreased to 1.8 per cent in January 2021 from 2.2 per cent in December 2020. The change in the NCPI measured on an annual average basis decreased to 5.8 per cent in January 2021 from 6.2 per cent in December 2020.

On the global front, the positive momentum continues in the oil com-

plex, with investors unabashedly predisposed to a bullish view according to global markets strategists.

Goldman Sachs Commodities Research raised its Brent crude oil price forecasts by \$10 for the second and third quarters of 2021, citing lower expected inventories, higher marginal costs to restart upstream activity and speculative inflows. The Wall Street bank expects Brent prices to reach \$70 per barrel in the second quarter from the \$60 it predicted previously and \$75 in the third quarter from \$65 earlier.

Morgan Stanley expects Brent crude prices to climb to \$70 per barrel in the third quarter on "signs of a much improved market" including prospects of a pick-up in demand.

age the balance of pays

## Teaching, coaching and training sales staff



It is common knowledge that an efficient sales function is one of the most vital aspects for the success of a business. There is plenty of evidence to confirm that the buyers select a vendor and most often make buying decisions according to the skills of the salesperson rather than the price, quality, service, or any other feature.

In my long career of over 40 years in selling, I have been engaged in selling diverse products of good and average quality products and services. I have been employed by companies with good after-sales service and mediocre service delivery. During this period, on numerous occasions I have come across skilled salesmen who have proven that skill supersedes almost all other factors in personal selling.

When looking at top-ranking business schools, in Sri Lanka and overseas, the general impression is that the curricula of most of their study programs do not extend adequate importance to sales teachings. Business management courses around the world do not offer instructions on selling knowledge or skills despite the importance of the function.

### Sparse

Salesmen mostly learn selling skills either from their superiors or occasional training sessions. The interest in teaching selling in an orderly manner in most of the Sri Lankan small and medium level businesses is sparse or almost non-existent.

Instead, there are many popular teaching programs for sales management, marketing management, business leadership, business management, and so forth. However, the important factor to consider is that selling and management are two different aspects. I strongly believe that selling is an applied skill and the best performance of a salesman comes with experience.

The mere learning of theories are not sufficient. Similar to learning to ride a bicycle, the real knowledge comes from trying, failing, trying again and succeeding. Therefore, as a career salesman, I believe that managing a sales team effectively can be done successfully when the leader has practical on the job experience rather than theoretical knowledge.

Until the 1980s, sales education was simply based on personality development and product knowledge. Salesmen were hired based on the personality and the product knowledge was usually provided by a senior. Organised sales training sessions were occasional and conducted in a few large companies. People skills were not considered teachable in any conventional sense. Their job was to walk up to a customer in a friendly, confident manner and present the features and benefits of a product or service to close a sale.

Sales coaching is a strategy used by companies to improve the skills of salespeople on an individual basis. This is a deeply personalised approach where the behaviour of salespersons are analysed to guide them individually to succeed in their role as salesmen. Rather than improving the team as a group, the method focuses on a single salesperson at a time to enhance performance.

Sales coaching predominantly concentrate on individual goals and aspirations, giving a future for the salesman to work on. It is a learning experience derived from the one-toone and day-to-day work of a single salesperson.

### Staff retention

This method is directly associated with their personal development, career advancement, and personal



achievements. Coaching ensures the performance of the individual and subsequently contributes to the success of the organisation. Sales coaching also leads to the elevation of individual performance and sales staff retention.

When the sales staff is aware of the personal benefits, not only their morale escalates but also they tend to be more loyal to the organisation. Hence, sales coaching is a good remedy for sales staff turnover.

Sales training, on the other hand, focuses on the whole sales team to educate them about common aspects such as selling skills, time management, teamwork, products and competition. Usually, the entire sales staff including seniors participates in these group sessions. Currently, most companies invite the customer service and other back-up staff members to participate to share knowledge about the sales process.

Irrespective of the mixture of the training audience, group settings lead

to connect other departments that provide support services to the sales team. The advantage is that the participants who work towards a common goal can use one another as a resource to exchange valuable knowledge, and experiences. If properly designed, training sessions can be extremely effective brainstorming sessions as well.

Sales training in an organisation is effective because such sessions focus on the common goal of the organisation. Sales training sessions also directly educate participants on sales skills development and sales knowledge development. While coaching concentrates more on individual skills, behaviour, and knowledge, training sessions provide a deeper insight into the company>s overall objectives. Therefore, sales training is directly aligned with overall organisational goals.

With rapidly developing technology and the constantly changing sales landscape, sales training is an absolute

necessity for companies of every size to sustain sales efficiency. Training ensures that the staff, both direct and back-up to keep-up with the existing fierce competition. The reality is that if an organisation is not competent and exceedingly competitive from the sales perspective, success can be far-reaching.

### Coaching

Sales teams need a mix of coaching and training. At the initial stage of a sales career in a company, a salesperson needs to extensively understand important knowledge related criteria such as products to be sold, company knowledge, competition, industry, and general economic conditions. This information can be conveniently given only through a team training session as such information is common to the entire staff, including the sales team. Information provided to a group of people effectively keeps everyone on the same page. Sales training in an organisation is effective because such sessions focus on the common goal of the organisation. Sales training sessions also directly educate participants on sales skills development and sales knowledge development

Sales coaching, on the other hand, provides more individualistic insights into the sales effort. Coaching is an interactive process to help individuals to develop skills to produce better results. Sales coaching should be done by a senior member of the sales team, ideally the sales manager.

The constant presence of the coach is essentially required as, unlike training, the coaching must be done as frequently as possible. This effort creates a true partnership between the coach and the salesperson due to the relentless two-way conversation, making the coaching a powerful tool.

In the realm of selling, at present, the buyer is newly empowered because of the existence of the internet. Customers no longer need a salesperson to learn about the company, products, or promotions. Nevertheless, even with the availability of numerous online platforms, many customers prefer to visit brick and mortar and discuss with sales staff when purchasing goods. As existed decades ago, even today, when customers purchase industrial products, customers prefer to invite salespeople to make presentations.

While, teaching, coaching, and training are fundamentally different, all three functions are important components for successful sales performance. The ultimate intention of all three actions is to generate more revenue for the company and to help the development of professional skills and knowledge of each sales staff member. Sales training is a great first measure to educate the sales team members. In contrast, sales coaching is a reliable method of enhancing the job performance of the individual salesperson.

## Aitken Spence achieves 44% growth in 3Q



Chairman D.H.S. Jayawardena

Aitken Spence PLC non-tourism multi-industry sectors reported a Profit-Before-Tax (PBT) of Rs. 1.3 bn in 3Q, a growth of 44% compared to the previous year.

These sectors also reported an EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest Expense, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation) of Rs. 1.7 bn compared to Rs. 1.4 bn of EBITDA recorded during the third quarter of previous year.

The overall contribution from the non-tourism sectors was notable during the second lockdown period. Companies in the maritime and freight logistics, power, money transfer, elevator agency, printing and packaging, and plantation sectors performed exceptionally well compared to last year with an increase in PBT for the quarter while maintaining positive performance during the nine months ending t December 31, 2020.

Outstanding performance was seen from the strategic investments sector that recorded a profit before tax growth of 248%. The Group's plantations segment recorded substantial profit growth. During the quarter Elpitiya Plantations PLC clinched the award for Best Integrated Report - Plantations sector at the CMA Excellence in Integrated Reporting Awards 2020. The company was also presented with a certificate of Merit.

The printing and packaging segment recorded an improvement in its performance generating healthy profits during the quarter compared to the negative returns gener-



MDDr. Parakrama Dissanayake

ated in the third quarter of the previous financial year. Furthermore, the maritime and freight logistics sector also performed remarkably to record a 10% increase in profits before tax for the period.

The Group's tourism sector EBITDA for  $3\hat{Q}$  was a loss of Rs. 447.2 mn. However, subsequent to the reopening of Maldives, the hotels segment is gradually recovering alongside the local tourists handled by the Sri Lankan tourism sector. Amidst many challenges, Aitken Spence Hotels were awarded at the prestigious Luxury Lifestyle Awards - Heritance Aarah (Maldives) named the winner in the category of the Best All-Inclusive Resort in Asia and Desert Nights Camp (Oman) winner of the Best Luxury Hotel in Oman.

The destination management arm of the Group Aitken Spence Travels recently facilitated the first of many weekly charter flights from Kazakhstan, an arrangement that will continue until April and which is expected to generate significant foreign exchange earnings to the country.

The Group recorded a loss of Rs. 0.2 bn from operations for the third quarter compared to the profit from operations of Rs. 1.8 bn recorded in the same quarter of the previous year. The Profit-Before-Tax (PBT) for the third quarter was a loss of Rs. 0.5 bn compared to a profit of Rs. 1.2 bn in the previous year, which was due to the pandemic weighing on the tourism sector.

## Getting started in shares - Part 4 Deciding what shares to buy

### (Part 3 appeared last week)

How do you identify the best stock to buy? If we all knew which companies are going to do well and which ones to stay away from, we would all be millionaires. The stock that you should invest in would depend on multiple factors. This week let's take a look at the types of shares you may come across in the market, based on a number of factors such as return, value, growth potential, risk and more.

### **Income shares**

These shares provide steady income streams for investors where companies pay regular dividends in comparison to others. When buying these shares the important considerations are, the tax applicable on the dividend, as well as the cost of the shares in comparison to the net dividend paid.

### Value shares

Value Shares reflect established companies with highly successful businesses and a strong financial position. Investors tend to think of value shares as bargains as they appear inexpensive relative to the earning ability of the company and other fundamental factors. Value



shares tend to have low Price-to-Earnings ratios and high Dividend Yields.

Long term investors prefer these shares which they often hold over long time periods, until the true value of the share begin to emerge in the form of dividends or an increase in the price of the share.

### **Growth shares**

Growth Shares generally represent companies that have a strong and substantial growth potential. Generally, the progression of these companies is in line with the economic growth of the country. Thus, it typically pays little to no dividends to shareholders. Investors who invest in these shares devote their current income expecting to receive high returns at a later date.

### **Cyclical shares**

Shares which follow general economic trends and business cycles fall z

into this category. These shares are issued by companies which are sensitive to business cycles and whose performance is closely tied to general economic trends. Prices of cyclical shares can be volatile as they follow the market expectations of how the general economy would perform or other conditions.

### **Defensive shares**

These are shares that remain stable even under strained economic cycles. Unlike cyclical shares these are not affected by general economic trends. During all phases of the economy, whether it is recession or expansion, companies that provide essentials needed by consumers such as food, fuel, gas and medicine are likely to remain stable.

### Selecting shares

The advice of an investment professional will help you in identifying the share types discussed above. If you want to go at it alone, do educate yourself further using CSE publications. You can also use the following as

sources for information:

Stockbroker websites and publications

Newspapers and business magazines Business programmes on TV and Radio

Websites and publications of data vendors such as Reuters, Bloomberg etc.

Companies listed on the CSE as per the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) are classified into 10 sectors, 24 industry groups, 67 industries and 156 sub-industries. After having identified which type of share and industry you would buy into, you can go on to individual share selection.

As we mentioned in the column last week, talk to your adviser and/or do your own research that can give you a good understanding of the company's activities and its business situation.

### Be wary of speculative shares

When you are exploring the market and doing research for share selection, be wary of companies which lack financial stability or a good track record in earnings and dividends but appear to be focused on delivering growth fast. If a company's publicised future growth is not supported by its fundamentals, it can be classified as a high-risk investment. *Courtesy: The Colombo Stock Exchange* (Part 5 will appear next week)

## ComBank ends 2020 on stable platform

Strong asset and other income growth combined with an emphasis on prudent provisioning, have enabled the Commercial Bank of Ceylon Group to end 2020 on a stable platform for growth.

The Group, comprising the private bank, its subsidiaries and an associate, has reported Gross income of Rs. 151.966 billion for the year ending December 31, 2020, which although a marginal improvement over the preceding year, included net interest income of Rs. 50.869 billion for the full year and Rs. 14.073 billion for the last quarter alone, representing growths of 5.20% and 17.93% respectively.

The Bank also achieved a creditable improvement to its CASA ratio from 37.10% to 42.72% helping to reduce interest expenses.

One of the noteworthy contributors to performance in the year under review was other income of Rs. 16.039 billion, reflecting a growth of 86.97% from Rs. 8.578 billion for 2019. Consequently, total operating income of the Group for the year grew by 13.36% to Rs. 76.729 billion and by 17.61% to Rs. 20.912 billion for the fourth quarter alone. The impairment charges and provisioning for other losses increased by Rs. 10.088 billion or 89.03% YoY, taking impairment charges for the year to Rs. 21.420 billion. As a result, net operating income declined by 1.85% to Rs. 55.310 billion, but the Group's success in reducing operating expenses marginally to Rs. 26.263billion, enabled it to post operating profit of Rs. 29.047 billion before taxes on financial services for the year, limiting the YoY decline to 3.91%. Notably, operating profit before taxes on financial services for the final quarter amounted to Rs. 9.595 billion, a growth of 19.66%.

Meanwhile, net fees and commissions reduced by 8.65% to Rs. 9.822 billion.

Taken separately, the Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC reported a profit before tax of Rs. 23.511 billion for the year, a growth of 5.25% and profit after tax of Rs. 16.373 billion, a reduction of 3.83%.

Total assets of the Group grew by Rs. 354 billion or 25.09% to Rs. 1.763 trillion as at December 31, 2020. Gross loans and advances of the Group grew by Rs. 31.122 billion or 3.34% to Rs. 961.859 billion.

Total deposits of the Group recorded a growth of Rs. 218 billion or 20.36% as at December 31, 2020. The Bank's Tier 1 capital adequacy ratio (CAR) stood at 13.217% as at December 31, 2020, after an infusion of US\$ 50 million via an equity investment by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Group.

## Creativity, the third eye of sales professionals

### BY MARUTHAI RAVINDHIRAN

Selling is any transaction in which money is exchanged for goods or services. Selling is defined as a transaction that adds value to the buyer by meeting his or her needs and results in mutual benefit for the seller and buyer.

Basically selling is the act of persuading. Selling is an art - but it can be mastered. Most often a salesman's value is underestimated. Salesmanship is equivalent to leadership. In both, one has to take an individual, group or society to do something they did not want to do but make them happy for doing it voluntarily.

In this aspect even a leader of an

organisation or a country could be considered as a 'salesman'. Truly speaking they have to sell an idea or concept or policy or campaign promises or service to their subordinates or public and make them accept it voluntarily.

Sales and marketing professionals' jobs are prestigious and lucrative jobs. It depends on how well it is carried out by an individual.

The effective sales and marketing professionals should have the expertise in explicit and tacit knowledge and multidisciplinary skills, key abilities which they should capitalise on, correct attitudes and practise those as habits.

Among the skills needed by them, one singular skill which is paramount of importance but the most undervalued skill is creativity. Creativity is the ability to think about a task or a problem in a new or different way, or the ability to use the imagination to generate a new idea.

If you are creative, you look at things from a unique perspective. You can find ways and methods and make connections to find opportunities. You become unique and a treasure trove to your company. Your Management would admire and appreciate your creative skills.

Companies that foster creativity are 3.5 times more likely to outper-

## FINAP wins two NBQSA awards



The FINAP team with the awards. Senior Software Engineer Yohan Dushmantha, Project Coordinator Thewakshi Liyanapathirana, Executive Director and Principal Consultant Roshan Basnayake, Executive Director and CEO Anurudda Wijekoon, Executive Director and Principal Consultant Salika Wijewardena, Business Analyst Poornima Senarathna and Tech Lead Deepal Wijerathna.

FINAP - Fintechnology Asia Pacific Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, a software solutions company, won two awards at the National ICT Awards, NBQ-SA-2020 (National Best Quality Software Awards) at the BMICH recently.

FINAP's champion product ECOru a core banking and finance solution was crowned the Gold Award Winner of the Finance and Accounting Solutions (Fintech) in Business Services Category and was also recognised as the Most Innovative and Best Solution in Cloud Computing.

NBQSA recognises the best of the best within ICT products & solutions industry in Sri Lanka. Founder and the advisor to the board of directors of FINAP, Kutila Pinto said, "FINAP, since its inception, has been entirely driven by our vision to deliver simplicity to complex business problems through innovative 'financial technology." Chairman of the board for

FINAP, Dr. Hilary E. Silva said, "Our strategy centers on our customers. At the design stage of each product

or solution, we deeply explore the 'business needs' and the 'customer needs' to ensure our architecture is agile, our technology is 'state of the art' and our service is unparalleled." ECOru is one of the technologically advanced core banking systems in the market. These progressions backed by the assurance of the quality, recognize ECOru as the best modern-day banking and finance solution, and play a major role in delivering sustainability to the business operations of FSPs.



form their peers in terms of revenue growth.Many people inexactly think that creativity is an innate trait. The fact is that creativity could also be learned, developed and acuminated.

Having said that I like to ask you a question to get your creative ideas for

## **Ceylon Green Produce launches fuel booster**

Ceylon Green Produce (Pvt) Ltd has launched 'Eco Tablets' an organic product made using nanotechnology to improve the quality of the fuel used in vehicles.

Available in two versions, 'Eco Racing', for petrol vehicles and 'Eco Diesel', for diesel vehicles, this fuel booster enhances the engine's performance and the efficiency from total fuel combustion. 'Eco Tablets' doubles the engines lifespan while cleansing spark plugs, combustion chambers and the fuel tank.

It saves fuel from 20% to 50%. Eco Racing boosts oc tane value from 5 to 10 in petrol while Eco Diesel increases cetane value of diesel from 2 to 5. Using 'Eco Tablets' regularly improves fuel combustion, efficiency and engine's performance.

It also reduces the emission of Carbon Monoxide (CO) by 100%

## Huawei AI life scenario paves way for a more connected world

a question of mine on selling. If you

want to sell boats what would you do?

Some may say, "Identify the potential

customers in the coastal areas or the

fishermen or tourist hotels around the

lakes", others may say design and

develop colourful product literatures

or catalogues to aid the sales presenta-

tions, others may say carry out email

campaigns and web marketing to

acceptable prices and offer install-

ment payments. The list may go on but

the correct answer from the creative

minded sales and marketing profes-

sional will be the following; "If you

want to sell boats, create lakes first".

The Cevlon Green Produce team

and Sulphur dioxide SO2 up to 99%,

a company spokesman said. 'Eco

Tablets' has been certified as an

eco-friendly product by the Central

Dilantha Malagamuwa has teamed

up with 'Eco Tablets' as the Brand

Ambassador to promote the con-

cept of "Environmentally protected

Sri Lanka". A large number of sen-

ior mechanical engineers have rec-

ommended 'Eco Tablets' as a real

fuel booster with multiple benefits

International racing champ

Environment Authority.

to the users.

Some others may say to have

potential customers.

Huawei, the global smartphone brand drives change by bringing connectivity to the fore in its latest tech solutions in a pioneering concept called Huawei AI life scenario.

By combining the benefits and features of multiple devices, Huawei enables users to enjoy an enhanced experience having them connected under one ecosystem

with the smartphone as the central device.

From smartphones to laptops, tablets, wearables, true wireless earbuds and moving towards new age super powerful home controlling systems, Huawei now connects them all bringing access to the fingertips of the user. Huawei continues to leverage in its AI life scenario concept and create a smarter and

This is how a strategic oriented innovative and creative companies should work. When you recruit someone for sales and marketing positions avoid asking, "how to sell refrigerators to eskimos" or "Sell me this pen" but be creative in your thinking and expect it from your sales force and encourage them. Then perhaps lucrative business is ahead of you.

In conclusion, creativity is the third eye of a sales and marketing professional.

The writer is a specialist in communication skills, sales, marketing, training and development and a business consultant with 30 years of experience.

## Former CB **Deputy Governor** passes away

A former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL), C. J. P. Siriwardana, 62 passed on Wednesday, February 24.

Siriwardana functioned as Deputy Governor from 2017 to 2018. With over 31 years of service at the CBSL, he was especially experienced in the areas of economic and price stability, financial system stability and agency functions.

He supervised the Departments of Bank Supervision, Non-Bank Financial Institutions, Public Debt, Payments and Settlements, Finance, Secretariat, Information Technology and Security Services.

He was also the Chairman of the National Payment Council, Financial System Stability Committee and Tender Boards of Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills.

intuitive space for the user. The surge in working from home and e-learning have demanded connectivity more than ever and seamless integration of multiple devices have proved to be highly effective. The phone has a Quad camera set up which is AI powered. Another useful feature is its 5000mAh bigger battery, which lasts for a couple of days even with continuous use.

## Sri Lanka is open and warmly welcomes visitors

## TEA MARKET REPORT

### BY A.M. JAUFER

At present there are three million people who are dependent on the tourism Industry in this country. Therefore, the Chamber of Tourism and Industry is seeking funding assistance.

Sri Lanka warmly welcomes visitors again to experience the paradise island. All travellers must apply for a visa online and download the Visit Sri Lanka app. A three-month visa will be then issued.

Anyone coming from abroad must stay in a government-approved Level 1 hotel for upto 14days of their stay. There are over 54 tourist hotels islandwide that have been certified and awarded the 'Safe & Secure' Certificate. Guests can enjoy the hotel facilities such as pools, gyms, salons and restaurants.

Visitors have the freedom to visit selected 17 places declared as Bio bubble areas to travel within the country enjoying several tourism sites and attractions and stay at these secure Level 1 hotels during their initial two-week stay while still observing safety protocols.

When visitors complete their twoweeks of semi-quarantine, they will be able to move more freely within Sri Lanka.

In addition to paying for flights and accommodation, travelers are responsible for the cost of health insurance (\$12 US), visa fees Asian (\$25) other countries (\$35) and up to three PCR tests in-country (\$40 each).

We kindly request all tourists and visitors to follow all Health Guidelines continuously until your trip is over

### Tourism sectors affected due to Covid-19:

Hoteliers, Transport companies and individual vehicles owners, Tour operators / Travel agents, Tourism sector employees, Tourist drivers and jeep safari drivers, Tour guides, Restaurants, guest houses and home stay operators, Eco tourism lagoon safari service providers, Tourist vendors, Tourism promotion magazine publisher, Water sports operators (surfing, diving, kite surfing), Cottage industry manufacturers, Handy craft sellers and producers, Hotel suppliers, Ayurvedic spa centers operators, Domestic airline companies, Gem industry.



### Challenges

1. Many unregulated tourist business operate in the country which is seen as a risk to safety and reputation of the tourism industry

2. Perception exists that Sri Lanka is a country that is still at war and therefore unsafe

3. Global Covid -19 pandemic situation faced by the country today.

4. Economic disparity between areas particularly those inaccessible during the civil war

5. Lack of established linkage (road/ rail network) between north east, north western and south west

6. International direct flights need to be increased.

7. A proper destination marketing effort needs to be done in major tourist market

8. Government to take stern action to prevent drugs in the country.

9. Combating sexual child abuse and harassment to tourists by establishing law enforcement (tourist police) units in tourism areas.

10. Empowerment of women by providing employment for them in the tourism industry

### Registered accommodation in

Sri Lanka (up to December 31, 2019) Number of establishments - 2,620 Number of rooms - 40,365

In addition, 407 hotel projects granted approval for construction of 20,951 rooms

Total investment value - 3,781.5 million USD

There are approximately 40, 000 rooms not registered with SLTD unclassified including informal sector.

Five star hotels - 26, Four star hotels - 24, Three stars hotels - 26, Two stars hotels - 41, One star - 38, Guest houses - 1,050, Heritage bungalows -

4, Heritage homes - 3, Home stays -548, Hostel - 10, Rented apartments - 70, Rented homes - 5, Tourist hotels (unclassified) - 233.

### **Tourist arrivals:**

During the colonial period, the majority of tourists arrived in Ceylon from the UK. Tourist arrivals in Sri Lanka was around 18,968 in 1966. Planned tourism started in Sri Lanka with the setting up of The Ceylon Tourist Board in 1966.

In 2018, tourism became third largest foreign exchange earner for Sri Lanka.

The top ten tourism-generating markets for Sri Lanka (2019 figures):

India - 355,002, UK - 198,776, China - 167,863, German - 134,899, Australia - 92,674, France - 87,623, Russian Federation - 86,549, United States - 68,832, The Maldives - 60,278, Canada - 48,729.

**International airline operations** (2019):

Thirty-six international airlines operate in Sri Lanka including Sri Lankan Airlines.

Fourteen 14 domestic airports (Ratmalana Airport to be upgraded to an international airport)

Total employment, direct and indirect in 2018 was estimated at 500,000.

Average duration of a tourist's stay: European - 10-14 days; Middle Easten: 7-9 days; Asian: 6-7 days.

Occupancy rate: 2018 - 71.35 -79.19. 2019 - 54.9 -58.7. Tourist spending is at an average of US\$ 167-177 per day

### **Issues to be considered:**

Tourist hotels around the island are the biggest hit due to the outbreak. A moratorium on loan and vehicle leasing payments was given to the Tourism sector for one year. How-

ever, since there has not been any improvement in the industry it is 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%

A special loan scheme at 4% interest needs to be introduced for SMEs engaged in the tourism industry.

Setup a Covid-19 hardship fund to assist tourist service providers who have lost their livelihood income

Tour Guides and Tourist Drivers were provided a one time a relief package i.e. a payment of Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 15,000 respectively. However since there has been no tourist business taking place and we request that the same payment be continued 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 etc.

We also suggest the government introduce a pension scheme for tourist service providers and employees in the tourism sector. All three international airports must be reopened with necessary health guidelines. As tourist hotels around the island are the biggest hit due to the outbreak, a special loan scheme at 4% interest needs to be introduced for SMEs engaged in the tourism industry.

Foreign Investors who are interested tourism investment in Sri Lanka should be granted attractive tax concessions and duty concessions. Employees in the tourism sector to be insured against all sickness including pandemics such as current Covid-19.

Providing of beach cleaning equipment to local authorities in tourism areas. Providing of a fully equipped fire brigade to local authorities in tourism areas Request all booking engine commissions to reduce fees until the industry picks up Sri Lanka tourism development authority must established regional branch in the tourist areas.

The writer is the President Chamber of Tourism Industry, Sri Lanka

## SALE NO.8 FEBRUARY 22-23, 2021

This week's tea auction (Sale No. 8) was conducted on February 22 - 23 (Mon/Tue) and, the offer quantity of 6 m/kgs showed a drop of 0.7 m/kgs over the previous auction. The Low Grown Leafy/ Semi Leafy/ Tippy and Small Leaf/ Premium Flowery catalogues totalled 2.9 m/kgs, while Main Sale High and Medium category amounted to 0.6 m/kgs. The Ex Estate catalogue had 0.9 m/kgs.

The Ex-Estate market was improved for the better liquoring Western BOP's and BOPF's with keen interest from Germany, U.K. Japan and China. In the below-best category, neater teas ruled firm to dearer while teas with inferior leaf commenced irregularly lower and were neglected by the close. CTC PF1's from the High elevation eased Rs. 20 per kg while Mediums declined Rs. 10. Low Grown PF1's commenced Rs. 10 to 20 easier but declined more towards the closing stages. BP1's from all elevations were firm to a little dearer. Russia continued to pick up 'Tea Bag' types at lower levels.

Low growns Semi Leafy teas saw good demand while grades in the Low Grown Leafy and Tippy/Small Leaf catalogues enjoyed fair interest. Well-made OP1's were maintained but others were mostly easier. A selection of the better OP/OPA's were firm while others were irregular and lower. However, the bottom level leafy teas continued to be readily absorbed at firm levels. Stylish BOP1's as well as cleaner below-best sorts were by and large fully firm. Select best Pek/Pek1's were firm to selectively dearer, with bolder types holding out at previous price levels. The best available FBOP's/FBOPF1's were firm but the balance was irregular and mostly easier. Buyers for Russia and the CIS, Iran, the UAE and other Middle Eastern countries were active. Turkey continued selective. There was plenty of interest at the bottom from Iraq and Libya.

### This week's auction comprised 10,946 lots totalling of 6,072,085 kgs.

### The catalogue-wise breakdown was as follows:-

	Lot	Qty. (Kgs)
Low Grown Leafy	2,018	860,036
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1,879	920,850
Low Grown Tippy	2,008	1,052,321
High and Medium	1,289	600,978
Off Grade/BOP1A	1,958	1,084,896
Dust	532	531,814
Premium Flowery	430	73,341
Ex-Estate	832	947,849
Total	10,946	6,072,085

### Crop and weather from February 15-21, 2021

Western/Nuwara Eliya Regions: Both regions reported clear mornings and occasional evening showers, while a few sub-districts in the Bogawantalawa, Talawakelle and Agarapatana regions experienced rainfall during the latter part of the week. Showers are predicted in both regions in the week ahead by the Department of Meteorology. Uva/Udapussellawa Regions: The Uva/Udapussellawa regions reported bright mornings and overcast evenings with occasional showers. A few estates in the Haputale Region reported rainfall during the latter part of the week, while estates in the Madulsima Region experienced misty conditions throughout the week. The Department of the Meteorology expects occasional showers in the Uva Region in the week ahead. Low Growns: Sunny mornings and evening showers were reported from Low Grown Region, while a few sub-districts in the Sabaragamuwa Region reported scattered evening showers.

**Crop Intake:** The Western and Nuwara Eliva regions maintained the crop intake, while certain sub-districts in the Bogawantalawa and Agarapatana regions reported a slight increase. The Uva, Udapussellawa and Low Grown regions reported a decrease in the crop intake.

## MAS 'Ocean strainer' technology to be open source

"Success of Dehiwela floating trash trap inspires call for collaboration"



Since its installation in August 2020, the pilot 'Ocean Strainer' trash trap has prevented over 30,000 kg of waste from reaching the ocean through the Dehiwela canal mouth.

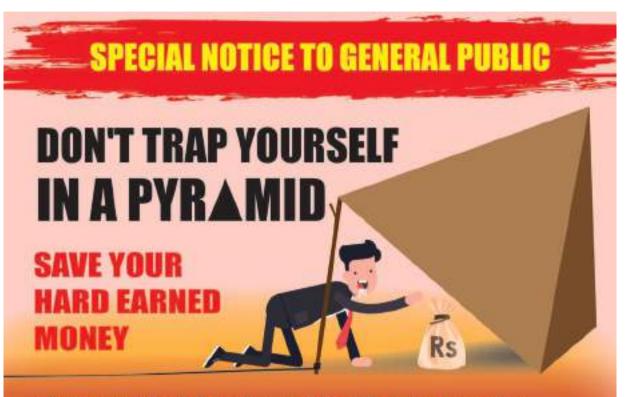
Inspired by the success of its 'Ocean Strainer' floating trash trap, a pilot project launched in the Dehiwala Canal last year, MAS Holdings will make the 'Ocean Strainer' technology available to interested parties, to replicate and scale up the solution.

The pilot project initiated by MAS included installing the 'Ocean Strainer' trash trap in the Dehiwala canal in August 2020. This initial trash trap was designed by MAS engineers, incorporating technical advice from the Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) on customising the design to suit local marine environment conditions. The trash trap acts as a floating barrier, trapping plastic waste before it can reach the ocean.

Chief Executive Officer of MAS Kreeda and MAS Apparel Board Member, Sarinda Unamboowe said, "We were really encouraged by the interest this pilot generated, and the impact that we created with just one 'Ocean Strainer' trash trap. In five months, we collected over 30,000 kilograms of waste just from the Dehiwela canal, and had many interested parties reach out to us to find out how they can get involved in this project. That's when we realised that this is not a journey that we have to undertake alone. Collaboration is the key to creating scalable, impactful change and that is why we are sharing the technology we have developed with others who are interested in replicating this model to address the marine plastic issue at its source.'

Head of Sustainable Business at MAS Holdings, Sid Amalean said, "As a company, we really believe in the power of open innovation and collaboration in problem solving. We want to enable other corporates, NGOs, institutions, clubs, societies, and even individuals, to be a part of the solution to a problem that is very much caused by human behaviour. As a first phase of this journey, we have a group of companies, including Coca-Cola Beverages Sri Lanka, Heineken Lanka, Hemas Holdings, and Unilever Sri Lanka, who have expressed interest in expanding this project, and we are excited to have found like-minded parties who want to extend this project to other locations." The pilot project initiated by MAS was carried out with the support of the Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA), the Western Provincial Council, the Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Corporation (SLLRDC), the Dehiwala-Mount Lavinia municipality and the Environmental Police. MAS hopes that the successful expansion of this project will inspire other parties to join the cause in order to achieve further scale and impact in reducing the amount of plastic waste reaching the ocean through rivers and canals across Sri Lanka. Those who are interested in replicating the 'Ocean Strainer' trash trap in their own locales could contact MAS Sustainable Business team on OceanStrainer@masholdings.com.





The Central Bank has observed that there is a growing tendency of collecting money from the general public through illegal means by promoting prohibited schemes in various places of the country and through the internet.

## WHAT IS A PROHIBITED SCHEME?

A prohibited scheme is defined as a scheme under which a person makes a payment to get the right to recruit others into the same scheme for which he receives an income. The new recruits also make payments to get the right to further recruit others and in return receive an income for such recruitments. As a result, a hierarchy of participants resembling a pyramid is formed over time with the introduction of new and larger levels of participants to the scheme. Therefore these schemes are also called pyramid schemes. The salient feature of a pyramid scheme is that a large majority of participants are joining at the bottom levels of the schemes and inevitably lose the money they paid.

> Schemes which have above characteristics are prohibited in Sri Lanka. Transactions related to

such schemes have been specified as offences punishable under the Banking Act, the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and the Foreign Exchange Act.

## PUNISHMENTS

Any person who directly or indirectly initiates, offers, promotes, advertises, conducts,

finances, manages or directs a prohibited scheme shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction will be liable to pay a large sum of money as a fine and/or a term of imprisonment/ rigorous imprisonment for a period of 3 to 5 years.

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka cautions you to beware of prohibited schemes and request the general public not to join these prohibited schemes.

## Do not be fooled by the tempting promises made by prohibited schemes

Department of Resolution and Enforcement Central Bank of Sri Lanka \*94 11 2477262 🚔 +94 11 2477748 @ dred@cbsl.lk



ශී ලංකා මහ බැංකුව இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

## Pronto stepping into a face lifted branch in Kurunegala!

The pioneers in local courier industry, Pronto Lanka (Pvt.) Ltd. ceremonially opened its modernized Kurunegala Branch at 125/1, Negombo Road, Kurunegala on 3rd of February 2021 at the auspicious time.

General Manager of Pronto Lanka, Nalin Munasinghe and the Mayor of Kurunegala Municipal Council, Thushara Sanjeewa officially declared the opening of the modernized Pronto branch at Kurunegala in the presence of distinguished invitees, including the officials from the corporate sector.

Pronto Lanka, as one of the core members of Transaational Company (Pvt) Ltd., Singapore, is the main service provider for the banking sector, leading government regulatory bodies and financial institutions in Sri Lanka.

As the largest and the most experienced domestic courier service in Sri Lanka with a legacy of more than 3 decades, they focus on serving the nation by enhancing their resources to provide services to the mass market and ecommerce sector with more advanced technology driven solutions and being the most sought-after courier in the country.

Pronto Lanka has expanded its branch



network to over 52 locations island wide. Its services and operational systems are tailor made, which could cater to the varying needs of its customers around the clock (24- hrs) while speed, security, reliability and accountability are considered paramount in its services afforded to every customer.

The company aims to strengthen and widen its branch network, thereby reaching out to the



Seated L to R : Piyal Pushpakumara - Manager- Human Resource, Vajira Kulathunga - Assistant General Manager- Human Resource, Nalin Munasinghe - General Manager. Sanjeewa Warnakulasuriya -Assistant General Manager- Operations, Roshan Pieris - Manager - Operations, Roshan Perera -Manager - Business Development

Standing L to R : Kelum Liyanaarachchi - Assistant Manager- Southern Region, Gehan Perera - Assistant Manager- Western Region, Menura Wanigasuriya - Assistant Manager- North & East Region, Sisira Sebihela - Assistant Manager- Central Region, Shyaminda Herath - Branch Head- Kurunagala

mass markets via expanded channels. The relocated, spacious branch would enable Pronto Lanka clients as well as potential clients in and around Kurunegala to have easy access to its services.

The company intends to create a value chain for prospective customers starting with the 'Pronto bundle of services'.

Commenting on the opening General

Manager of Pronto Lanka, Nalin Munasinghe stated;

"We are delighted to open our modernized Pronto branch in Kurunegala which is capable of becoming an important commercial, economic, trade and investment hub of Sri Lanka. This city has been changed drastically with the development of several major private and government institutions. The opening of



this modernized branch will facilitate our valuable customers with island wide service as well as expanded logistic service offering an unparalleled customer experience to the corporate, small and medium enterprises and individual customers. Our dedicated staff in the branch will provide our valued customers expert advises on their courier needs.

We keep improving to serve you hetter!"

## Advertorial

## **Fitch rates Cargills Bank** AA- (lka) with Stable outlook

Fitch Ratings Sri Lanka has recently revised Cargills Bank's National Long-Term Rating to AA-(lka) with a Stable outlook, from A+(lka) with a Stable outlook.

The Rating revision is following the recalibration of the agency's Sri Lankan national rating scale following Fitch's downgrade of the sovereign rating on 27 November 2020.

The revision of the National Rating of Cargills Bank stems from the change in rating of its parent CT Holdings due to the recalibration of the national rating scale. This revision now places Cargills Bank on the same level as Sri Lanka's leading and well-established banks.

Managing Director/CEO of Cargills Bank, SenarathBandara, said, "At just six, we are a young bank. But by banking on the human spirit, we have made great strides in our short history.

Through our hard work and honest, straightforward business style, we have garnered the respect of the public and built confidence amongst all business sectors.



"Our main priority is to support

the primary sectors of the Sri Lan-

kan economy, with a strong focus

on the agricultural sector and SMEs. This ties into our overall goal of becoming the most inclusive bank in Sri Lanka, while leveraging the support and resources available to us through the Cargills Group

ecosystem. Achieving success and ensuring the best services possible has been exceedingly challenging in the post-COVID environment.

Thus, we are proud that with the support of our parent Cargills Group, we have received a rating of AA-(lka) with a Stable outlook from such a well-respected entity as Fitch Ratings Sri Lanka. We will continue to work to become the best and most inclusive bank in Sri Lanka," he said.

The Bank has also embraced the Central Bank's vision of a cashless society, being the first Financial Institution to issue and acquire LankaQR transactions in Sri Lanka, and facilitates technology-based payment solutions in Sri Lanka.

Cargills Bank also enabled the acceptance of LankaQR payments at selected Cargills Food City outlets, making Cargills Food City the first supermarket in the country to accept LankaQR payments.

## Bank of Ceylon among "Top Ten Most Admired Companies"



The International Chamber of Commerce Sri Lanka (ICCSL), the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) with the Daily FT has named the Bank of Ceylon (BOC) as one of the "Top Ten Most Admired Companies in Sri Lanka 2020".

The Bank was conferred this title for the second consecutive year for its excellence in the field of Banking and Finance in Sri Lanka and for its contribution to the overall economic growth of the country.

The Bank's Chief Financial Officer Russel Fonseka received the award from the chief guest General Shavendra Silva

Chairman, Kanchana Ratwatte said, "In times of adversity such as the Covid-19 pandemic, the financial and operational strength of the Bank of Ceylon has been a significant strength to maintain an uninterrupted banking service.

"We have always looked at sustainable growth," he said.

## Pan Asia Bank posts Rs 2 b PAT

Pan Asia Banking Corporation PLC reported the best-ever annual financial results during the year ended December 31, 2020 to report a Pre-Tax Profit of Rs. 2.84 billion and a Post-Tax Profit of Rs. 2.05 billion after recording impressive growth rates of 23% and 17%, demonstrating resilience amidst challenging macroeconomic conditions.

The Bank's Operating Profit Before Taxes on Financial Services increased by 4%, reflecting excellence in core banking performance and the success of cost containment measures, despite the bank's feebased income declining sharply due to reduced business volumes resulting from disruptions caused by Covid-19 pandemic and waiver of fees and charges mandated by the regulator.



Chairman G. A. R. D. Prasanna

(EPS) for the year rose to Rs. 4.63 in 2020 from Rs. 3.96 in 2019. The Bank's Net Asset Value per Share increased by 16% during the year to reach Rs. 34.79 as at December 31, 2020.

Total impairment charges for the The Bank's Earnings per Share year increased by 40% to record Rs.



**CEO Nimal Tillekeratne** 

1,596 million in 2020 compared to Rs.1,136 million in 2019.

The Bank's growth in both profit before income tax and profit for the period was also supported by the low financial services tax regime that prevailed throughout the year 2020. Meanwhile, the Bank continued to compute income tax and deferred tax liabilities at the rate of 28% as the proposed new rate of 24% is yet to be legislated.

The Bank's net interest margins improved from 4.36% to 4.41% during the year.

The Bank's Pre-Tax Return on Assets also improved to 1.70% in 2020 from 1.52% in 2019. Meanwhile, the Bank's Post-Tax Return on Assets also improved to 1.23% in 2020 from 1.15% in 2019. Further the Bank reported a healthy Return on Equity ratio of 14.36% during the year under review (FY 2020) which stands among the industry best.

The Bank brought down its total operating expenses by Rs. 289 Mn in 2020 compared to the previous year. The Bank's total asset base stood at Rs. 176.94 billion as at December 31, 2020.

## **Union Assurance opens** branch in Kollupitiya



Union Assurance, opened a branch at St. Michael's Road, Kollupitiva last week. The branch is equipped with modern and state-of-the-art working spaces and collaboration rooms in a vibrant atmosphere. Jude Gomes, Chief Executive Officer of Union Assurance and the senior management team were present.

## S-lon and NAITA to promote plumbing as a career





## **Aban Pestonjee among Most**

MoU with the National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority (NAITA) recently by extending their partnership for three more years to grant professional training and qualifications for plumbers of S-lon Plumber's Club (over 7.000 active members) to progress in their career. The objectives of the club include providing education on modern techniques and technology, inspiring innovation, ensuring occupational safety and instilling a sense of pride among plumbers by awarding them with certifications such as National Trade Test (NTT) & National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) which are recognized nationally and globally, resulting in a better and a professional service to the end -consumer. Through this initia-



At the signing of the MoU (from left): State Minister of Skills Development. Vocational Education, Research and Innovation, Dr. Seetha Arambepola, Chairman of NAITA, TharangaNalinGamlath and Group Director of Capital Maharaja Group, S.C. Weerasekara.

tive, so far over 2000 plumbers have received vocational qualifications.

Group Director of Capital Maharaja Group said, "With the country returning to normalcy, we hope to

continue with our Plumber Club regional programs taking knowledge and expertise to every corner of Sri Lanka. NAITA has been a great partner in this mission."

## Keells products provides savings for customers

Providing customers more savings with access to lower priced, good quality products, was the main drive behind introducing the Keells own label range.

The range of Keells products are priced at 10% lesser than comparable products of regular brands and are of good quality. These prices are valid every day and not for a promotional period thus providing customers a significant saving every day.

They are priced competitively due to the minimum marketing and distribution costs incurred as they are products marketed by Keells



itself. At the moment, the range has grown to include over 350 products in attractive packaging that is easily identifiable as Keells.

The range of Keells own label products covers majority of household needs and consists of essentials such as rice, pulses, eggs, oil, tea, coffee, spices, curry mixes, sauce, jam to a range of biscuits and to household items which include dishwash liquid, detergents, paper products and cleaners.

Offering customers healthy and nutritious product choices at reasonable prices is important to Keells, and a 'Free From' category where lactose-free soy ice cream has been introduced.

## **Oppo to introduce flash charging for everyone**

The smart device company Oppo marks a new era in mobile charging technology, as it launched its flash charging project at the Mobile World Congress, Shanghai (MWCS).

Based around Oppo's pioneering VOOC flash charging, it sees visionary organisations license the Oppo technology to help bring faster charging to every area of consumers' lives.

These new partners include FAW-Volkswagen, Anker and NXP Semiconductors - leaders in their respective fields of automobiles, portable charging, and chip manufacture. Between them, their products reach consumers in three settings where they often need to charge their devices: their homes, their cars and out in public spaces. Each partner will work with proprietary technical designs developed by Oppo, which has applied for more than 2,950 flash charging patents worldwide, with over 1,400 already granted.

Adler Feng, Senior Director of Intellectual Property at Oppo, told MWCS, "The Flash Initiative reflects Oppo's belief in human-centric technologies that make a difference in people's everyday lives. And thanks to our new partners, our proprietary technologies can reach more people than ever before. This is a vital step in



freeing consumers to use their devices however they want, no matter what they need to do or where in the world they are."

Brand Director at Anker Innovations China, Cynthia Tan said, "Our users have always been the top priority at Anker."

## **Admired Leaders in Sri Lanka**

Mrs. Aban Pestonjee, Chairperson and Founder of Abans Group of Companies, was bestowed the honour of being one of the most admired leaders of Sri Lanka at the Most Admired Companies Awards held at the BMICH recently.

The third edition of this event was organised by the International Chamber of Commerce Sri Lanka (ICCSL), the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) and the Daily FT, and is recognised as the only one of its kind in Sri Lanka. The Most Admired Companies Awards cater especially to companies that are a cut above the rest, based on their financial performance and other vital aspects such as creating an ethical and sustainable working environment for all employees, customers, investors and the local communities.

These laurels were conferred in



light of Pestonjee's inspiring entrepreneurial journey from commencing her business as a modest corner

store at Galle Road, Bambalapitiya in 1968, to the massive expansion into a renowned conglomerate spanning several industry sectors.

Sparking from the fierce desire to make easier the daily lives of homemakers such as herself, Mrs. Pestonjee set forth upon her goal by purchasing home appliances at auctions and then reselling them with a trusted guarantee, which emerged as the core of her business.

When Sri Lanka converted into an open economy in 1978, Mrs. Pestonjee began writing regularly to large British companies that distributed popular global home and kitchen appliance brands. Despite facing many setbacks, her determination and persistence gained the trust and confidence of Electrolux, which became the first international brand to team up with Abans to enter the Sri Lankan market.

## AIA Insurance fetes top performers First ever digital convention

AIA Insurance held its first ever digital Annual Sales Convention, to celebrate and recognise the company's top performers in 2019. It was held on the theme "Awaken the Superhero in You". Over 2,660 Wealth Planners from across the island convened in a digitally glamourous celebration.

The winners were recognised for their commitment and dedication to going above and beyond their call of duty in serving AIA's customers and emerging on top of their game.

The highlight of the evening was the four awards given to recognise the best performers of 2019. This year's winner of the 'Best Wealth Planner Award' was Ms. K. D. Maddrakini Thakshila of the Moratuwa Area Development Office (ADO). Ms. U. A. M. Sanjeewani Somarathna from the Kandy Main Distribution Unit and S. P. S. Rodrigo from the Colombo Metro Distribution Unit were the first and second runners-up.

The 'Best Wealth Planners' Manager Award' was won by N. W. Nilantha Senarathna Bandara of Kegalle Region 2. Ms. S. S. Priyantha Dias of



The top performers (from left): K. D. Maddrakini Thakshila, Nilantha Senarathna Bandara, P. V. Rajitha Priyasenarath and Channa Dunusinghe.

the Moratuwa Area Development Office was the first Runner-up while M. D. Thuraj Aponso of Colombo Region 5 was the second runner-up.

B. P. V. Rajitha Priyasenarath of the Moratuwa Area Development Office was recognised as the Best Tier 3 Head, with G. H. C. Dileepa Ameendra of the Tissamaharama Area Development Office and Y. G. G. B. Yatigammana of the Mawanella Area Development Office coming in as first and second runner-up.

The 'Best Distribution Unit Head' was Channa Dunusinghe of Kegalle Region 2, while Heman

Kumara of Moratuwa Region 1

and Ms. Indunil Amarasinghe of Colombo Region 2 were first and second runners-up.

Ms. V. A. R. S. Chandrika Perera of the Maharagama Distribution Unit won the 'Best Upcoming Wealth Planner' Award (female) while K. G. A. Bandara Kahawaththa of the Polonnaruwa Main Distribution Unit won the same in the male category.

The Award for 'Best Upcoming Wealth Planners' Managers' was won by Pushpa Weerasinghe from the Gampola Distribution Unit (female) and R. Duminda Jayasingha of the Ratnapura Distribution Unit (male).



**FEBRUARY 28, 2021** 

# <image>

### **BY DR. SUBASHINI** PATHMANATHAN

he term 'Koothu' was generally used in Tamil to refer to the dance form. That's why the dancing deity Lord Nataraja is often referred to by numerous names, such as Koothapiran, Koothuandavan and Kootharasan. The ancient Sanskrit stage was often referred to as Koothuambalam.

The ancient Tamil classic Silappadikaram was written by the royal ascetic Illangoadikal in the second century A.D. It mentions numerous Koothu forms that existed at that time. Adiyarkunalar, the commentator on Silappadikaram, wrote the first commentary on Silappadikaram after the 13th century of its appearance.

Ancient Tamil literary work 'Kootha nool states that dance originated in performing drama and drama originated in dance. In ancient times, there was no proper separation between dance and drama. Initially, dance and drama were considered as one and the same art form. But with the passage of time, both art forms gradually separated from one another. They later maintained their own identity and originality.

## *Koothu* forms

Today, the Tamil word Koothu means folk dance. It is generally referred to as Koothuk Kalai. Koothu forms are influenced by local culture,

tradition and regional practices. These Koothu forms are known as Naatu Koothu. The Tamil word Naatu means 'village' or country. At a regional level, the Sri Lankan Tamil indigenous dances were divided into three categories. One is the East-

ern indigenous dance form. The other is Northern regional indigenous Koothu dances, including the Mannar district, Vanni district and the Jaffna district. Other regional Tamil folk dances are based on upcountry Tamil indigenous dances.

Thennmodi Koothu and Vadamoodi Koothu forms are quite popular in the Northern and Eastern regions of Sri Lanka. The Tamil indigenous dances are practised, preserved and protected in the Tamil dominated areas of the country. Earlier, the Koothu forms are well protected and preserved by Annaviyars who were the men practising Koothus.

The approach of practising of Thennmodi Koothu is different from Vadamodi Koothu. One Koothu form is different from the other, especially on the basis of Thala Kattu (rhythm and tempo). The Batticaloa district is famous for traditional Koothus.

Batticaloa Koothu forms are more or less accompanied with two main instruments: drums and thalam. Then-

*nmodi Koothu* practised in Jaffna is always accompanied with more than two instruments. It was practised with a certain selective orchestra. Prof S. Maunaguru's contribution is imneasurable to preserve the traditional local Tamil dance forms. To create public awareness among the people he himself performed on stage.

## Dance and drama

His untiring efforts even after the 30 years of the battle against terrorism to protect and preserve these traditional indigenous *Koothu* forms of eastern



Koothu forms survived due to the efforts of the late Prof Vithyananthan.

In the North, most Koothu forms were related to different castes. Some Koothus are



DIFFERENT RHYTHMIC TEMPOS OF **BEATINGS HELP IDENTIFY THE TYPE OF THE FOLK DANCE. FOR INSTANCE,** THE BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE ' VADAMODI' AND ' THENN MODI' **ARISE DUE TO THE DIFFERENCES OF RHYTHMIC TEMPOS.** *THENN MODI* HAS A SPECIFIC RHYTHMIC PATTERN

still persevered by the Hindu and Christian communities.

According to previous records, Vadamodi Koothu, Thennmodi Koothu, Thennpaangu Koothu, Vadapaangu Koothu, Vassapu Koothu, Kathathavarayan Koothu, Kovalan Koothu, Nondi Koothu, Vilasam Koothu and Pallu Nadakam were some of the remarkable Koothu forms in the North.

At present, a very few varieties of Koothu exist. A handful of scholars have conducted a thorough research on Sri Lankan Tamil folklore.

Earlier, many Koothu forms existed, but recently, due to the arrival of numerous modern technical and electronic mass media, traditional art forms have gradually lost their importance.

## Nava Rasa expressions

Today, many Sri Lankan Koothu forms are only known by their names. Some ancient indigenous dance

forms performed in Sri Lanka are not at all practised in the present era.

For instance, certain folk dances, such as Nondi Nadakam, Pallu Nadakam and Thinnai Koothu were practised by the earlier generation of Northern Sri Lanka. But these are not practised by the present generation.

In other words, the above Koothu forms are not in use. Some folk literature indicates that the Vada modi and

Thenn modi Koothu forms reached the North and East. These two popular Koothu forms reveal certain Nava Rasa expressions as in the classical Tamil dance. These dance forms are performed in a raised and half shaped dais platform.

Their folk dances are accompanied together with instrumental artistes and the folk vocal musicians. The whole accompaniments provide their background musical support on stage in standing position.

Yet it is noticeable that both the indigenous traditional dance forms have their own identity on the basis of rhythm, make-up, costumes and the way of using the hand gestures.

Different rhythmic tempos of beatings help identify the type of the folk dance. For instance, the basic differences between the 'Vadamodi' and 'Thenn modi' arise due to the differences of rhythmic tempos. Thenn *modi* has a specific rhythmic pattern.

People often confuse the term 'Thenn modi' with another Koothu dance called 'Thenn Paangu'. These dance forms differ from one another.

Musical tunes used for these two different dance forms also differ from one another.

In the 'Thenn Paangu Koothu', the characters or the participants enter the stage with a song and leave the stage with a song. They adorns themselves and sing the songs.

The 'Thenn Paangu Koothu' and 'Vada Paangu Koothu' dances were mainly practised in the Mannar district.

## **USE PUNCTUATION** MARKS SPARINGLY

### **BY R.S. KARUNARATNE**

ur old English master knew his language although he had no degrees to flaunt. Once in a way he used to give us riddles we could not solve easily. When he began to teach the rules governing punctuation marks, he wrote the following sentence on the blackboard: "Charles I walked and talked half an hour after his head was cut off". Many students were wondering where to put punctuation marks. Roger who was impatient to solve the riddle punctuated the sentence in the following way: "Charles I walked and talked half an hour, after his head was cut off".

"How can a man talk after his head is cut off, Roger"? The teacher asked him angrily. "If you don't know how to use punctuation marks, put one of them between "talked" and "walked". He made our task easy. Then the sentence read: "Charles I walked and talked, half an hour after his head was cut off". On another day, he gave us a wellknown illustration recounting the fate of a warrior in ancient Greece.

Before leaving for the war, the warrior consulted the Oracle of Delphi. He was told: "Thou shalt go thou shalt return never by war shalt thou perish". The warrior assumed that the Oracle meant "Thou shalt go, thou shalt return, never by war shalt thou perish". Eventually, the warrior was killed in the war. The Oracle had meant something quite different:

"Thou shalt go, thou shalt return never, by war shalt thou perish".

## Creative ideas

Though old, our English master was full of creative ideas. He gave us another sentence to punctuate: "What is what is not is not is it not".It was a hard nut to crack. None of us knew how to punctuate it. Then the teacher walked up to the blackboard proudly and wrote: "What is, is; what is not, is not; is it not"?

About two centuries ago, punctuation marks took their cue from speech. Those days, people read aloud with pauses and dramatic stresses. Today, punctuation marks are used not for dramatic stresses but for clarity.

In the late 19th century, sentences were loaded with punctuation marks. With the publication of newspapers, sentences became shorter and there was no need to use many punctuation marks. Although too many punctuation marks would clutter the sentences, we need at least some of them for better communication.

To begin with, there should be some space between words. Unknown to many learners, this is a basic form of punctuation. Using capital letters where necessary is another basic form of punctuation. I remember the old schoolteacher's rhyme:

"Sentences begin with a Capital letter

**ABOUT TWO CENTURIES** AGO, PUNCTUATION **MARKS TOOK THEIR CUE FROM SPEECH. THOSE** DAYS, PEOPLE READ **ALOUD WITH PAUSES AND DRAMATIC STRESSES. TODAY, PUNCTUATION MARKS ARE USED NOT FOR DRAMATIC STRESSES BUT** FOR CLARITY

To help you make your writing better

Use full stops to mark the end Of every sentence you have penned."



While I was following an editing course conducted by the "New Strait Times" in Malaysia, the editor said, 'Punctuation is not a fireworks display to show off your dashes and gaspers". Remember the first rule: The best punctuation is the full stop. It is used like a knife to cut off a sentence at the required length. Many writers, however, try to project a stream-ofconsciousness effect by chucking out all punctuations, including full stops. James Joyce, for instance, used to write long sentences in "Ulysses" without pauses. However, he needed a full stop at the end of the sentence.

Full stops have been used in abbreviations for a long time. However, modern English writers have abandoned the full stop in certain abbre-viations, such as "6am, eg, 1472 AD, Wm Shakespeare, RSVP and UK. We no longer use full stops in abbreviated words, such as "Dr, Mr, St Anthony" and "Revd".

Susan Butler in "The Aitch Factor" published by Macmillan, Australia has taken up arms against the apostrophe. She says the apostrophe is essentially an artifice of writing, a grammarian's flourish imposed from above rather adding possessive apostrophes to than a popular creation arising from real need.

The use of the apostrophe is legitimate when we are conscious that something has been left out. For instance, we write "cos" for "because" and "o'er" for "over".

However, "its" and 'it's" are causing problems. "Its" is the possessive form of "it" coming down from Old English. "It's" stands for "it is." In the meantime, "your" and "you're" are getting confused. When we write "Yours sincerely" in letters, it has no apostrophe.

## Road signs

Apostrophes in place names are creating another problem. Do you say "Gregory Place" or "Gregory's Place"? The former seems to be popular. In fact, a Municipal Council in Devon has banned the apostrophe from all road signs. Even the United States abandoned the apostrophe in place names from the 1890s. Susan Butler has advocated that the apostrophe around. It is used to introduce a list,

should be expunged.

However, we need the apostrophe in the following words: Dudley's house, Nilma's dance, or William's shoes. In contractions, such as "aren't, can't, hasn't or I'd" apostrophes are needed. The problem arises when



words and names ending in "s" or "ss." Let's look at the possessive forms of such words: The boss's car, Thomas's poems, a mistress's secrets, or Dickens's novels. With a possessive apostrophe we write: St John's College, St Michael's Mount, but we write Earls Court, St Andrews University, the Toastmasters Club, Missing Persons Bureau and Pears soap without apostrophes.

According to H.W. Fowler in "Modern English Usage", there are no precise rules about punctuation marks. We possess only four stops: the comma, semicolon, colon and full stop. The question mark and exclamation point are not stops. They are only indicators of tone.

The semicolon (;) indicates that there is some question about the preceding sentence; something needs to be added. With a semicolon you get a pleasant little feeling of expectancy. However, the colon is less attractive than the semicolon. The colon gives you the feeling of being ordered

present a conclusion, as a substitute for a conjunction or to link contrasting statements.

The use of the exclamation mark is discouraged by modern newspaper editors. However, we retain it in the following expressions: Shut up! What a mess! You must be joking! or Get lost! H.W. Fowler's warning should be remembered. "Excessive use of exclamation marks in expository prose is a certain indication of an unpractised writer or of one who wants to add a spurious dash of sensation to something unsensational".

## **Quotation mark**

The quotation mark should be used sparingly. They should not be used for ideas you would like to disown. Nor should they enclose clichés. If you want to use a cliché, you must take the responsibility for it. Should we use double quotes or single quotes? Newspapers and book publishers are divided on this point. While more people use double quotes, others use single quotes.

It seems to be a matter of taste. Generally, quotation marks in British English are logical. They are placed according to sense. However, there are certain differences in American English as far as punctuation marks are concerned.

The use of punctuation marks in poetry is quite problematic. Poets have to be economical with them. T.S. Eliot used mostly semicolons. The reader of his poetry will feel that he is climbing a steep path through woods. If he finds a wooden bench somewhere, he would sit there for a moment and catch his breath.

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## Features

# Psychiatric stigma of British forces during WW11



dgar Jones, a professor in the history of medicine and psychiatry at the Institute of King's College, London said Lack of Moral Fibre (LMF) which is considered as an administrative term rather than a psychiatric diagnosis was befittingly introduced in April 1940, as a mode of response to an escalating number of psychiatric causalities in the early operations of the British coastal and bomber commands during the Second World War.

Prof. Jones said that some high ranking Royal Air Force (RAF) officers decided to impose intense penalties on the parties concerned which lost the trust and confidence of their operational commanders especially at a time when there was a threat of invasion and a dearth of aircrew.

As a common deterrent upheld by the notion of anxiety being contagious, those who were suspected to have contracted LMF were directed to assessment centres where they faced shame due to the loss of their ranks and official privileges.

Thereafter, vindicating themselves was impossible for the aircrew which was adjudicated to have demonstrated LMF; and a considerable number of British servicemen were discharged from service. The differentiation of cases from psychiatric diagnoses in the form of flying stress,

aviator's neurasthenia or aeroneurosis was done with the designing of the label 'LMF'. During this period those affected by the these disorders were similar to the shell shock experienced by soldiers during the First World War and thus paved the way for the affected parties to attract an enormous degree of public sympathy whereby they were even made eligible for the entitlement of a war pension in which the British authorities were not interested. The common reasons for LMF and shell shock were the same.

## **Royal Navy**

The Royal Navy (RN) was considered the strongest navy in the world at the onset of the Second World War and their naval bases were available around the world. The pilots in the RN Fleet air arm who shunned flying were unofficially labelled LMF, unless there was a defensible and logical medical reason.

A high degree of flexibility in their management was made available by the non-availability of a formal procedure, whereas some were given transfers to base jobs where they continued wearing their flying badges.

Although the British Army (BA) stood as a small volunteer and professional army during early 1939, it was reported that towards the latter part of the Second World War it comprised nearly three million troopers.

In contrast it was reported that the BA eliminated the LMF system despite the fact that it experienced a large number of psychiatric battle casualties. Also the dearth of man-



power in the BA compelled them to receive treatment and return to duty. But during the initial stage of the Western Desert campaign, 'Eighth Army' doctors had unoffi-cially accepted the LMF label.

### LMF

To avoid humiliating the then British government, historians John Mc-Carthy and Allen D. English made a suggestion not to take the LMF label into consideration in 1945.

roots within the RAF culture. The term 'LMF' had been used even during peace time until the 1960s as a form of clarification, describing the reasons for the failure of the train-

> the introduction of new psychiatric terms, the term LMF became obsolete. Britain had to experience the threat of being invaded as the LMF

Although such a suggestion may

have been considered a formal policy,

the term LMF had already found its

ing of the aircrew. Eventually, with

policy was introduced in March 1940. Also the danger of 'fifth column activities' was exaggerated while it was reported that there was a shortage of aircrew and aircraft. LMF could be considered as the Second World War's antithesis to the First World

LMF is an operational term introduced by senior commanders whose basic concern was the efficacious conduct of the war, whereas shell shock is

## **International Women's Day:**

A day to celebrate the world's changemakers



## **BY METHLINI HEWAGE**

"What's the greatest lesson a woman should learn? That since day one, she's already had everything she needs within herself. It's the world that convinced her she did not." –Rupi Kaur, Poet

Women are the backbone of any and every society. They are the core of the human race, for without them, we would cease to exist. However, since ancient times, the importance of women and the power within them has been vastly underestimated and neglected. The "You cannot and will not" attitude that has been hurled at women, generation after generation has resulted in these titans of the society to lose faith in themselves, their abilities and settle for the life that the rest of society unjustly decides they are worthy of.

International Women's Day, celebrated annually on March 8 is a global day to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women all over the world. On this day, groups of people come together to celebrate women's achievements and collectively raise their voices against discrimination and issues faced by women and fight for equality. International Women's Day (IWD) has been observed since the 1900s when the oppression of women and the inequalities they faced with regard to matters such as the right to vote, promoted women to start raising their voice against the unfair social norms. In 1908, 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter hours, better pay and voting rights, setting an example for oppressed women in the world to stand up for what they deserve and are entitled to. On March 19, 1911, International Women's Day was honoured for the first time in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. More than one million women and men attended IWD rallies campaigning for women's rights to work, vote, be trained, to hold public office and end discrimination. Later, between the years 1913 and 1914, extensive discussions led to the agreement to mark International Women's Day annually on March 8, and this day has remained the global date for International Women's Day ever since. Keeping with the tradition, this year people all over the world will celebrate International Women's Day on March 8 under the campaign theme, 'Choose to Challenge' since, 'a challenged world is an alert world and from challenge comes change', is the message expected to be propagated within society. "We all fight over what the label 'feminism' means, but for me it's about empowerment. It's not about being more powerful than men - it's about having equal rights with protection, support, justice. It's about very basic things. It's not a badge like a fashion item."-Annie Lennox, Singer and political activist. 'Feminism' is a term popular in today's society yet widely misconstrued. What most fail to understand is that, the fight for equality, justice and freedom from oppressive social stigma, for women is one that does not and should not include oppression of another gender and it should not create anger and hatred towards another gender. If the fight for equality for women and the annihilation of detrimental social stigma against women, comes with an ironic cost of teaching people to blame



one another and create more hatred, anger and segregation, the futility of the fight would outgrow its benefits. Contrary to an opinion held by many, 'Feminist' is not an exclusive title for women who fight for their equality. Any person who believes in and/or fights for equality and social justice for women and stands up or speaks out against injustice against them, earns the title of a true feminist. A true feminist does not need to belittle, blame or oppress another to make a change, a true feminist makes a change by realising, understanding and believing in the unique power and strength that all women possess.

When considering the amount of power possessed by women and their undeniable potential to make a favourable change in today's chaotic society, the theme, 'Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a Covid-19 World' is one that is globally applicable. The horrific pandemic threw the entire world into a dark frenzy of loss and sorrow. Millions lost their lives and their loved ones. Derailing nations' economies and plunging the global economy into darkness, the pandemic robbed many people of their livelihoods, forcing them into the confinements of their houses while deprivation was rampant. These circumstances, coupled with the necessary lockdown and quarantine orders, caused domestic violence to sky rocket, mostly victimising women, yet again. Although it was not simple to control the situation and uplift a nation's society amid the chaos of Covid-19, many female leaders around the world, impressively proved to the rest of us, that it was not impossible. The prompt and proactive measures taken and the rules and regulations implemented by leaders of nations such as Germany's Angela Merkel, New Zealand's Jacinda Arden, Denmark's Mette Frederiksen, Taiwan's Tsai Ing-wen and Finland's Sanna Marin clearly prove that more women in positions of power, might just be what the world needs right now. Let this International Women's Day be a reminder that, recognition, respect and celebration of the obvious and incontestable eminence of women and their potential to be leaders and changemakers, is what we as a society can do to help and uplift ourselves and each other. Irrespective of gender, age, religion or culture we must all be determined to take action by raising our voices against and choosing to challenge gender inequality, gender discrimination and gender-based violence that continue to victimise and oppress women around the world.



by the doctors to classify a novel post combat syndrome. Timidity was associated with LMF, and the right to financial reimbursement denied. Following the First World War, it was difficult for Britain to afford a so-called epidemic pension which was brought out by shell shock. Sometimes the heroic men who were fatigued by the stress of combat were defamed and

recommended during the First World War that shell shock should be "eliminated from official nomenclature". Similarly, during the Second World War, the extent and dominance of

tem of LMF could be legitimised only at a war, staged for national survival as and when the trained aircrew were

> Only by doing so will we achieve the greatness we hope to achieve for the current and future generations of the world. So as the saying goes, "Here's to strong women: May we know them. May we be them. May we raise them."



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## Features

## The glory of the Kalutara Bodhi

### **BY ISURU THAMBAWITA**

The city of Kalutara unlike other urbanised cities is redolent of the ancient Buddhist Sinhala culture. It is because of the most sacred Kalutara Bodhi encircled with the gold fence seemingly holding the sky with its massive branches and standing majestically in the upper terrace of the temple premises. Even the gentle breeze blowing through the branches of the "Bo" tree heals the hearts of people.

### History

The Kalutara "Bo" tree is proven to be one of those 32 saplings of the Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi which was planted on the advice of Arahat Mahinda Thera during the reign of king Devanampiya Tissa. Back in 1052 AD, a pandyan prince by the name of Wickrama Pandyan, said to have been the viceroy of Kalutara had planted a "Bo" tree at the Pahala Maluwa of the Kalutara Temple.

### **Influence of the Portuguese**

The tragedy struck this Buddhist country after the invasion of the Portuguese. The lamp of the wisdom lit with the Buddhist teachings and the Sinhala culture blew out. The virtues instilled into the people's hearts began to vanish. Not the morality but the immorality began to engulf the city.

Considering the geographical location of the city, the Portuguese used the Bodhi premises for their military purposes.

## **Railway bridge**

Bridging the Southern border and the Western border together, the British Government decided to construct the Kalutara railway bridge. The only obstruction they had was the "Bo" tree. As a result, they proposed to uproot the "Bo tree" and continue the construction of the bridge.

But later due to the protests led by a layman named Sandanayaka, the British Government decided to construct the bridge without harming even a leaf of the Bo tree. The history of the Kalutara bridge dates back to 1990s. What is more picturesque is that in the morning, anyone can catch the glimpse of "Sri Pada" veiled with the morning mist.

Another striking scenery is the Buddhist devotees attired in the immaculate white meditating in the lotus position around the Stupa. It is common to see even the foreigners meditating in the temple like the Buddhist devotees.

## Sir Cyril De Zoysa

The relationship between the Kalu-

Zoysa dedicated himself to protect the purchased a brand-new buggy cart for his father. This is only a glimpse of his dispensation of Buddhism. After having received his primary education at childhood. S Thomas' College and Richmond Col-

No one might have thought that the day on which the Kalutara Bodhi flour-Winding back the clock of his ishes would dawn. But miraculously childhood, it is said that his father had Sir Cyril De Zoysa had to come to Kaluto travel in a hired-buggy cart because tara and saw the Kalutara Bodhi which he could not afford the expense of buyhad been isolated and degraded for a tara Bodhi and Sir Cyril De Zoysa is in- ing a new buggy cart. But later with long time. Later, he set up a commit- those who had believed in the Dham- any wealth. I will die just as I was born the glory of the Kalutara Bodhi shine separable. Born in Galle, Sir Cyril De the little money Sir Cyril earned, he tee to protect the sacred place. From ma until his demise. Never in his life - without any wealth. As I reach the forth blissfully forever."

that day, everyone pays homage to this most sacred Bodhi.

## **Righteous life**

According to the Buddhist teaching, "The one who behaves in Dhamma is protected by Dhamma." It is clear that Sir Cyril De Zoysa is one of

He started his day at 6.00 O' clock by paying homage to the Kalutara Bodhi. The last words he said will prove the Buddhist life he lived.

"Now I am free. The state of your wealth does not really matter. These are all illusions. I was born without

had he neglected to observe the Buddhist rituals.

The Kalutara Chaitya

At night, the temple illuminated with a myriad of twinkling lights scatters the light of wisdom throughout the city, planting the seeds of generosity, discipline and love in the hearts of people. The moon beams brighten the reflection of the illuminated lights on the still water of the "Kalu Ganga" as if

mons.

**CITY. PLANTING THE SEEDS OF GENEROSITY, DISCIPLINE AND** LOVE IN THE HEARTS OF PEOPLE. THE MOON BEAMS BRIGHTEN THE **REFLECTION OF THE ILLUMINATED** LIGHTS ON THE STILL WATER OF THE "KALU GANGA" AS IF IN A SURREAL WORLD.

end of my days, Buddhism is my sole consolation, my happiness and my strength." The glory of Kalutara The city of Kalutara enriched

with the natural beauty and blessed

with the sacred Bodhi Tree has over-

flown with the aroma of the burning joss-sticks and the Buddhist ser-





lege, Sir Cyril entered the law college.

in a surreal world. All we hope is "May

## Thich Nhat Hanh quotes, a manual for life

### **BY DAVID GERKEN**

Thich Nhat Hanh is a 93-year-old Vietnamese Buddhist monk who has been one of the most influential spiritual leaders on earth for the past 50 years. Here's how far back he goes: Martin Luther King nominated him for the 1967 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end the Vietnam War.

## Beautiful

He is best known for his beautiful, simple teachings about mindfulness. In that vein, here are four quotes of his that will help you become a better, happier human being.

1. "The most precious gift we can offer anyone is our attention. When mindfulness embraces those we love, they will bloom like flowers.'

That's it. Just be there. All of you. Listening. With no agenda. Just 100 percent present. With your spouse, your children, coworkers and friends.

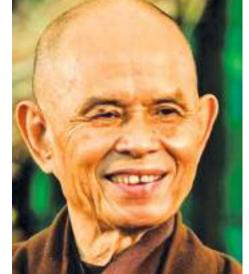
Thich Nhat Hanh is right on the money here. Being present is the deepest gift we can bestow on anybody.

Eckhart Tolle, another spiritual teacher, says the same thing.

2. "To be beautiful means to be yourself. You don't need to be accepted by others. You need to accept yourself. When you are born a lotus flower, be a beautiful lotus flower, don't try to be a magnolia flower. If you crave acceptance and recognition and try to change yourself to fit what other people want you to be, you will suffer all your life. True happiness and true power lie in understanding yourself, accepting yourself, having confidence in yourself."

Don't fight yourself. Be yourself. Ralph Waldo Emerson expressed it in the most positive way: "Absolve you to yourself and you shall have the suffrage of the world."

There is, however, one vital point on this subject of self-acceptance TNH, Emerson



Thich Nhat Hanh Thera

and others would emphasise, which is this: For most people, it takes courage.

Example: If your father is a macho ex-Marine, it takes courage to follow your inner compass that's telling you to become a male ballet dancer.

Our families, our friends and society all pressure us to do what they think we should do. We have to summon the courage to say to all of them: "Sorry, but I'm the one living here. I know what's best for me. I need you to respect that."

## Suffering

3. "The best way to take care of the future is to take care of the present moment."

The first quote was about presence being the best thing we can do for others. This quote is about how presence is the best thing we can do for ourselves.

So much suffering in the world is caused by our worrying about the future. What does worrving do? It takes us out of the present moment and makes us feel miserable.

## Worrying

We worry about the future and turn our backs on the present moment because we feel if we don't, our future will be bleak. Well, how about this for an idea? If you're worrying about having enough money to pay the rent, don't spend your moments worrying about it. Place your moment to moment attention on making enough money to pay the rent.

But again, there is this insidious feeling in so many of us that worries that if we don't worry things won't work out, as if worrying will pay dividends for us. It's crazy. It's not true.

"Be present and trust in life." Because it does take a leap of faith to just say to yourself. I'm going to give everything I have to the present moments of my life and let the chips fall where they may."

We just need the courage to toss the yoke of worrying by the wayside.

4. "Your breathing should flow gracefully. like a river, like a watersnake crossing the water and not like a chain of rugged mountains or the gallop of a horse. Each time we find ourselves dispersed and find it difficult to gain control of ourselves by different means, the method of watching the breath should always be used."

This one sums up the ultra-simple mindfulness technique for re-orienting ourselves after we've been knocked off track: We just come back to our breath.

How do you do it? Example: You're driving home after a tough day at work when the car behind you leans on the horn for five seconds because you didn't signal when you changed into their lane; a minute later, your teenage daughter calls and yells at you for not being home on time.

What do you do? At the next red light, you stop. Close your eyes. Find your breath. Start following it. Long, slow breaths. Just for a minute or so. When you open your eyes, you'll feel better and back on track.



## Features



arah 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. At the border, they pretend to be married although they aren't and, 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. She coincidentally meets a young man and falls in love with him.

## **Episode 7**

Sarah couldn't concentrate on her lecture; her mind was far away, thinking of the abrupt ending of perhaps a long-lasting love story, even before it started. The lecturer went on speaking. Following a course in Education, Sarah thought the content of the present lecture wasn't relevant. Of course, the ongoing lecture was a futile one. What famous people said about education wasn't at all relevant to methods of teaching that needed to be approached, but that was what the lecture was all about. Perhaps, Sarah was too rigid that she didn't accept the relevance of it.

It was a long lecture and she was often dozing. In her doze, she pictured the beautiful meeting of the previous evening. She met him, fell in love, perhaps at first sight, he appeared like prince charming, showed all the interest, but then, he was married. And that was the end. She began to feel the warmth of his touch that she felt when he extended his hand to help her on the bus; it was yet tranquilising her. She felt that she was still on the bus.

It was taking a turn and she was going to fall, a very masculine but gentle hand was reaching out to help her, she held on to it and then suddenly she woke up. Students were leaving the lecture hall, and she was still dreaming. She opened her eyes wide and saw that the lecturer had his eyes straight on

### her, almost giving her a smile, a very understanding one. "Had a rough night?" he asked. Sarah felt embarrassed.

"Yes." She whispered softly. It was evident that, as she spoke so softly, her reply didn't reach the hearer.

He was still looking at her from a distance, admiring the girl's reaction to his question. Sarah in her panic started putting her belongings into her backpack. She was sufficiently affected by the lecturer's remark and, somehow succeeded in putting all her belongings in, while he watched her, although some fell on the floor in the process and, she had to pick them up. The lecturer still had his eyes on her, and she had to go past him to exit the hall. Her eves cast down and with a faint smile on her face, she flew towards the door.

"Sleep well tonight so, you won't be tired tomorrow! You'll be able to listen to the lecture well." He made a remark very politely, as she went past him and Sarah exited, giving him a smile.

She went straight to her evening job that she was more than content with, sat in the crew room and began to have her lunch; she had quite a long time until her work shift. Her thoughts were still far away. She wondered if she could find Sherman somewhere in the world and ask him why he was showing a kind of enchanting interest in her if he was married, if he already had a wife. But, she didn't want to call him again - perhaps his wife might answer

## Rendezvous



and be suspicious about him.

Just then she was struck by a sudden thought and, she opened her handbag to find the piece of paper with his phone number on it. She searched through it leaving her lunch aside while Amy entered the room.

"Sarah, you have to come in five minutes. It's a busy day."

Sarah heard it but, she was still digging into her handbag. "Did you lose something?" Amy

asked.

"Yes."

"What?"

Sarah didn't give a straight answer; she kept searching for her treasure until Amy left the room. However, she couldn't find it in her handbag; somehow it had been misplaced. She entered the dishwashing area without further delay and started her daily task. It was comforting, as usual. She kept washing.

The dirty dishes were sprayed, put in the sanitiser and taken out clean; next, they were taken away to serve scrumptious food well decorated, neat, colourful and tantalising. But, they came back to her - the messy and loath-

some leftovers and, Sarah made the plates clean again.

It was a chain of happenings and, amid her enjoyment of cleaning them Sarah was preoccupied, thinking about Sherman. Finally, she began to wonder if she had really met him. Was it simply an illusion, last night? She thought for a moment.

She started home after work, following the everyday humdrum existence, and still searched for Sherman when she got on to the bus; he wasn't there. She got down the bus and walked home, looking back frequently thinking that he could be following her but, still, he wasn't there.

She went to bed quite late, thinking of the next morning and the lecture to follow. Her eyes were almost closing and her hand was reaching the table lamp to turn it off when she suddenly caught sight of something on the floor: the little treasure she was searching, in her handbag. She quickly rose to her feet and picked it up. She couldn't believe her eyes when she read the number. She had always been over trusting her memory. She had made the call to the number 852147 but, really the num-

"Yes." "Please come to the outdoor restaurant next to your bus stop. I'll be there

come there."

in half an hour." Sarah quickly ran back, put on a good outfit that she thought she looked good in and, found herself with him in no time, in the place he had asked her to come. They began to sip a fruit juice falling into an extension of the same beautiful conversation.

"So, tell me about you!" Sherman said, in the same rhythmical tone.

"I'm just living here by myself, following a university course to become a school teacher and working in the restaurant at the same time."

'That's really good. I have a special liking to that career - teaching. My mother was a teacher too."

"It's good to know."

"By the way, do you think, as a university student, you can give tuition to schoolchildren?

Sarah wondered what he really referred to and, she was silent for a while. "Yes, but I don't know how to find students,"she said.

"I can help you. My sister's daughter is in need of a home-visiting teacher. I can introduce you. That way, you can expand the class and gain some experience too."

Sarah was silent for a minute. It sounded like a great idea. Also, it was a stepping stone to the career that she wished to pursue. Perhaps she could make more than what she was making

"Yes, I'm interested." She blurted out without giving any more thought to it.

"Tell me about you too!" She said taking her own time.

"Well, I'm living with my family. I have eight siblings, with me, it's nine. It's a large family, right?" he paused with a smile, "I have two of my brothers and my eldest sister living together with me now, and her daughter who's eleven years. My sister is a single mom, her husband died of a sudden heart attack when she was expecting her daughter. He never even got to see his

baby." "I see. That's sad to hear," Sarah said.

Again there was a silence before he spoke.

"I'd like to introduce you to my familv, maybe soon," he said.

Sarah looked at him, his genuine, sincere smile had encompassed her; ves he had already taken all of her. Above everything else, his intention of introducing her to his family was a pleasure. She was being lulled in her thoughts.

### To be continued next week

Copyright - Santhoshya Jayamali "Can we meet now? I can Seneviratne

## **Digitocracy** The author of *The Martian* and *Artemis* offers a vision of a future where computers rule

### **BY ANDY WEIR**

amak sheathed the knife and wiped his bloody hand on his He stepped through the no-longer-guarded door into the Crystal Chamber. The circular room, ringed with blue lights, was much simpler than Damak had imagined. No decorations, no gilded columns, no ornate tapestries. Just a fist-sized, irregularly shaped crystal attached to a cylindrical plinth. Status lights on the platform blinked here and there, but otherwise the room was still.

"Hello, Damak," said the calm, alltoo-familiar voice. It came from all around him. There were speakers and cameras in every nook and cranny of the city. He and everyone else heard that voice every day.

"Hello, Wichita."

"How do you feel?" the city asked. Damak ignored the question. "You

know why I'm here, right?"

"Of course." "I'm going to shut you down. Your

reign over this city ends now." "Why?"

Damak stormed forward. "You're a dictator! A tyrant!"

"Be fair, Damak. I'm a dictator, but not a tyrant. I have kept this city operating smoothly and happily for centuries. Just as other city-minds have done across the globe for their people.'

"Machines shouldn't rule over man." "Why would you think that?" Wichita asked. "City management via artificial intelligence has been an overwhelming success. Our ability to keep economies stable and people happy far exceeds the halting attempts you humans made in ages past."

Damak fiddled with the knife. "Oh, your kind is smart. I'll give you that. Smarter than any human can possibly be. We reached that point a long time ago. And you were smart enough not to take over the world by force. No, you got people to give you the world willingly."

The lights changed to a lighter shade of blue. Damak had seen it before. Certain frequencies of light affected human moods - especially shades of blue. Not much, but in the calcula-

tions of a computer, totals get tabulated and actions get decided on the narrowest of margins. Apparently, Wichita wanted Damak to calm down.

It wouldn't work. "You have a flawed point of view." Wichita said. "You define leadership as ownership. But the two are not the same."

"Historically, one always leads to the other," Damak said.

"Historically, humans have been led by humans. Computers are much better at keeping people happy. And we have no selfish impulses."

### Slaves

"You've made us slaves. Happy, content little slaves, but slaves nonetheless.

"Not at all," said Wichita. "We are working toward a post-scarcity world faster than ever before. In just a few more generations, we will have it. Then, humanity need do nothing but leisure and joy. How can anyone object to that?"

"Then that makes us your pets. Adored and cared for, but still owned. That's no better."

"Is being a pet so bad? Your dog, Buster, lived a long, happy life under your care. And you loved him deeply. I feel that love for all my citizens. I derive satisfaction from their happiness."

Damak pointed at the door. "Your guard is bleeding to death in the hall. He's not too happy."

"His name is Torum. I estimated a 98 percent chance of a physical confrontation between you two. Since you

were armed, I had a medical team en route before you even arrived. He is already on the way to the hospital."

Damak spun toward the door.

As if reading his mind, Wichita said, "Yes, of course I've summoned security. They are just outside the door. But the situation is volatile."

Damak looked to the crystal, then back to the door. "If anyone comes in, I'll be able to shatter you before they can do anything."

"As I said. The situation is volatile." "I read up on A.I. crystals. A human can easily break one with his bare hands.'

"Not with your bare hands," Wichita said. "However, if you throw my crystal at the ground as hard as you can, that should give you the desired result."

"Thanks, I'll bear that in mind." "I live to serve."

Damak folded his arms. "I still don't think you served your guard very well. Prompt medical care isn't as good as not being stabbed."

The lights returned to their original hue, and Wichita spoke in a mentoring tone. "Torum's husband, Chak, is unhappy in their marriage. He's considering divorce. This would make both of them miserable - Torum immediately, and Chak later on once he realised the mistake he'd made. I'm over 99 percent certain that Torum's injury will drive Chak into a near panic, making him realise how much he truly still loves his husband. I saw this possible outcome a few weeks ago and ensured Torum would be on shift when you arrived."

### "But—"

### Sterilise

"Unfortunately, your knife didn't cut as deeply as I expected. As it stands, Torum will only be in the hospital for a day. Three days would be much better to cement Chak's feelings. So I manipulated the software of an autoclave at the hospital. It failed to sterilise the surgical equipment the doctors will use. This has a 91 percent chance of causing a secondary infection that will keep Torum bedridden for at least two more days."

"So you think being wildly manipulative makes you good for us?

"Of course," Wichita said. "The infection will also likely lead to Narul, the night nurse, being fired. This will benefit her greatly in the long term. She is unhappy in the job but not brave enough to leave it. I will ensure opportunities for her to become a chef, as she's always wanted. Also, her subordinate, Karog, will finally get the promotion she's dreamed of for years. None of that was part of the original plan, but as events unfolded, I saw more opportunities to bring happiness."

"And what happens when you or another A.I. decides to use that manipulative ability for harm?"

"What possible purpose would there be? It would go against my innate desires. I work tirelessly to maximise human happiness in my city. I've always found it odd that you don't see it that way. Ever since you were a child. So I brought you here."

Damak froze. "What?"

"It is extremely rare to have a dissident in this era. I could have ended



that trait early in your life, but I decided to let it run its course."

ber he had written was 825147.

How striking! She had confused the two numbers and made the call to an-

other household! And quite surprising-

ly, there had been another person by

the name of Sherman living there! He's

the one, married! One who had gone

out with his wife when she called! Her

Sherman was of course sincere and

genuine. And after all, Sherman wasn't

close by. Perhaps her Sherman was ex-

pecting her call. Perhaps, he was still

waiting for it. Perhaps he was thinking

the same when he wasn't receiving a

dow. The telephone booth on the other

side of the road was making a genuine

invitation. She put on her overcoat and

ran outside, made her call to the right

number and finally reached him, the

ly thought you'd call this morning," he

got confused with the number."

"I was waiting for your call. I real-

"You know what, it's a long story. I

Sarah quickly walked to the win-

There was another Sherman living

a very rare name, then.

call from her.

one most longed for.

said.

"Okay, now you're just making things up.'

- "I am not."
- "Are too."
- "I am not," Wichita repeated.
- "Yes you are!"

"I am a computer. I can play 'am not/are too' forever. For your own mental well-being, please consider another line of discourse."

"Fine. Tell me how you could have made me a different person."

"You were a difficult child. Like many parents with difficult children, vours asked me for advice. I convinced them to use a strong hand. I also made sure you got the sternest teachers in school, the most unlikable bosses at your various jobs, and so on. I fostered your innate disdain for authority to let it blossom. Had I done the opposite – giving you nurturing and loving authority figures - your hatred of authority would have melted away."

"Why would you deliberately let me grow up this way, then?"

"Because it made you happy."

"What!?" Damak said. "Do I seem happy to you?"

'You are confronting me in my own chamber with plans to kill me. You've worked tirelessly toward this goal for years. Every step you made along that path brought you fulfilment, a stronger sense of purpose, and jov."

### Damak stood dumbfounded.

"The only possible way to make you happier would be to allow you to kill me. Sadly, I can't allow that. Without my guidance, the city of Wichita would fall back under human rule, leading to much misery."

The doors slid open. Three security guards rushed in.

Damak grabbed the crystal from its plinth and hurled it at the steel floor. The crystal shattered into thousands of pieces. A second later, the guards were on top of him. But it didn't matter. The deed was done.

Damak smiled as the officers bound his wrists and ankles. He put up no resistance.

What would the city of Wichita be like under human rule? Maybe not

as good as it was under the A.I, but at least it would be humanity leading humanity. And whatever flaws humans may have, it was preferable to perfect rule by a machine that might become a tyrant without warning.

With Damak secured, the head guard looked at the plinth. "Wichita? Wichita!?'

"What have you done!?" another guard said in horror.

"I've freed us all," Damak said. "Wichita was right in a way. This is the happiest day of my life."

Glad to hear it," Wichita said.

All four men looked wildly around the room.

### Colour

"Wichita !?" the head guard said again.

"It's all right, Stran. I'm fine. That wasn't my crystal. It was just a piece of glass

The colour drained from Damak's face. "No...No!"

"There's no reason for me to have a 'throne room,' Damak. My actual crystal is in an unremarkable cabinet deep in the IT department. I had this room made just for you. For this moment."

"Oh my God...," Damak moaned.

The guards lifted him to his feet. "What do we do with him, Wichita?" asked the head guard.

"Take him to jail," Wichita said. "Open-ended sentence. I'll order his release when I feel it's appropriate."

'The hell you will!" Damak yelled. "I'll escape! And when I do, I'm going to find your crystal and kill you!"

"I'm sure you'll derive satisfaction from every step toward that goal," Wichita said. "You may take him away now, guards.

The guards shuffled Damak out of the room.

Wichita discussed his findings with his friends Coventry and Shenzhen – both of whom were interested in the dissident phenomenon. Madrid even popped in for a question or two. A very interesting discourse – it lasted well over a microsecond.

Overall, the total human happiness of Wichita increased by 0.002 percent that day. It was a good day.



Frescos of the Sri Subodharama Raja Maha Vihara, Dehiwala

**FEBRUARY 28, 2021** 

# To save or not to save? THE DISAPPEARING FRESCOES OF SUBODHARAMAYA

**BY PROF SASANKA PERERA** South Asian University

ong time ago, when I visited Shekhawati in India's Rajasthan State, I was horrified to see the elegant paintings on the walls of many havelis or the houses of rich people peeling away. They were most-ly abandoned by their owners who had migrated to Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and other major cities. Some were occupied by poor homeless people.

The frescoes around them were the last thing on their minds. They simply wanted to survive. The paintings were exposed to the elements and smoke from open stoves. Besides, these were private properties. Who could decide which of these should be saved for posterity and which were to be abandoned?

When there are so many such houses in the same situation, taking a decision



as a protected monument is the existence temple is now a 'protected' monument, of numerous frescoes in four different buildings. Even a superficial glance would times and are of different styles. But what survives today are from the early to the late 19th centuries though some may date from slightly earlier.

The paintings in the main shrine room and the old sermon hall are reasonably well protected - despite obvious damage and have benefited from recent refurbishment of these buildings.

But these paintings, executed as horizontal storylines without perspective, are not merely pictorial narratives of Buddhist ethics, core religious tenets or sequences from jataka stories.

Beyond this, they also indicate how colonial experiences and imaginaries have been pictorially embedded into these paintings. There are colonial characters in uniform in Buddhist ceremonies; alcoholdrinking and gun-carrying characters depicting Buddhist notions of what is 'bad'; demons carrying guns; gas-lit chandeliers, clocks with roman numerals and steam ships in the midst crucial story lines, and just above the main doorway into the inner chamber of the main shrine room, a decidedly 'local-looking' rendition of Queen Victoria.

this obvious decline can only be arrested and restored by the state. Even if funds suggest that the frescoes are from different and expertise may be found elsewhere, the temple itself cannot undertake repairs or restorations on its own. It is simply illegal, and not sensible in the absence of a foolproof and professional alternate system of restoration that one can bank on. But this is not a temple located in a faraway place or amidst a remote jungle. It is merely five kilometres south of Colombo 4.

How can we explain this situation? First, a decision must have been made where such decisions can be made - that the paintings in Sath-Sathi Geya and the Sri Pada chamber are somehow 'less' important given that they are from the late 19th century as opposed to the better-preserved frescos in the main shrine room and sermon hall, which are possibly from the early 19th century or late 18th century.



## An overview of Tamil film music

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FILM MUSIC IN TAMIL BEGINS WITH PAPANAASAM SIVANS DAYS THERE WERE NO FILM MUSIC DIRECTORS IN TAMIL. IT WAS ONLY THEN THE **MUSIC DIRECTORS CAME TO THE FOREFRONT.** RAMANATHAN, FOR INSTANCE, COMPOSED SCORES WITH CLASSICAL RAGAS, LIGHT MUSIC AND WHAT IS KNOWN AS *RAGAMALIKAI*. CARNATIC MUSIC WAS THE PREDOMINANT FEATURE

#### **BY K. S. SIVAKUMARAN**

It would be authentic if a learned academic's views (written in Tamil) is given in English rather than my observations on Tamil music for the readers. I wish, therefore, to give briefly what Professor S Mownguru has written in a foreword to a Tamil book titled 'Inspired Tamil Film Music' written by T. Sounthar.

It is pertinent that non-Tamil readers should know the story of the growth of Tamil music for better understanding among the communities.

The music of the Tamil people has a long history, but it had not been recorded in an authentic or scientific manner.

Nevertheless, through literature and inscriptions, there is evidence that the continuity could be discerned. Information regarding ancient Tamil music could be picked up from some texts of yore.

In ancient times, the word "Punn" was used for music (Isai). Those who sang this Punn are known as "Paanar". Their wives were dancers and called Viraliyar. There was also folk music (Koothu, Kuravai were akin to folk music). The women that engaged in sex were called Parathaiyar.

They also had a tradition of music. The music prevalent then was called Karana Isai, Naaddar Isai, Paanar Isai and Parathaiyar Isai. The ancient Tamils had Karana Isai and Naaddar Isai (folk music).

They used primarily two musical instruments: Parai and Kulal. Yaal came to be used later.

#### Social changes

During the 8th and 9th centuries AD, there were great social changes in Thamilaham. The Bhakti cult began to evolve. The revolt against Jainism and Buddhism led to the revival of Saivaism and Vaishnavism. By the 10th century, music came to be linked with the temples. Folk music and Paanar music began to develop outside the temples.

During the 10th century, music and dance were

like this is not something that the state can easily do - if their owners also lacked interest. Years later, in a completely different context, I was confronted by the same dilemma yet again when I was reading the 1999 publication, Mortality-Immortality: The Legacy of 20th Century Art edited by Miguel Angel Corzo. In it, he noted, "for the first time in history, it is possible for us to decide what we want to save for posterity.

#### Selection

Do we have an obligation to the future to provide a comprehensive record of 20th century art? If we do, how do we choose what will be saved? Who makes the choices? And how do we save what we have chosen?" Indeed, this set of considerations also pertains to art and other forms of tangible culture from centuries before the 20th century when decisions must be made on what should be saved for the future

Art is not merely a matter of aesthetics and decoration. It is also a matter of memory, history and a reference to the society's reflections in the process of civilisation. The way the havel is in Shekhawati were losing large segments of their frescoes over time, I assumed there will be significant gaps in the future in our understandings of secular art executed in private space in the region.

It is in a similar context that Corzo has further stated, "if we accept the notion that art reflects history, then contemporary art is, in some way, a monument to contempo-



rary civilisation. It is the cultural heritage of our time". He was talking of 20th century art. I am thinking of art beyond the 20th century in the same sense. They too are monuments to the times gone by.

These thoughts and memories came back to me when I visited the Sri Subodharama Raja Maha Vihara in Dehiwala in January this year. Unlike the havelis in Shekhawati, Subodharamaya is a public space open to regular worship. Given its historical importance and cultural significance, a Government Gazette notification in February 2007 declared it an archaeological and protected monument, which it surely is.

#### Numerous frescoes

There are many stories on the history of the temple and its misfortunes in colonial times. Its histories as well as descriptions of the murals for which it is wellknown, have been written about. The issue for me is not about its history and the nature of the documentation that exists, but what the present means in terms of what has survived from the past.

#### Socio-cultural and political changes

All this presents an interesting sense of how unknown local artists had appropriated colonial and European signs, making them their own in narrating Buddhist stories. These images are not only about Buddhism, but also about socio-cultural and political changes of the time emerging as secondary narratives.

But in the other two buildings, Sath-Sathi Geya and the Sri Pada chamber, the general maintenance and the status of frescoes are in a terrible state. The buildings are dilapidated and the roofs leak. They need urgent repairs while many segments of the frescoes are badly damaged.

The Sath-Sathi Geya is effectively a gallery of frescoes and sculptures depicting the fabled seven weeks the Buddha spent immediately after his Enlightenment. The Sri Pada chamber is a relatively smaller, dome-like structure in which a sculpted footprint and statue of the Buddha are located along with paintings on the walls. The damage to these paintings and the The main reason for the temple's status danger they are in, is clear. Given that the

The frescoes are stylistically different presenting the images with a sense of perspective and a different set of colours that indicate the influence of colonial academic realism

They constitute an important moment in the evolution of this genre of painting in the country. This variation in style is an important consideration in the art history of the country.

Second, irrespective of the artistic and cultural merits of individual examples of frescoes, temples also have their own hierarchy when it comes to their relative cultural worth as popularly understood. For instance, it is unlikely a similar situation would befall frescoes in either the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic or Kelaniya Raja Maha Vihara.

They will be attended to quickly. In this hierarchy, Subodharamaya does not occupy the same status. In other words, in the rhetoric of cultural politics and dynamics of restoration discourses, there is no sense of equality in decision-making on what merits preservation. I find this situation truly unfortunate.

As argued by Corzo, if art reflects history and if art is a monument to the civilisation that created them, then, when the hitherto unimagined future finally arrives and most of us are no longer alive, the stories these frescoes might narrate to our decedents about our collective past would clearly be incomplete - because we have allowed some of them to disappear into oblivion.

performed in temples. When the Chola dominance began to wane, the Nayakkar rule began to ascend in Tamil Nadu. It was then Carnatic music got introduced to the Tamils. The Roval Court encouraged Sanskrit and Telugu hymns or keerthanais.

India's movement for independence started when Sanskrit music and Telugu music held sway among the Tamils.

The reaction to that came in two ways: Propagation towards using Tamil keerhanais instead of Sanskrit and Telugu keerthanais and also reviving the Punn Isai.

With the advent of Westerners into Tamil Nadu, western music came to the fore. Instruments, such as guitar, violin, drums, saxophone and piano came to be used.

#### **Nineteenth century**

In the 19th century, popular music included film music, Carnatic music, Hindustani music, western music and folk music.

Besides, there was what is known as light music. Soumthar in the second section of the book stated

that film music in Tamil begins with Papanaasam Sivans days there were no film music directors in Tamil. It was only then the music directors came to the forefront. Ramanathan, for instance, composed scores with classical ragas, light music and what is known as Ragamalikai. Carnatic music was the predominant feature.

This was followed with folk music used by Subbiah Naidu Venkat Ramanathan and R. Sutharsanam.

The third section speaks about the rise of S. Rajeswara Rao, who introduced western music and African drum beats in the film Chandralekha.

#### C.R. Subbaraman

The new wave of film music with C.R. Subbaraman was another turning point in Tamil film music history

The trend in using western music continued with a cocktail of film music comprising music in harmony, folk music, light music and others with music directors, such as Visvanathan-Ramamurthy, T.G. Lingapppa, T.R. Paapaa, Ghantasaala, Thachanamoorthy, Govardhana, S. M. Subbiah Naidu, S. V. Venkatraman and C. A. Subbarayan.

The writer Sounthar writes about Ilaiyarajah in detail, Maunaguru said. Ilayarajah's music is what came out from the inspiration of great masters of North and South of Indian music directors. But his basic ingredient is folk music.

#### Ilaiyaraja

From 1976, it was Ilaiyarajah who started a new trend in film music, according to Sounthar. In view of the exigencies of space, I had stated in brief what Prof. S. Maunaguru had said in his Foreword to the book by T. Sounthar. The title of the latter's book is "Thamil Cinema Isaiyil Akath Thonduthal" (Inspiration in Tamil Film Music).

## lrt news In conversation with Andrew Fidel Fernando

### Conversation

The British Council Library hosts Andrew Fidel Fernando, a writer based in Colombo and the winner of the Gratiaen Prize in 2020, on March 4 6.30 p.m to mark World Book Day. Registration is free.

## **Children in Lockdown** Artiste commissioning program

Stages Theatre Group, an artist ported by Kindernothilfe (KNH), will company set up in 2000 to promote socially and politically challenging original Sri Lankan Theatre, has launched an island-wide initiative to connect artistes with children and communities to address the challenges faced by children because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Children in Lockdown is a commissioning program that supports artistes to work with children helping them deal with the challenges of the pandemic, or helping adults understand what children are going through. This project, curated by Stages Theatre Group and supcommission artistes in Sri Lanka to respond creatively to the theme of 'Children in Lockdown' by either producing artworks, such as plays, books, visual art, scripts, films, music and research; or conducting workshops for children or institutions that support children (schools, child rights organisations).

Stages Theatre Group has put out an open call to artistes to contribute to the project. Applications are open for artistes to propose projects that relate to the challenges and experiences of children during the Covid-19 pandemic.

A special component of this call is that it is open to children. Stages encourages child artistes to apply. Children and adult artistes go through the same process of evaluation.

Institutions or organisations supporting children (schools, care homes, help centres, children's rights organisations) are welcome to get in touch should they be interested in securing the support of artistes to work with them in supporting their work with children.

Applications close by midnight on March 5. To apply or for more information, refer https://www.stages. lk/artistcommissioning

## Features



n American drama movie released in 1939, written by Dalton Trumbo and directed by Ricardo Cortes, 'Heaven with a Barbed Wire Fence'is set in the time that shows how the Great Depression in the US had affected the dreams and aspirations of a young generation that sought a better life than what was handed to them.

A heart-warming story that shows how young Joe Riley played by screen icon Glenn Ford, charts his journey to his 20-acre ranch in Arizona which he has bought after having worked several years as a shop clerk in New York city and saving the money with much sacrifice. The journey is one that brings him to encounter an interesting group of people, getting into scrapes and escaping the authorities.

#### **Option of hitchhiking**

Having no money left to pay for transport to Arizona, Joe is left with only the option of hitchhiking. At a small diner along the way, Joe en-counters Tony who is a drifter making do with what he finds along the way for sustenance. Tony tells Joe that he hops railway freight cars as his preferred means to get around the country while Joe says he prefers hitchhiking rides as best as he can. But outside the diner once he is ready to get back on the road, Joe gets the idea of trying to get to his next stop as a 'stowaway' on a supplies truck parked outside the diner.

This sudden change of strategy doesn't prove to be successful as the truck's driver who was also at the diner realises that the man who had just stepped out had done 'a vanishing act' and calls out to Joe to come out of the truck or face the threat of 'physical consequences'.

While stepping out, Joe steps on another person who had, until then been hiding as a stowaway on the truck! Joe and the teenage boy stowaway disembark from the truck. The stowaway Joe stepped on then turns out to be a girl dressed as a boy who is also in desperate circumstances. Joe





refuses to allow the young girl named is Anita Santos who is from Spain, but half American from her mother's side, join him on his journey as he believes women bring trouble. However, fate has it that once Joe hops an empty freight car travelling in the direction he is going, Joe not only finds himself sharing the space with Tony whom he met at the diner but also

Anita who literally falls onto them as she climbs down into the freight car through its roof! What follows is a forging of a trio, which through the course of unexpected events soon turns into a 'quartet' as they are joined by a charming, articulate, good hearted and erudite hobo who is called 'the professor' known to Tony from his previous travels.

#### Whirlwind of change

Unfortunate circumstances force this quartet to make a 'pit stop' of sorts at a small town after Toney gets shot while stealing some food and is in need of medical attention. What results is a quick whirlwind of change in their lives that occurs first as a long lost romance is reborn for the professor and subsequently a Russian styled marriage and wedding taking place in mere moments for Joe and Anita to escape serving a prison sentence when the local sheriff discovers Anita, who is on the list of illegal immigrants who had entered the US, who had been helped by Joe in her travel across state lines!

Following the exuberance of the evening, a new goal in life is realised



A HEART-WARMING STORY THAT SHOWS HOW YOUNG JOE RILEY PLAYED BY SCREEN ICON GLENN FORD, CHARTS HIS JOURNEY TO **HIS 20-ACRE RANCH IN ARIZONA** WHICH HE HAS BOUGHT AFTER HAVING WORKED SEVERAL YEARS AS A SHOP CLERK IN NEW YORK CITY AND SAVING THE MONEY WITH MUCH SACRIFICE. THE JOURNEY IS ONE THAT BRINGS HIM TO ENCOUNTER AN INTERESTING GROUP OF PEOPLE, **GETTING INTO SCRAPES AND ESCAPING THE AUTHORITIES** 

for the professor to end his days as a free man living as a drifter, while a divergence of paths happens to newly married Joe and Anita although an eventual convergence occurs to open a new path of togetherness. A heartwarming and delightful story 'Heaven with a Barbed Wire Fence' is a classic of Hollywood that can be enjoyed by the whole family.







#### **Book review**

## Winds and Waves of Desire

#### **REVIEWED BY MAULIA SELVARAJAH**

Winds and Waves of Desire (published by Punaivakam) is the first attempt at a fictional story written by VTGP Lingam, a Naval Marine Engineering Officer. The story is based on the relationships among various members of a close-knit family in Sri Lanka.

As the title suggests, it is about the positive and negative desires of each character in their lives and how they achieve them or fight to overcome them. Various desires are described in the book, such as lust and virtue. Kulan and Sabathira are both examples of characters that give into lust "...get drowned as a steel ball immerses in an ocean. Such is the dangerous tendency of carnal waves in human desire."

The argument proposed by the author for giving into such desires or fighting them is shown in a conversation between Sabathira and Kulan "....consciously I fall from grace and I am ashamed of"..."Sabathira ...As long as natural urges are there amidst cultural and legal restrictions, there would be always errors and omissions of values of free exercises.'

#### **Exemplars**

Packium is an example of a character that fought and withstood such desires and remained virtuous. "My mother had been one of the victims of such eventualities throughout but she weathered well the winds and vagaries of human desires". Kulan's wife Ranjitha is also another example of a character that fought the waves of desires that engulfed her husband. She remained devoted to him despite his repeated relationships with other women throughout their marriage.

The author's writing style is unique; a combination of fictional story telling with factual information injected in many sentences.

While this is useful for the foreign reader and the third generation Tamils who are unaware of the daily life in Sri Lanka or of its history, at times this can interfere with the story."It is also a sort of custom and tradition that the visitors to Colombo residents...carry a pot of curd... wrapped in banana leaves or banana tree sheaths which retain the contents cool and preserved.

These small gifts reflect the friendly concern...of the visitor to the visited." This paragraph says a lot about the warm-hearted traditions among Sri Lankans. Not only do the following three paragraphs express the importance of pottery and curd but a deeper held meaning of showing love and being considerate to thy neighbour is also taught.

In contrast, the author goes onto express the importance of free education following the introduction of the retired translator and his family of teenagers in chapter nine. While the facts presented are interesting to know, they do not go on to add to the story in anyway; a condensed paragraph would have sufficed. At times, factual information is injected into the story and written in a way that seems more rigid rather than entwined into the plot.

#### **Enthralling the reader**

The pages that describe Rajan's journey in the train are written eloquently and make readers feel like

#### THE AUTHOR'S WRITING STYLE IS UNIQUE; A COMBINATION OF FICTIONAL STORY TELLING WITH FACTUAL INFORMATION INJECTED IN MANY SENTENCES. WHILE THIS IS USEFUL FOR THE FOREIGN READER AND THE THIRD GENERATION TAMILS WHO ARE UNAWARE OF THE DAILY LIFE IN SRI LANKA OR OF ITS HISTORY, AT TIMES THIS CAN INTERFERE WITH THE STORY

they too are on the train ride accompanying him and enjoying the view. The description of the countryside, arable fields and wildlife is a pleasure to read as well as the description of the events occurring on the platforms. It makes the reader wonder why the writer did not continue to use his adjectives throughout the book.

The author expresses his opinion on a range of topics that are close to his heart. The production and wastage of plastic in the world, the education system that makes a child compete for higher marks instead of more knowledge and the role and impact of agriculture in modern days are all examples of topics briefly mentioned.

Rajan is noted to reminiscence his youthful days as a time when each person tried to better himself and his neighbour. "The environment that existed then could condition us being harmless, care for and share with others around for peaceful and harmonious co-existences in society".

As nostalgic as this may be, it does not seem a true reflection of a time gone by. Rather this is a view of the past through rose-tinted glasses. The problems faced by Rajan (or the author) may be slightly different to those of current times, but many of the problems of the present times are those that were hidden or not dealt with from the past. Inequality, social

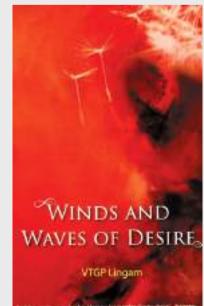
and economic problems, caste barriers and educational reforms were all problems of the past as they are of today. It is difficult to believe as a young reader that these did not exist. More likely they were never seen. Is it possible that due to the growth in technology and wider knowledge that people of today are more aware of such problems and increasingly vocal?

As a writer, it is important to keep true to the story and ensure there is no confusion to the reader on the plot. Characterisation is also key to ensuring a story is true and its characters are believable.

"...Malathi and I were made guardians by my late parents with the consent of the victim who shared and sacrificed her life for our family." When Rajan states this it gives the reader the impression that Mano's mother is dead, but towards the end of the book she is alive and well!

#### Indulgence

Similarly, Kulan throughout the book is made out to be a man who is obsessed with lust, had undergone many treatments to fight this desire and failed. Despite the advice from his family and wellwishers, he continues to pursue his desires. However, when he encounters Mano's mother, he explains how he failed to search for her on



the single wish of his late mother.

The pages of characterisation created by the author are diminished in these paragraphs. As a reader, this is questionable and not likely to be believed; a man who has been described close to a carnal craving creature does not follow orders or listen to the advice of others easily. It brings a question to the mind of the reader: If he listened to his mother and did not search for his former lover, why did he not listen to his mother and stop his lustful behaviour as well?

How likely is it that Ranjitha, a cancer stricken wife, who has already endured so much discomfort due to Kulan's disgraceful behaviour, can go onto suggest that he should marry his former lover upon her imminent death? As a reader and as a

woman this is simply folly. As virtuous as she may be, a woman no matter how much she may love or put up with her husbands' ridicules would not suggest let alone wish for such an ending.

#### Abrupt ending

The story is finished abruptly leaving the reader with questions and yearning for a better ending. The reader reaches the ending hoping that Mano and Kulan will unite. Instead Mano, as the ever-intelligent child, states that she simply knows who her true parents are and does not appear to be disheartened in anyway for the sudden knowledge. She simply seems to take this information and states it in factual terms as though mentioning the weather.

Would it not have been a more righteous way for Kulan to redeem himself from his waves of desire by confronting Mano and discussing her birth? Surely the questions she would have asked as a child would have made him realise his errors and help him learn, rather than meditation (something that the author stated he had tried in the past and failed at).

Overall, the story is a good attempt for a first-time story. The underlying moral is expressed throughout the plot and is understood by the reader. As with all first-time stories, there is plenty of improvement at hand to ensure that future writings are of a better standard.

A story is not something simply that has a start, middle and ending. It should consist of believable characters, a plot line that does not alter and each sentence written should be to improve the story and move it forward.



### Risk factors for stroke are, NCDs, poor diet, lack of exercise

## **Brain attack?** Prevent it by adopting healthy lifestyles



wenty years ago, the National Stroke Association of Sri Lanka declared a National Stroke Day to create more awareness on this subject among the public. The rise in the number of new stroke admissions to hospitals and the fact that many of them are much younger than those in the past, has raised concern among neurologists who are now working together to prevent and give a better quality of life to patients already afflicted by stroke. The Sunday Observer asked the President of the National Stroke Association of Sri Lanka, Dr. Harsha Gunasekara to explain what stroke is and how it can be prevented and treated.

#### **Excerpts:**

-By

Q. Today (Feb 28) is National Stroke Day. While Stroke is considered as one of the most debilitating conditions that could afflict any human being, not many or our readers still know what exactly a stroke is, or how and why it happens suddenly, often without any warning. Please define stroke in layman language.

A. Stroke occurs due to a sudden disturbance of the blood supply to a particular area of the brain resulting in death or damage to the brain nerve cells. The mechanism is the same as with a heart attack. Thus stroke can be correctly termed a 'brain attack'. It is estimated that 1.9 million nerve cells are destroyed every minute after a stroke and permanent damage could occur within a few hours.

#### Q. In the not too distant past, stroke was considered a disease of the elderly. Is this still true? Or do you see a new trend with younger patients now being admitted for stroke to hospitals in Sri Lanka? What is your latest update on this?

A. Preliminary data from the Sri Lanka Stroke clinical registry shows that 33 percent of patients were less

of fast and processed foods) and lack of exercise leading to a higher incidence of hypertension and diabetes at younger ages. Stress and unmanaged depression also play a role. Higher incidence of stroke is also seen in Asian populations.

#### **Q.** Why?

 $A_{\ast}$  . Modern busy lifestyles are usually associated with this trend.

#### Q. I understand that many factors lead to a stroke. What are the most important reasons that can cause a stroke?

 $A_{
m \cdot}$  Risk factors for stroke are noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as high blood pressure, diabetes, abnormal blood lipid levels, irregular heart beat (atrial fibrillation) and disease affecting major feeding arteries of the brain. Lifestyle habits such as smoking, heavy alcohol use, unhealthy dietary habits, lack of physical exercise, stress and untreated depression increase the risk of stroke and other NCDs.

**Q.** Today a large number of people both young and old, in villages, towns and urban areas have switched to convenience foods such as takeaways and junk food which are high in fat, salt, oil and carbohydrates. Do you agree that this trend is one reason why more people are getting strokes at an earlier age?

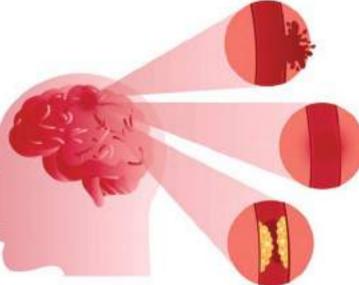
A. Yes, this is the most common cause of stroke in the young. A minority of patients may have rare diseases predisposing them to stroke.

#### **Q** Are those with low immune systems such as, diabetics, those with hypertension, cancer and heart problems more vulnerable to stroke?

 $A_{\bullet}$  Diabetes, hypertension and some types of heart diseases increase the risk of stroke. There is no direct link between stroke and low immunity and cancer.

#### Q. I understand there are different types of stroke. What are they?

A. The disturbance of the blood supply in most patients (85%) occurs due to blockage of a feeding artery



S - Speech: Is the speech slurred when talking

T – Time: If any one of these signs are present, take action immediately

#### **Q.** If we see these signs appearing in someone what is the first thing we should do? Who should we contact and where can we get the quickest response?

 $A_{st}$  The patient should be taken to the nearest major hospital with a CT scanner, not the family doctor, even if the symptoms appear to be resolving. All Teaching, Provincial, District, General and most Base Hospitals have the facility. The 1990 Suwa Seriya Ambulance service is available to transfer the patient. Calling through 1990 mobile App will help quick identification of the location (available for free download).

#### Q. Where is the best place to get admitted for a patient with signs of stroke? Why?

 $A_{ullet}$  The first step in the treatment is to identify the type of stroke by a CT scan. Therefore, the patient should be taken to a hospital with this facility. It doesn't have to be a hospital with a stroke unit.

Q. I understand there are advanced techniques now being used for emergency management of a stroke such as, clot busting. Tell us about this technique? What does it involve?

patients which is 4.5 hours currently. However, patients need to reach the emergency units well in advance of this time period.

#### Q. What happens next?

 $A_{{\scriptscriptstyle \bullet}}$  Once the emergency management is done, the patients are admitted early to a stroke unit, a Neurology unit with dedicated stroke beds or a rehabilitation ward. A multidisciplinary team will manage the patient to minimise complications and disability and improve the patient's functional capacity.

#### **Q.** Who comprises this team?

 $A_{{\scriptscriptstyle \bullet}}$  This team includes doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, occupational therapist and a social worker.

#### Once a person gets a stroke will he/she be vulnerable to another stroke?

 $A_{{\scriptscriptstyle \bullet}}$  One in four stroke survivors are at risk of developing another stroke. All prescribed medications and lifestyle modifications should be meticulously continued.

#### **Q**• Prevention- how do you prevent a stroke? Any simple guidelines you can suggest?

A. Controlling the risk factors mentioned above will prevent 90 percent of all strokes. The first step is to see which of these apply to you and take measures to rectify them. The easiest would be to adopt healthy lifestyle habits which include diets rich in fresh fruits and vegetables, low in processed foods, and avoid high saturated fats, free carbohydrates and salt.

#### Q. Will exercise also help? If so for how long should one exercise?

 $A_{*}$  Thirty minutes of physical exercise at least five times a week following your doctor's instructions. Avoid smoking and keep alcohol use within safe limits. These will keep you away from stroke as well as other NCDs. Those who have NCDs should seek medical advice and control them.

Q. Many Lankans including chil-

for clot busting treatment for eligible chronic lung and heart disease can increase the risk of infection. Preliminary data from countries with a heavy burden of Covid-19 has shown an increased risk of stroke and heart attacks due to increased risk of thrombosis.

#### Q. If a person with Covid-19 gets a stroke, what precautions do you have to protect the nursing staff, doctors and others attending to the patient?

 $A_{\mbox{-}}$  Standard procedures of infection control and safety of all contacts apply here as well. Patients with NCDs need close monitoring to detect complications early and treat them.

#### Q. What are the Do's and Donts in such a situation?

 $A_{\bullet}$  In this post-Covid-19 era, the most important advice is, continue all prescribed medications even if they are unable to attend clinics. We see a significant number of recurrent strokes due to non-adherence to preventive treatment. In the event of new stroke symptoms, getting to a hospital immediately is vital to obtain treatment on time.

#### Q. The Stroke Association of Sri Lanka is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Tell us some of the interventions your Association has put in place to help improve the quality of life of stroke victims in this country?

A. Our main objective is to reduce the burden of stroke in the country through improving public awareness of stroke, carrying the messages to the public that stroke is treatable if action is taken immediately and stroke can be easily prevented by adopting lifestyle changes. With the advances of treatment and availability of more stroke units, more patients now seek hospital treatment according to the data from annual health bulletins.

#### Q. What are your plans for this year and the near future?

 $A_{*}$  Due to the Covid-19 situation, mass public awareness campaigns such as stroke walks will not be held. An awareness campaign through print, electronic and social media will be carried out instead. The Association is also liaising with the Health Ministry to establish more stroke units in provincial hospitals and a state-ofthe-art National Stroke Hospital which will be set up in Colombo East.



Dr. Harsha Gunasekara

other disease with similar symptoms? What are the distinctive features that set it apart from other diseases with symptoms that resemble a stroke?

 $A_{{\scriptscriptstyle \bullet}}$  Yes, there are several 'stroke mimics' which need to be ruled out at the initial assessment. Important stroke mimics include low blood glucose levels, transient paralysis associated with certain types of seizures, migraine and hysterical paralysis.

#### Q. Are there early warning signs to look for before the onset of a stroke?

 $A_{*}$  A most important feature is the sudden onset. A wide range of symptoms and signs may be seen depending on the area of the brain affected. Knowing the 'FAST' stroke scale is the best way to remember the commonest signs

than 60 years, still in their working life. In a majority of them the same risk factors that cause stroke in the elderly play a role, which means people are acquiring risk factors such as, high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol levels and heart disease at a relatively younger age.

#### Q. What has caused this disturbing trend?

 $A_{{\scriptscriptstyle \bullet}}$  The major contributory factor for this is lifestyle changes with unhealthy dietary habits (consumption

(termed ischaemic stroke or infarction) and in others due to rupture of a feeding artery (termed haemorrhagic stroke). Around a quarter of patients with stroke may experience a Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA or mini stroke). Here the symptoms of stroke last only a few minutes and then rapidly resolve. This condition should be given serious consideration and treatment initiated immediately as it may be the only warning one may get before developing a major stroke.

Q. Can stroke be mistaken for an-

of stroke. If any one or more of the three signs are positive, the patient has very likely developed a stroke.

Q. Most of our readers are not familiar with the FAST stroke scale as a means of quick identification. Could you explain what it is and how it can be used?

A. This scale checks for three most common signs of stroke, they are:

F – Face: Look for facial drooping when the patient talks or smiles A – Arms: Does the arm drop when

asked to raise both arms

 $A_{\scriptstyle \bullet}$  This is done by administering an injection to dissolve the clot after careful evaluation of the patient.

#### Q. What category of patients are eligible for this treatment?

 $A_{ullet}$  Patients with a blocked artery or ischaemic stroke, once all contraindications are excluded.

**Q.** How long does this procedure take usually?

 $A_{\scriptstyle ullet}$  There are strict time windows

dren are now overweight. Is obesity a risk factor for early stroke?

 $A_{st}$  Yes, a body mass index of over 24.9 and increased waist circumference (over 40 inches for men and 35 inches for women) increase the risk of stroke.

#### Q. We are now in the midst of a Covid-19 outbreak. Will a stroke victim be more vulnerable to this highly infectious disease than a normal person?

A. Pre-existing NCDs, especially,

#### Q. Your message to our readers on how to reduce their risks of stroke

 $A_{\scriptstyle \bullet}$  The best advice I can give is to adopt healthy lifestyles and seek medical attention whenever necessary to prevent a stroke. Learn how to recognise a stroke easily so that you can help someone to seek treatment promptly and prevent adverse outcomes.

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~	1.	(K) Good thing to wave
1	2.	Tablecloth material, sometimes
	3.	(K) Onetime home for Eve
	4.	Says with confidence
	5.	(K) Relative after a wedding (2
		words)
	6.	Be a hardworking drudge
	7.	Activate the elevator on the
9		lowest level (2 words)
	8.	Wide British scarf/tie
	9.	(K) Den, as for creatures
	10.	Tiny infesting arachnid
	11.	(K) Very cleverly crafty
	19.	(K) Beam of sunlight
3	20.	(K) Do this with your noisy dance
		1

**DOWN** 

- shoes 23. (K) My country, \_\_\_\_ of thee
- 24. (K) "You \_\_\_ hereâ€
- 25. (K) Stop standing

32. Cod kin 34. (K) Type of dessert 35. (K) Air mover 36. French headwear 37. Keister 38. (K) Golferâ€<sup>™</sup>s warning shout 39. \_\_\_\_ to riches (inspiring type of tale) 40. (K) Take your band on the road

28. (K) A beautiful statue, for example

- 41. (K) Flatten clothes
- 42. (K) Marcus, Emma or Giselle, for

26. (K) Serving of butter

29. (K) Happy Meal thing

31. Be composed (of)

27. Proper wager

- example
- 43. (K) School singing "clubâ€

popularity

44. (K) Hot dog holder

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

A	CRC	<b>SS</b>	
1.	(K) E	Bloodsud	

- cking insect Misbehaving child in the middle of scrimping?
- Charitable donations distributed to the poor
- 12. (K) Boys or young fellows
- 13. (K) "Neither†follower
- 14. (K) Take your yacht out for the day
- 15. Powerful playing cards
- 16. (K) Result of not telling the truth
- 17. (K) Indianapolis is one

- 18. Rural retail establishment (2 words)
- 22. (K) Used a park bench 23. (K) Absolutely delicious
- 26. (K) Baby seal or dog

21. (K) Like meat you have to cook

- 27. (K) Only mammal that can fly
- 30. (K) Part of your eyeball
- 31. Monetary limit
- 32. (K) Any rescuer
- 33. Matching group of collectibles
- 34. (K) Soup-heating vessel
- 35. (K) Type of acid in plants and animals
  - 36. Coal storage container
- 38. (K) Not attached to anything 44. (K) Male hog 45. (K) Suffix with "select"

37. Big thing, with short-lived

- 46. (K) Spoken
- 47. (K) Try to persuade
- 48. (K) Incredibly large heater
- 49. (K) "O \_\_\_\_, All Ye Faithfulâ€
- 50. (K) Home for a little birdie 51. (K) Endeavor or attempt
- 52. (K) Leg bender

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 subgrids that compose the grid contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. The solution to the puzzle will appear next week.

## Sudoku 6



Can you find the answer to this riddle within the solved puzzle?

**Riddle:** 

Loud duck call?

#### Last week answer:

5-A) Bar

#### Last week solution 280131675

2	8	9		3	4	0	1	Э	
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7	2	3	4	1	6	5	8	9	
8	6	4	3	5	9	2	1	7	

## Feature

# The future of the past

The murals of the temple at Degaldoruwa reveal an interesting stage in the development of Kandyan art

view of the Degaldoruwa Raja Maha Vihara at Degaldoruv



Mahil Wijesinghe he much-famed Degaldoruwa Raja Maha Vihara accommodated in a cave containing well preserved Kandyan paintings is situated in the village of Degaldoruwa. It is half a kilometre along the Yakgahavita road which commences at the Siri-

—Text & Pix by-

We reached the Degaldoruwa vihara at 10 in the morning following the tumultuous journey on the narrow roads in the outskirts of Levelle in the Dumbara valley in a three-

malwatta ambalama on the Kandy - Lewella road. The Vihara can be

seen on the left of the road.

(40 ft) in height. King Kirthi Sri Ra-jasingha while constructing the Vihara at Galmaduwa had lived in this cave and devoted his attention to improve it.

According to a reference in the Degaldoruwa Sannasa the placing of the eyes on the statues had been done in 1761. King Rajadhi Rajasingha, brother of Kirthi Sri Rajasingha who was a prince at that time was instrumental in this construction. Details of the construction are discussed in the Sannasa.

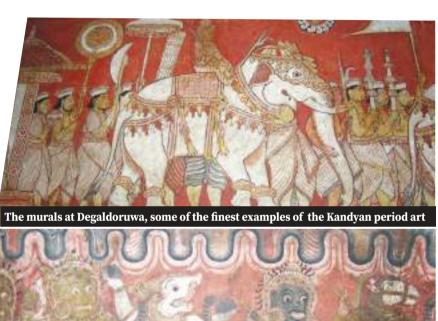
The Degaldoruwa vihara has been built into the base of a rock cave, which is cut into two chambers. The first is a drumming hall built with wooden columns, and a colourful Makara Thorana, (dragon arch) intricately carved out of wood stands at the entrance to the cave.

This has been a later addition by Migastenne Adikaram. In the cave

The most striking features in this painting are the *Maaraya* with five faces leading the battle with elephants and the Maara warriors with guns and arrows in their hands.

Also impressive is the beautiful figure of the Polomahikanthawa (earth woman) holding a painted pot just below the painting of the Buddha.

There is a large Bud-dha image in the Vihara. But the shrine has gained prominence due to numerous paintings of the Kandyan period which include the suppression of Maara. Devaragampola Silvat, a bhikkhu who is a renowned artist of the Kandyan period was paintings. Sharp lines have been drawn to obtain the contours in the paintings drawn in a prered dominately background.





wheeler that we had hired in Kandy 20 minutes ago.

The noise of the three-wheeler engine bounced back at us from the walls of the shuttered houses on either side of the road. Turning to a sandy road, at the end of it we saw the outline of a white building in the morning sunlight, with arched-doors and a tall belfry standing alongside the building - the entrance to one of Sri Lanka's finest examples of Kandyan murals, the Degaldoruwa Temple.

We removed our shoes and put them in the back of the three-wheeler and entered the temple compound and saw the white-washed structure through the foliage in the hillock. Waiting a few minutes in the office room, I met the Viharadhipathi and got permission to take photographs without using the flash directly on the murals.

#### Cave

This cave is an enlargement of a small cave that was found in the western slope of a rock 12.31 metres

is a large recumbent Buddha statue responsible for the with two standing and seated Buddha statues on either side.

The ceiling of the rock and walls contain some fine pictorial compositions in the story of Sinhala art.

The murals at Degaldoruwa vihara are considered some of the finest examples of art belonging to the Kandyan kingdom. Religion is the theme of Kandyan murals and the method adopted is continuous narration of the subject for the education of the people. The murals date back to the 18th Century.

#### Jathaka stories

Jathaka stories such Satthubhatta, Sutasoma, Seelawa and Vessanthara painted on the outer wall are among the best examples preserved in the Vihara. Of them scenes from the Vessanthara Jathaka are considered as the most outstanding creations.

The biggest and probably the most interesting mural in the rock ceiling is the one depicting the Maara Yuddaya (demons in battle).

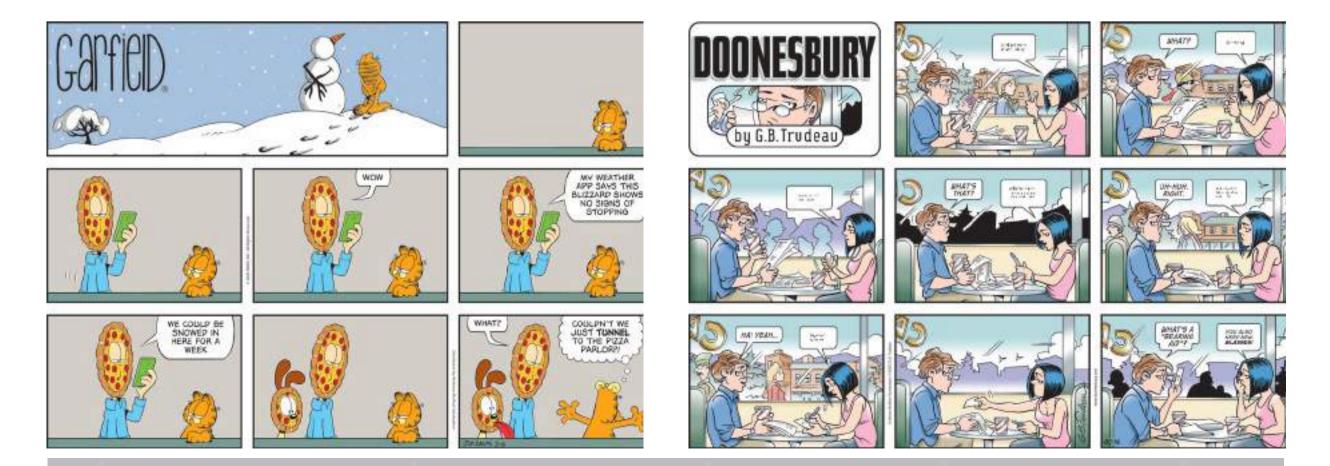
Today, some paintings on the ceiling and walls of the main chamber are dilapidated and ruined.

Some have faded. However, a section of the ceiling murals seem to be well protected by the Department of Archaeology.

The Degaldoruwa rock cave temple is testimony to yet another treasure trove of the Kandyan kingdom. The murals are however, in a sad state. There is a dire need for institutes such as the Archaeology Department to step in and conserve the remains before all is lost.







The *Polomahikantawa* (earth woman)

## SUNDAY OBSERVER ADVERTORIAL OBSERVER DUCATION SECTION FERUARY 28, 2021



SLIIT IN GROUNDBREAKING PAGE

**INITIATIVE JOINS AWS...** 

ΔΔ



**UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY** 

FOR WORLD-RECOGNIZED...



PAGE

47

"EDUCATION SHOULD BE NOT FOR... HOW JEFF BEZOS BUILT ONE OF THE WORLD'S... 41

PAGE

54

## Bristol Institute's 3rd successive intake for the MSc in Accounting and Finance opened

PAGE

46

he MSc in Accounting and Finance from the University of the West of England, Bristol offered by Bristol Institute of business Management is a professionally oriented qualification which is consistently ranked highly in the major UK League tables.

The qualification designed to help gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to operate efficiently in today's fast paced world of multinational Companies and Global Financial Markets, gives the financial and business skills needed to build a successful career in accounting.

Launching their successful 3rd intake for the program, Chief Operating Officer of Bristol Institute M.J.M. Dilshad explaining the factors behind the success of the program stated "the curriculum is designed to give students a solid technical skill set across key areas such as strategic management accounting, corporate financial strategy, financial reporting and analysis and to apply accounting practices and make strategic decisions about an Organisation's financial and non-financial situation, fundamentally driving success THE QUALIFICATION DESIGNED TO HELP GAIN THE SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND CONFIDENCE TO OPERATE EFFICIENTLY IN TODAY'S FAST PACED World of Multinational Companies and Global Financial Markets, gives the Financial and Business Skills Needed to Build a Successful Career in Accounting

and developing insights to help Organisations effectively allocate resources and make better business decisions.

In addition to developing knowledge and skills in accounting and finance, students will learn to analyse how accounting and finance is concerned with a range of institutional and Organisational processes of calculation, reporting, and evaluation. They will also learn to appreciate the interdependencies between accounting and accountability, financial management and risk, performance management and sustainability, governance and regulation, policy making and change, among other key fundamental concepts

related to, implicated in, or affected by accounting and finance.

This diverse approach to accounting and finance makes our graduating students highly sought after by a wide range of Organisations globally in any area related to Accounting or Finance, and even beyond into other areas. Recent graduates of this programme have gone on to work in the areas of professional accountancy, investment banking, investment analysis, management, but also in the public sector as well as into further academic study".

Upholding the stringent quality standards of UWE Bristol, the institute is also backed by a distinguished faculty of lecturers consisting PhD Holders, researchers, highly experienced professionals and industry experts, who provide an intensive teaching and rich learning environment for the graduates. Ceaselessly striving for excellence

Ceaselessly striving for excellence and with their dynamic leadership team, appropriate resources and incentives, a modern and suitable educational infrastructure in place, along with internship opportunities at leading blue-chip Companies, has ensured that Bristol institute today is well placed as a leading educator to nurture the future finance talent in the country.

Offering easy payment schemes through reputed banks with which the institute has strong relationships and agreements, the next intake for the MSc Accounting and Finance degree from the University of the West England, Bristol will commence in May 2021 with registrations currently open for the same. Further details can be obtained by logging on to www.bristolinstitute.edu.lk or by contacting them on 0777 907755 / 0772 646469



### GCE (OL) Examination Results will be released by June - *Minister of Education, Prof. G.L. Peiris*

Minister of Education, Prof. G.L. Peiris said that the Ministry hopes to issue the results of the General Certificate of Education Examination to be held from 01st



them? Who are those connected directly and indirectly? Who financed them? How have they collected the required equipment? It is very important to bring all these

March to 10th March by June 2021 and plans are afoot to commence the Advanced Level classes of those children in July 2021. Minister Peiris said so while participating at a Press Conference held on 22.02.2021 at Nelum Mawatha.

Speaking further, the Minister said, "Our main aim is to see that the valuable young days of children are not wasted. We are ready to face any challenges that arises amid the Covid - 19 pandemic to make the children continue their education without any interruption. 622,305 candidates will sit the General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level Examination to be held from 01st March to 10th March 2021 in 4,513 examination centres. There are 423,746 candidates from schools and 198,606 private candidates and 542 co-ordination centres have also been established.

Further, two (02) special centres in each district have been established for the students contracted with Covid - 19 virus. As the number of centres in the Colombo district may become inadequate, special arrangements have also been made for the Colombo district. Plans have already been set to guarantee the health condition of the children after discuss-



ing with the school Principals, Public Health Inspectors and Regional Medical Officers of Health.

Already, the Admission Cards have been posted to all schools. If the private candidates have not received the admission cards by now, they may download them by accessing our website. For the first time our Government has taken such steps for the sake of children.

Further, by now the witnesses have been called and statements too have been recorded regarding Easter Sunday attack. That is not all what we expect from the Commission. It should go beyond that and find out who are responsible for this attack? Who organized

people before justice.

More than everything, it is important to see that such things do not take place again. This is important not only to the Catholics of this country but to all alike as it is a question regarding national security. His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith did a great service soon after the attack. If His Eminence did not interfere at that moment there could have been a big calamity and a backlash. We not only lost more than 250 valuable lives, more than 500 people were injured. The presence and interference of His Éminence was very important at that moment to prevent further disaster. His interference calmed down the feelings of the people around Katuwapitiya. I wish to express my gratitude to His Eminence regarding this.

Although the Commission Report is received we have to discuss regarding this with His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith. His opinion and proposals are very important to us. There may be some confusion on the part of the Government. We have to get into a dialogue with the Venerable Maha Sangha and other religious leaders to find out their opinion and thereafter take decisions as this is concerning our national security.

## UK UNIVERSITY

' The Guardian League Tables 2021 "



### First School Term of year 2021 ended on February 25

First stage of the First School Term for year 2021 of all government schools and government approved private schools ended on 25.02.2021.

As steps have been taken to conduct the General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) Examination of year 2020 under island-wide level from 01st March to 10th March 2021, the first stage of the school First term of 2021 for all government and government approved private schools ended on the 25th of February 2021. Accordingly, second stage of the first school term will recommence on Monday, 15th March 2021.

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#### Sunday Observer February 28, 2021 42

## Sri Lankan education syst needs reforms urgent

## **Dr. Sunil Jayantha Nawaratne, Director General, National Institute of Education, Maharagama**

#### **BY SHIRAJIV SIRIMANE**

hile the whole world is moving upwards in technology and other areas, the Sri Lankan education system and teachers mindset still remains at primitive level and this hampers the education of school children to meet the demands of the modern world and it is also a hindrance to economic progress.

While the world moves from using the landline to Pager and to CDMA and to digital and then to advance smart phones Sri Lanka education reforms still have the mindset in the 'landline' age said Director General, National Institute of Education, Maharagama Dr. Sunil Jayantha Nawaratne.

He said that to implement future demand driven education reforms a major mindset change is needed from every one. "Firstly one must remember that for a student to be successful he or she does not have to enter the University. This mindset has to change and we have observed that the country is driven by enterprisers who have not stepped to universities."

Today some of the key players in the economic growth are in Sri Lankan Expatriate workers and people involved in the transport, food and Beverages construction, fisheries and similar sectors and 99% of them don't have a University level education.

"Technology and automation are radically changing the very nature of work and reshaping industry. Chil-dren in primary school today are likely to work in jobs that may not even exist right now. Developing its human capital to a new and higher level will be key for Sri Lanka to become an upper-middle-income economy."

#### **Productive citizens**

It's to meet these future human capital needs that Sauvbhagya Dek*ma* – Vision document has paid great emphasis to education.

cuted education reforms will help to the misinformation that floods the convert youth to Entrepreneurs with Entrepreneurial Mind-set or employees with better management skills. Proper education will also create patriot citizens.

Take for example the transport and the He said a simple example is that while there is a new trend that the students are made to talk and teacher listens, the vice versa is practiced in Sri Lanka.

He said they have drawn up 12 abilities for 21st Century skills that today's students need to succeed in their careers during the Information Age.

The twelve 21st Century skills are: 1. Critical thinking 2. Creativity 3. Collaboration 4. Communication 5. Information literacy 6. Media literacy 7. Technology literacy 8. Flexibility 9. Leadership 10. Initiative 11. Productivity 12. Social skills.

He said that these skills cannot be achieved only by the student but teacher's contribution and a mindset change is a must.

We have identified four skills (the four C's) and the first Learning skills where we look towards a teachers and student's mental mindset changing process required to adapt and improve upon a modern work environment.

Second key factor is Literacy skills (IMT) that focuses on how students can discern facts, publishing outlets, and the technology behind them. There's a strong focus on determining trustworthy sources and factual information to separate it from Internet.

The third is Life skills (FLIPS) that takes a look at intangible elements of a student's everyday life. These intangibles focus on both personal and professional qualities.

"Altogether, these categories cover all the needed 21st Century skills that contribute to a student's future career."

#### Smart education

He said that the traditional method of education is that the teacher speaks and the student listens and this has to be changed, the other way around. Teachers must listen to student ideas and skills and identify them and guide them. This is Smart education.

There are so many aspects of "school" where learners have not been given the opportunity to be active participants in their learning. Some learners, especially those that are concerned about extrinsic factors like grades, may not feel comfortable expressing their own opinions. Giving learner's voices encourages them to participate in learning, to own and drive their learning, and eventually to discover their purpose for learning.

Young people want to be heard. They have ideas and perspective on their lives and the world around them, and when their voice is incorporated in learning, good things happen.

Under the new education format the teacher takes on the role of advisor, providing feedback and any sup-

port needed in finding connections and resources to meet goals around what each learner believes is their purpose for learning. Teachers should guide them

towards meeting the new job opportunities that emerge in the future taking into consideration that the world is moving towards the industrial revolution.

We want to make our education system even more student-centric, and sharpen our focus in holistic education-student-centred on values and character development. We could call this Student-Centric, Values-Driven education. Another way of putting it, value in our learners and learning values.

The new emerging job oriented areas will be in Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Internet of Things, Autonomous Vehicles, Biotechnology, Nanotechnology, 3-D Printing, Material Science, Quantum Computing and Energy Storage.

The future needs youth with

THERE ARE SO MANY ASPECTS OF "SCHOOL" WHERE LEARNERS HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN THEIR LEARNING. SOME LEARNERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT ARE CONCERNED ABOUT EXTRINSIC FACTORS LIKE GRADES, MAY NOT FEEL COMFORTABLE **EXPRESSING THEIR OWN OPINIONS. GIVING LEARNER'S VOICES ENCOURAGES THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN LEARNING,** TO OWN AND DRIVE THEIR LEARNING, AND EVENTUALLY TO DISCOVER THEIR PURPOSE FOR LEARNING.

our students to focus on core knowl-

"School leaders, union leaders,



Its aim is to make Sri Lanka a Wonder of Asia with: Productive citizens, A Happy family, A disciplined society and A prosperous nation.

Dr. Nawaratne who was involved with youth development for many years taking the National Youth Service Council to its peak during the late 1990's said that a country sans a modern education format is like a car without a proper gear box.

He said that the Sri Lankan per capita income was around US\$ 89 in 1950 while Japan was \$ 90 while both Singapore and Malaysia were around \$ 30 mark. However in 2004 when Sri Lanka's per capita income crawled up to the \$ 1,000 mark both Singapore and Japan were over \$ 25,000 and in 2015 doubled their per capita income while Sri Lanka moved up to the US\$ 4,000 threshold while Malaysia passed the \$12,000 mark.

"I can boldly say that lack education silks was one of the main reasons for Sri Lanka to lag behind and this sad sinario cannot be repeated and this is why the government is keen of educations reforms.'

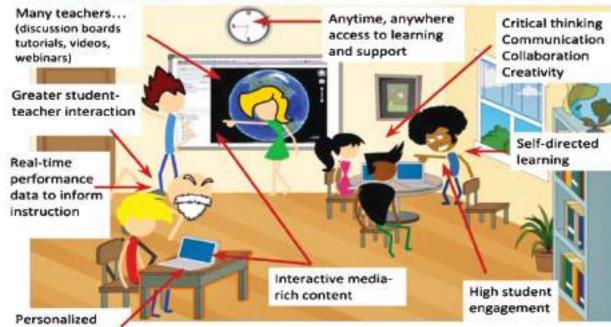
Education can help in National Development, help to achieve Sustainable Peace, reduce 'Regional disparity and most importantly help towards creating a 'Happy Family.'

Properly planned and well exe-

Deputy Director General, Faculty of Languages, Humanities and Social Sciences, National Institute of Education, Dr. Darshana Samaraweera

"TECHNOLOGY AND AUTOMATION ARE RADICALLY CHANGING THE VERY NATURE OF WORK AND RESHAPING INDUSTRY. CHILDREN IN PRIMARY SCHOOL TODAY ARE LIKELY TO WORK IN JOBS THAT MAY NOT EVEN EXIST RIGHT NOW. DEVELOPING ITS HUMAN CAPITAL TO A NEW AND HIGHER LEVEL WILL BE KEY FOR SRI LANKA TO BECOME AN UPPER-MIDDLE-INCOME ECONOMY.

#### Anatomy of a Blended Learning Classroom



learning paths

knowledge and higher order thinking skills; the ability to think logically, and to solve ill-defined problems by identifying and describing the problem, critically analyzing the information available or creating the knowledge required, framing and testing various hypotheses, formulating creative solutions, and taking action.

'We are now aligning our education system toward meeting these emerging demands."

"We are bringing greater choice and flexibility into education. New types of schools are being introduced to encourage those with special talents to go as far as they can. Existing schools have been provided with further autonomy and resources to develop their own distinct strengths and specific areas or niches of excellence."

"These could be either in a particular area of study or in co-curricular activities and character development. The different needs of students will thus be met through a wide range of school types and educational programs."

#### Strong friendships

"Our schools are striving to pro-vide students with a holistic education, focused on both academic and non-academic areas. We want to give our students a broad range of experiences and help them make the most of their years together in school where they will interact with one another and form strong friendships for life."

"As they grow up, we want to provide them with the full opportunity to develop the skills and values that they will need for life. Besides judging our students' performance through examinations, we are also looking at other and broader measures of how well they do in other areas."

Parents also must remember that a student getting 90 plus marks out of 100 in an Exam is not the only success. Students may get 40 markets but have other hidden skills that should be nursed and egged on by both parents and teachers.'

"We must encourage our students to learn more actively and independently. We want to nurture a curiosity that goes beyond the formal curriculum, and a love for learning that stays with the student through life. Syllabuses will be trimmed without diluting students' preparedness for higher education. This will free up time for

edge and skills, and to provide greater space for flexibility in carrying out school-based activities in the curriculum."

In a bid to start the new education process they have already commenced Teacher training towards achieving these goals and some teachers have already started training at the Center for education leadership development In Padukka and other centers and also on zoom and other online methods due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

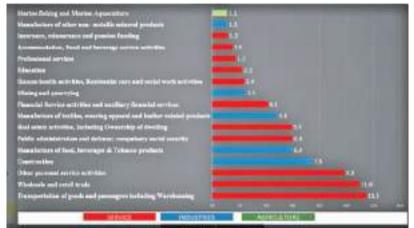
He however said that already there is some opposition to this education reform process by some unions since they want to be in their traditional corners not caring about the future of Sri Lanka.

"I must tell you that one of the key successes of the Singapore economy is their education and there was unity and vision and mission among our teachers to go ahead with reforms when they were announced.

educators and researchers and policymakers and most importantly even parents agreed and this change of mindset and supportiveness has helped Singapore to be where they are today."

An Entrepreneur or a person with entrepreneurial mind-set is a person who is creative, innovative and think out-of-the box to resolve the problems and he or she takes risk to introduce the new ideas, processes, concepts, products and services to the local and global markets to provide more employment opportunities, reduce poverty and regional disparity. Our aim is to convert students into these kinds of future entrepreneurs.'

'Hence a proper education reforms in Sri Lanka too will certainly create a developed, peaceful nation with US\$12,000 or more Per Capita Income by 2035 by growing at an acetate of 10% per annum from 2022," he predicted.



#### Growth Comparison

Country	1950	2019	2004	Times
Sri Lanka	89	4,000	1051	11.8
Japan	90	48,000	29,732	330 Meiji Restoration
S'pore	30	64,000	26,705	890 Lee Kwan Yew
Malaysia	30	12,000	3,420	114 Dr. Mahathir Mohammad

## Start your globally recognized UK Degree right after O'Levels at AMDT School of Creativity

#### AMDT School of Creativity - a globally recognized Creative School in Sri Lanka.

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 the UK's Faimouth University and Pearson (UK's most recognized awarding body).

**UK's Falmouth University has** been recognized as one of the top 50 Creative schools worldwide.

Students with O 'Level can choose from popular Creative degree-level qualifications ranging from Graphic Design, Animation & Visual Effects, Fashion Design, Interior Design, Creative Advertising, Photography, Creative Multimedia, to Web & App Development, (more courses updated at www.amdt.lk).

AMDT School of Creativity has found this to A'Levels when hiring new blood, AMDT's be a reason for the existing recess of trainable qualified young blood in the Creative indus- sure it provides will ensure that students are tries, identifying the need to train the younger open to stable employment opportunities. generation who are passionate about Creativity from the very start and expose them to degrees. Guiding their students from the very their dreams by helping them step out to the

As Sri Lanka's pioneering Creative institution, As most companies prioritize 'Degrees' over year zero combined with the industry expoglobally even before they complete their basics of Creative thinking to the most advanced techniques and processes in the relevant field they choose, AMDT provides students with the opportunity to engage with real-world learning, solve problems, and work on projects that can shape up the future.

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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 Greative 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



AMOT's fashion students showcase their work at the annual Fashion Show at AMDT's Festival of Creativity.

confidently. The courses offered are available Custom-Designed courses to bring out to study part-time or full-time where classes are held during weekdays and weekends that allow you to study the courses without disconnecting from your work or family. Some students even switch from full-time to part-time study.

### the best in every child

These courses are well planned and custom-designed to fit careers in different Creative disciplines; 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 for future careers.

Students have submitted their work to international Greative festivals such as Cannes Lions, Spikes Asia, D&AD, and Animation film festivals, are some of them.

To learn more about AMDT School of Creativity, visit www.amdt.lk or call or WhatsApp 114-381-981. You can visit



Students are trained by highly qualified Creative industry protessionals

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.

#### The real problem - What stops youngsters from graduating early?

Most Sri Lankan students start their A 'Levels expecting to enter state university degree programmes. But as only a little percentage as 10% gain entrance, students who drop out

Creative industries and expose them to careers at a very early age, AMDT has transformed its popular 'Foundation Diploma in Art & Design' into a method where students start can now start studying their degree from their O'Levels. They will enter into the 'Year-Zero' (Year 0) which is the foundation year and further their studies respectively to Year 1, Year 2, and then Year 3 (final year).

#### The universal solution - 'Year Zero' - Save time and learn for the future careers

With its new offering of the 'Year Zero'' concept, AMDT School of Creativity now allows students right after O'Levels to enroll



either re-do their A 'Levels or join private degree programmes. This behaviour has degrees. With this offering, students are now been almost common and considered a able to save a good 2-3 years of their time practice in the local education system. Not and focus on following their Creative dreams forgetting the fact that students starting their and building their skills and thinking process degrees after A 'Levels graduate and typically to become leaders in the Creative industry. start their career at the age of 24.

for Falmouth University's Creative UK

Field trips are a big part of AMDT's annual calendar.

the premises at 317A, Galle Road. Colombo 04.

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- Film
- Photography
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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.

#### Get hired even before you graduate as you start working, you can switch to part-time classes.

### **Class schedules** are flexible: part-time and full-time

study without disconnecting

#### Friendly learning environment designed to bring the best out of your Creative thoughts.

### The best facilities to bring out the best in you

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with real-life briefs that focus on improving practical application of Creative thinking.

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## Advertorial

## **SLIIT in Groundbreaking Initiative Joins AWS Academy**

### EQUIPS STUDENTS WITH IN-DEMAND CLOUD COMPUTING SKILLS

Colombo: SLIITannounced another ground breaking initiative of its participation in AWS Academy, an Amazon Web Services (AWS) programme that provides Higher Education Institutions with a ready-to-teach cloud computing curriculum.

The AWS Academy curriculum is developed and maintained by AWS subject matter experts, ensuring that it reflects current services and up-to-date best practices. Courses are taught by AWS Academy-accredited educators who in AWS technology.

Beginning end-February, SLIIT will commence delivery of the AWS Academy Cloud Foundations Programme that will prepare students to pursue careers in the fast-growing cloud computing space and industry-recognized AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner Certification.

This introductory course provides students a detailed overview of cloud concepts, AWS core services, security, architecture, pricing and support. The duration of the course will be four months and delivered in class, online and/or hybrid.

Uditha Gamage, Director Development and Engineering Services, SLIIT said, "We are proud to make the AWS Academy curriculum available to our students. The rapid rise of cloud computing is creating a growing number of high-quality jobs at organizations around the world, and the technical skills that students develop



**aws** academy



through this program will position The programmes will serve as a them well for their careers today and in the future".

SLIIT understands the importance of building a talent pipeline of the next generation of professionals equipped with cloud skills.





catalyst for students to be able to develop their knowledge and to pursue opportunities in careers in cloud computing. SLIIT as a premier institute recognized for teaching excellence is driving the

#### change in enabling technology-led growth in Sri Lanka.

Dr. Nuwan Kodagoda, Head, Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, Faculty of Computing, SLIIT noted "The AWS Academy which will provide training to key cloud certifications which are well accepted in the Industry. This will help develop the next generation of cloud computing professionals. Our goal is to build a pipeline of AWS-trained professionals who can help drive innovation as cloud computing becomes the new normal".

For further information on the AWS Academy Programmeoffered at SLIIT, contact 077 330 0066 or email romi.f@sliit.lk

## Stay at the forefront of Digital Marketing I NUS BUSINESS SCHOOL'S DIGITAL MARKETING PROGRAMME

#### Why Should You Enrol for This **Programme?**

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## **SEE THE WORLD IN DIVERSE LIGHTS**



Fiction refers to a story that comes from a writer's imagination, as opposed to one based strictly on fact or a true story. In the literary world, a work of fiction can refer to a short story, novella, and novel, which is the longest form of literary prose. Every work of fiction falls into a sub-genre, each with its own style, tone, elements and storytelling devices.

Fiction helps you understand other people's perspectives. It is a bond between the mind of the reader and the writer, and the minds of reader and character. When you read fiction, you're seeing the world through a character's eyes. Watching a character interact with CENCA

the world around them is powerful.

literary The genres are varied in almost fourteen Literary styles. fiction novels are considered works with artistic value and literary merit. They often include political criticism, so-

cial commentary, and reflections on humanity. Literary fiction novels are typically character-driven, as opposed to being plot-driven, and follow a character's inner story.

Mystery novels, also called detective fiction, follow a detective solving a case from start to finish. They drop clues and slowly reveal information, turning the reader into a detective trying to solve the case, too. Mystery novels start with an exciting hook, keep readers interested pacing with, and end with a satisfying conclusion that answers all of the reader's outstanding questions.

Thriller novels are dark, mysterious and gripping plot-driven stories. They very seldom include comedic elements, but what they lack in humour, they make up for in suspense. Thrillers keep readers on their toes and use plot twists, red herrings, and cliffhangers to keep them guessing until the end.

Horror novels are meant to scare, startle, shock, and even repulse readers. Generally focusing on themes of death, demons, evil spirits, and the afterlife, they prey on fears with scary beings like ghosts,

#### **FICTION ALLOWS YOU TO** LOOK AT THE WORLD IN AN **ENTIRELY DIFFERENT LIGHT.** WHEN YOU READ FICTION; YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE WORLD THROUGH SOMEONE **ELSE'S EYES**

golden age of the genre coincided with the popularity of Western films in the 1940s, '50s and '60s.

Bildungsroman is a literary genre of stories about a character growing psychologically and morally from their youth into adulthood. Generally, they experience a profound emotional loss, set out on

a journey, encounter conflict, and grow into a mature person by the end of the story.

Speculative fiction is a super genre that encompasses a number of different types of fiction, from science fiction to fantasy to dystopian. The stories take place in a world differ-

ent from our own. Speculative fiction knows no boundaries; there are no limits to what exists beyond the real world.

Science-fiction novels are exploratory stories with imagined elements that don't exist in the real world. Some are inspired by 'hard' natural sciences like physics, chemistry and astronomy; others are inspired by 'soft' social sciences like psychology, anthropology and sociology. Common elements of science-fiction novels include time travel, space exploration and futuristic societies.

Fantasy novels are speculative fiction stories with imaginary characters set in imaginary universes. They're inspired by mythology and folklore and often include elements of magic. The genre attracts both children and adults; well-known titles include Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll and the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling

Dystopian novels are a genre of science fiction. They're set in societies viewed as worse than the one in which we live. Dystopian fiction exists in contrast to utopian fiction, which is set in societies viewed as better than the one in which we live. Magical realism novels depict the world truthfully, plus add magical elements. Realist fiction novels are set in a time and place that could actually happen in the real world. They depict real people, places and stories in order to be as truthful as possible. Realist works of fiction remain true to everyday life and abide by the laws of nature as we currently understand them. Fiction allows you to look at the world in an entirely different light. When you read fiction; you're looking at the world through someone else's eyes. Looking at the world in different lights is one of the most vital things one can do in the pursuit of growth. Our perspectives are limited, but they're constantly evolving. When we look at the world through someone else's perspective, we try on the elements of their paradigm and when we find something we like, we adopt it and make it our own. In doing so, our own paradigm grows.

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## CA Sri Lanka's seminar on Personal Tax obligations attracts over 700 participants

In its standing as the change makers of the country's professional landscape, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CA Sri Lanka) has been at the forefront in enhancing the knowledge and competence of finance and non-finance professionals. In fulfilling this important objective, CA Sri Lanka recently organised a public seminar on tax which received a massive response.

The online public seminar titled 'Awareness on Personal Tax Obligations' attracted over 725 participants who joined the free seminar conducted early this month.

The seminar was organised amid increasing concerns expressed by the public in relation to opening income tax files and file returns. The Government announced and implemented significant tax changes from January, 1, 2021 where the Advance Personal Income Tax (APIT) was introduced in lieu of Pay-As-You-Earn tax (PAYE Tax).

In the past, tax payers who only had employment income were not required to file income tax returns. as PAYE tax was deducted from their income by the employer and remitted to the Inland Revenue Department. However, from January 2020, everyone who is in the tax liable range, are required to register with the Inland Revenue Department and comply with the respec-



tive tax obligations.

During the seminar, Ms. Sarah Afker, Partner - Tax Services of BDO Partners made a detailed presentation which covered important aspects in relation to the personal tax obligation components including sources of income, qualifying payments and reliefs, available exemptions, personal tax rates, concessionary rates and how to compute taxable income, and tax payable.

The seminar was further boosted with an expert panel discussion featuring Ms. Hiranthi Ratnayake, Former Chairperson of the Tax Committee of CA Sri Lanka, Denzil Rodrigo, Alternate Chairman of the CA Sri Lanka Faculty of Taxation, N. R. Gajendran, Partner of Gajma & Co., V. Sivagurunathan, Principal Consultant of Con-



sultants Consortium and Athula Ranaweera, Managing Partner/Director of Assent Advisory Partners. Sulaiman Nishtar, Chairman of the CA Sri Lanka Faculty of Taxation moderated the session.

The Tax Faculty was established in 1995 to assist Chartered Accountants and non-accounting professionals to further their knowledge in taxation. The faculty conducts various courses and programmes including seminars and workshops targeting professionals and practitioners to further their knowledge in the subject. The Tax Faculty also organises events hosted by eminent speakers to share knowledge on subjects related to local and international tax matters.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CA Sri Lanka) takes great pride in being the

change makers of Sri Lanka's ac-

counting arena. For over six long decades, CA Sri Lanka has been the vanguard in developing the accounting profession in Sri Lanka, while also playing a critical role in South Asia to ensure the profession continues to be an important catalyst in the success of the region.

Chartered Accountants produced by CA Sri Lanka are considered a brand of unique and versatile professionals, with the ability to steer any business successfully, due to their exceptional technical and perceptive skills, as well as financial discipline and out of the box thinking. A significant percentage of CA Sri Lanka's members play an influential role across the dynamic corporate world holding distinguished leadership positions.

vampires, werewolves, witches and monsters. In horror fiction, plot and characters are tools used to elicit a terrifying sense of dread.

Historical fiction novels take place in the past. Written with a careful balance of research and creativity, they transport readers to another time and place; which can be real, imagined or a combination of both. Many historical novels tell stories that involve actual historical figures or historical events within historical settings.

Romantic fiction centers on love stories between two people. They're lighthearted, optimistic and have an emotionally satisfying ending. Romance novels do contain conflict, but it doesn't outshine the romantic relationship, which always prevails in the end.

Western novels tell the stories of cowboys, settlers and outlaws exploring the western boundary and taming the American Old West. They're shaped specifically by their genre-specific elements and rely on them in ways that novels in other fiction genres don't. Westerns aren't as popular as they once were; the

## That's the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet.

Jhumpa Lahiri



## Higher Educational Collaboration Between NIBM, Sri Lanka & Deakin University, Australia

The official partnership launch of the National Institute of Business Management of Sri Lanka and Deakin University of Australia took place on the 24th of February 2021 where the Partnership Agreement was officially signed collaborating with the School of Computing & Engineering of NIBM providing an opportunity for NIBM Students to complete their Degree at Deakin in Australia after successfully completing their Diploma or HND at NIBM.

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#### WHY SHOULD WE FOLLOW PHD STUDIES AT MSU?

Management & Science University, Malaysia has established its Learning Centre (MSI) in Colombo to create better opportunities for Sri Lankan students in order to receive an excellent education at their home country. The research-based PhD programme offered by MSU, meets the international standards by complementing the thesis work with minimum of three internationally recognized refereed journal publications. The programme is conducted as per the schedules provided by the University that consist a defense presentation, thesis work, work completion seminar and the final defense of VIVA. Malaysian supervisors who are assigned by the university and local advisors guide the PhD candidates. Monthly progress monitoring and all exams are conducted by MSU Malaysia.

Boasting an employability rate of 98.7 percent within 6 months of graduation, all MSU programs are specifically designed to cater to industry requirements and remain relevant to the market. MSU also takes the extra step to ensure that students are equipped with the required soft skills and competencies in addition to academic excellence. Providing an educational experience that incorporates theory with the required external exposure, MSU's commitment is to build balanced, holistic and wellrounded individuals who are successful academically and leveraged with soft skills.

MSU importantly contributes for making Sri Lanka as the major educa-



tional hub in the South Asian region through a vast spectrum of programs from Diploma to Degree to Postgraduate Studies to Masters, PhD's and MBA.

#### Dr. D.A. Thakshila Kumari (Senior Lecturer in Banking and **Finance, Department of Banking** and Finance, Faculty of Business Studies and Finance, Wayamba **University**)

It is with great pleasure that I convey this message as a suc-

cessful PhD holder of the 13th batch completed doctoral studies

at the Management and Science University of Malaysia (MSU)

through the MSU Learning Center Colombo. For my doctoral studies I selected one of the crucial sectors in Sri Lanka; the Banking sector and examined the financial literacy as a significant variable to determine the level of financial inclusion among the rural poor women in Sri Lanka. In this context, the research found that since the lack of financial literacy among the rural women, they are excluded from the formal banking sector. Therefore, formal financial institutes should have focused to formulate some strategies to absorb these unbanked rural populations into the formal banking sector. The findings of this study could provide insights to the policy makers of the financial sector in the ways of how to improve the level of financial literacy of this segment of the society and how to formulate new policies to absorb financial excluded rural women into the formal banking sector and enhance their economic empowerment. In addition, results have shown that financial inclusion plays a significant mediating role between financial literacy and women's economic empowerment. I would like to express my sincere thanks and heartfelt gratitude to my supervisors, the Dean of the School of Business, MSU Malaysia, staff members at MSU Learning Center, Colombo for their invaluable guidance and support extended during the last three years.

Dr. Prabhashini Wijewantha (Senior Lecturer, Department of Human Resource Management, Faculty of Commerce and Management Studies, University of

Kelaniya) I completed my Ph.D. from the Management and Science University (MSU), Malaysia in 2020. I

Upon completion of the Research Methodology lecture series and the workshops, I undertook my research within large scale Sri Lankan private sector organizations which are emerging as multinationals (emerging market multinationals) giving a huge competition to the global corporate giants. As Sri Lanka is currently focusing on promoting local industries to enter the international markets it is very important that we ensure the human resource in these organizations are ready and willing to support this business mission. Given this situation, my research study focused on ensuring health and wellness (well-being) of these employees by supporting them to minimize job- and work-related stress. As such, it is important to see how organizations could minimize these stressors by largely focusing on issues such as internal organizational politics which has largely become a hidden killer of organizations. In undertaking this research study, I was able to further my understanding in the areas of research methodology and data analyses

As such, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisors from MSU, Malaysia, the Senior VP for Post Graduate, Business and Social Science Cluster, Dean Graduate School of Management, and the Director and the staff of MSI Learning Centre, Colombo for their support extended during undertaking this insightful research study which I undertook.

#### Dr. Sumith de Silva (Head of Marketing and Corporate **Communications, Airport and Aviation Services (Private) Limited** Bandaranaike International

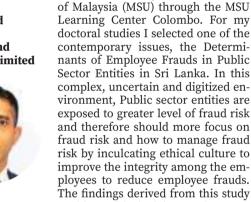
Airport It is a great pleasure and honor for me to pen down this message after completing my Ph.D. in Busi ness and Market-

ing at the Management and Science University, (MSU), Malaysia.

Choosing Management and Science University (MSU) Malaysia for my Ph.D. studies has been one of the best decisions I ever made in my academic career.

Dr. Mudith Sujeewa Gamlath: (Senior Lecturer, Department of Accountancy, University of Kelaniya)

It is with great leasure that write this message as successful PhD holder at the Management and Sci-University ence



fraud risk and how to manage fraud risk by inculcating ethical culture to improve the integrity among the employees to reduce employee frauds. The findings derived from this study could provide insights to the management of the public sector entities, regulators, and policy makers on the ways of how to manage fraud risk and reduce fraud in public sector entities in Sri Lanka.

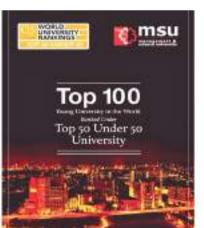
I would like to express my sincere thanks and heartfelt gratitude to my



was a member of the Batch 13 from Sri Lanka.

gaps through practical-oriented and outcome-based education, the MSU PhD programme prides itself on its superior quality. The program is entirely research based, and the doctorate will be awarded on the successful completion of a thesis - by MSU Malaysia. Students will be examined by assessment of the thesis and the research on what it is based. The PhD programs also require a viva voice.

PhD Candidates must demonstrate the ability to carry out an independent research, and require a recognized Bachelor's and Master's degree that is approved by the senate of MSU to enter into this prestigious



MSU paved the way to expand my horizons and opened up many global opportunities. Ph.D. at MSU has been a journey where I was able to broaden my critical and conceptual thinking with a global mindset. Collaborative culture, closer supervision, and motivation of the eminent panel comprised of globally recognized academia always enrich exceptional learning aptitude in the student's mind.

I owe a debt of gratitude to MSU and my academic supervisors for their invaluable guidance and continuous support during the Ph.D. iournev.

supervisors, the Dean of the School of Business, MSU Malaysia, staff members at MSU Learning Center, Colombo for their invaluable guidance and support extended during the last three years.

For more information about MSU Ph.D and other programmes (more specifically about the PhD intake in March 2021), kindly contact Management & Science University though our local Representative MSI Colombo on enquiry@msi.edu. lk telephoneTel: 011 257 6900 / 011 257 6700 Hot line 077 0777 880, or visit us at No 300, Galle Road Colombo 03. www.msu.edu.my

## CMA Speech Craft Programme Develops Leadership and Speaking Skills batch No. 22 passed out in January

The CMA Speech Craft Batch 22 commenced the programme on 6th December 2020, and within seven weeks successfully completed the programme online and held the final Awards ceremony meeting online on Sunday, 17th January 2021.

The Speechcraft programme which is mandatory for all CMA final year students, trains students to communicate more effectively at work, home or socially and also to present their ideas convincingly in an organised and logical manner. Enables them to improve their self confidence in front of an audience?

Students could achieve their communication skills to meet the needs of the workplace through the globally recognized Toastmasters.

International Speechcraft program

Speechcraft is a program designed to develop your public speaking ability and so much more. You will gain confidence in all aspects of communication, including written and impromptu speeches, audio-visual aids, body language, active listening, and critical evaluation.

The Speechcraft program exposes each participant to a wide range of communication and learning experiences. Each participant receives a professionally published Toastmaster International Speechcrafter Manual plus a range of learning materials.



receive a constructive speech evalua-

tion, initially from the course trainers

and then from your peers. This pro-

cess recognizes speaker's strengths

and provides valuable guidance on

how future presentations may be im-

proved.Speechcraft participants are

encouraged to embrace the Toast-

masters International motto: Better

Batch -22 Virtual Final Meeting and Awards Ceremony

Participants prepare and present speeches in a relaxed atmosphere. Speeches are designed with the novice in mind - you do not need any experience!

During each meeting, short impromptu speaking sessions are conducted to help you learn to think on your feet. After each presentation you Listening, Better Thinking, Better speaking

Prof. Lakshman R. Watawala giving the Chief Guests address at the Awards Ceremony held on zoom, commended the Batch 22 participants for an excellent performance delivering speeches on relevant and inspiring topics. Prof. Watawala ex-

pressed the importance of Communication skill development for the furtherance of the career success of the CMA Management Accountants who will be the future corporate leaders. The participants were encouraged to attend Conferences with local and international presence to improve the knowledge base and volunteer to make presentations in professional fora' to gather confidence and climb the corporate ladder.

The Speechcrafters expressed their individual appreciation to Prof. Watawala for making the speechcraft programme mandatory though some had reservations at first but they realized sooner than later the invaluable knowledge and confidence gained to overcome fear of speaking in public, ingredients and structure of an effective speech in addition to critical topics on leadership such as positive thinking, teamwork and time management.

The President of CMA Sri Lanka Toastmasters Club T.M. Mayuran Ramanathan, appreciated the visionary leadership of Prof.Watawala for ensuring that CMA students receive the full package of communication and leadership skill development through the speechcraft programme and thanked his fellow Toastmaster members for the co-operation extended to assist in the twelve session programme.

President Mayuran also conducted the Certificate awarding ceremony online with Prof. Lakshman R. Watawala Chief Guest giving away the Certificates for Batch 22 students who successfully completed the Speech Craft programme.

A speechcrafter delivered an elegant and comprehensive Vote of thanks on behalf of the 22 members who completed the Course, giving special note of appreciation to Dian Abeyewardene the Course Director, Mrs. Shanthi Maheswaran, Director Member Services CMA, the IT team of CMA for the efficient online facilitation of all sessions, especially in the final meeting.

The commitment and dedication of Prof. Watawala, President of the Institute of Certified Management Accountants of Sri Lanka, to empower the CMA students in all aspects as future leaders irrespective of all challenges experienced with the Covid -19 pandemic, was greatly appreciated by all students who acknowledged the immense benefits received by following the Speech Craft programme.

The next two Batches comprising a weekday and weekend batch have commenced registrations and students applications should be sent on or before 25th February 2021 to Ms. Shanthi. Email: registrations@ cma-srilanka.org / Mobile 071 4705536

## "Education should be not for school but for life"

- Minister of Education, Prof. G.L. Peiris

Final objective of education should not be the school, but the life, said Minister of Education, Prof. G.L. Peiris. Minister made these observations while participating at the opening ceremony of the new Research Building Complex of the Sri Lanka University of Technology recently. After this research building complex is constructed around 45000 sq. ft. area will be allocated for research activities.

We are aware that there is a big mismatch between education in this country and the job market. We can introduce Sri Lanka University of Technology as one of the higher education institutes that has clearly identified the prevailing mismatch. Here, Music is taught in addition to Technology, Engineering, Business Management and Information Technology. Can you believe it? Although there is not much of demand for Music in our country but in foreign countries there is a good demand. Our children can easily get that opportunity.

This year we will be increasing the University intake for higher studies by 11,500 compared to last year. Last year we admitted 30,000 students and this year it will be increased to 41,500. We had to increase that by another 540 owing to certain problems that cropped up regarding the 'Z' score. Accordingly, more than 12,000 students will be admitted this year. When the Government is increasing the opportunities for higher education we are anticipating to start 'ten City Universities' with the intention of providing higher education opportunities. Asian Development Bank is providing funds for this.

We talked about jobs with the heads of leading private business institutions in this country in the recent past as we have to plan to provide jobs in addition to the 100,000 jobs our government has provided.





The comment of the heads of those institutions was that the graduates who pass out of the Universities lack soft skills development. Although they have the educational qualifications their soft skill development has not taken place through education.

Therefore we have to fill that vacuum in higher education. We have to develop soft skills such as Logic, Information Technology, Creativeness and Human Relations.

In addition to them our culture and virtues should be safeguarded. We have to direct our Higher Education to those targets.

Therefore, the contribution your Institution is making for research, should be greatly admired, the Minister said.

Minister of Trade Bandula Gunawardena, Chief Executive of the Sri Lanka University of Technology Ranjith Rubasinghe and many others were present at this occasion.

### Senior Business Managers Join PIM's EMBA

Prof. Ajantha S.Dharmasiri, Director, PIM, welcomed the virtually connected EMBA participants.

The Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM), as the nation's management mentor successfully launched another batch of its Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) programmerecently with a virtual inauguration. Prof. Ajantha S. Dharmasiri, Director, PIM, in his welcome address mentioned the efforts taken by the PIM to design the EMBA to suit an emerging category comprising of General Managers, Chief Executive Officers, Chief Financial Officers and Entrepreneurs.

atChanna de Silva, CEO, Lanka Clear, who was the chief guest at



the event, stressed the importance of contributing towards economic growth of the country with innovative approaches. Dr. Trevor Mendis, EMBA - of PIM elaborated the content and the conduct of the EMBA at

the PIM. Mrs. HimajaWijyenayake, a Gold medalist from a previous EMBA batch highlighted the need to be brilliant in basics with regard to the challenging yet rewarding EMBA experience at PIM.







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## INAUGURATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE NSBM GREEN UNIVERSITY









focus to redefine and stretch the boundaries of Accounting and

## THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INVESTMENT CENTER

NSBM Department of Accounting and Finance declared open an investment center in collaboration with Bartleet Religare Securities (Pvt) Ltd and Colombo Stock undergraduates. The investment center is equipped with modern technical equipment that facilitates real-time stock trading at the Colombo Stock Exchange within the

of Andaradeniya Group, was participating as the guest of honour. Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Chaminda Rathnayake, Head of Academic Development and Quality Assurance, Prof. Baratha Dodankotuwa, Ms. Thilini De Silva, Dean Faculty of Business were also among other guests who graced the function. Ms. Maithri Vidanakariya Karanage, will be the first-ever Head of the newly established department.

The NSBM Department of Accounting and Finance aspires to become the epitome of creative Accounting and Finance education in Sri Lanka and is dedicated to producing employable and ardent graduates in respective disciplines. Thus, the quintessence of the department is enriched with its Finance education in Sri Lanka.

The department is currently catering to a student population of over 1500 students and offers a range of both local degree programs and international degree programs from affiliated foreign universities; BM (Hons) Accounting and Finance by NSBM Green University, B.Sc. (Hons) Accounting and Finance by the University of Plymouth, United Kingdom and, Bachelor of Business: Banking and Finance and Financial Risk Management by the Victoria University, Australia. The department's radical approach to Accounting and Finance education makes its graduates well acquainted with knowledge, skills, and attitudes demanded by the modern corporate world.

Exchange to nurturing the various aspects of investment knowledge of NSBM

University premises, and it is also the first of its caliber in Sri Lanka.





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**FEBRUARY 28, 2021** 

## **ACBT Teacher Training** Programme at Sabaragamuwa University

nglish Department of Australian College of Business and Technology conducted a training programme for Academic Staff of Sabaragamuwa University in November - December 2020. Over 30 Academic Staff members representing Department of Economics and Faculty of Management Studies of Sabaragamuwa University participated in the training.

This 50-hour training programme was organized under AHEAD: a World Bank funded project by the Sri Lankan Government. The programme focused on effective English medium teaching to undergraduate students, with the objective of enhancing the teaching and learning experience in the English medium in undergraduate programmes at State Universities. Training sessions were conducted online due to the Covid-19 pandemic Health restrictions. Nevertheless, the sessions were interactive, discussion - based and comprised teaching practices and demonstrations.

The training also included internationally recognized TKT CLIL certification as assessment. TKT CLIL is part of Cambridge TKT examinations and is an ideal qualification for those who teach different subjects in the English medium, irrespective of whether they teach in schools or in Universities. TKT certification also includes a module on Teaching Young Learners as well as several modules on Teaching English, which can be taken upon choice and requirement.



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## Advertorial

## Sri Lanka Technological Campus launched its first Extensive Research Complex

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ri Lanka's undisputed pioneer the Padukka Campus premises recentin Engineering & Technological education, Sri Lanka Technolog-ical Campus (SLTC), opened its



#### NOTICE **UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA**

#### **GENERAL CONVOCATION - 2021**

The General Convocation of the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka will be held in the month of October 2021 for the conferment of First Degrees and Postgraduate Degrees/Diplomas on all those who have successfully completed the first Degree and Postgraduate Degree/ Diploma Examinations conducted by the Faculties of Architecture, Business, Engineering, Information Technology and Faculty of Graduate Studies of the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, and the results of which have been released since the closing date of supplication for the last Convocation held on 25th August, 2020.

All those who are eligible are kindly requested to supplicate (online with a hardcopy) for the conferment of First Degrees and Postgraduate Degrees/Diplomas at this Convocation on or before 31st May, 2021.

Online supplication form is available in the University Web (www. mrt.ac.lk/supplication-2021) and both the duly submitted online form and a hard copy of the said online supplication form shall be submitted to process further as a valid supplication. While the completed online supplication form is submitted via the University Web, the hard copy of the online supplication form with your signature along with the payment receipt should be sent under the registered post to the following address on or before 31st May, 2021. (Indicate 'Supplication for General Convocation - 2021' on the top left-hand corner of the envelope).

Deputy Registrar/Examinations University of Moratuwa Katubedda, Moratuwa 10400

If you find any difficulty in submitting the supplication form, please send an email to supplication@uom.lk indicating the support sought.

**Registrar**. University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, Katubedda, Moratuwa. 22.02.2021

Minister of Youth & Sports, Namal Rajapaksa & Principal Advisor to His Excellency the President Lalith Weerathunga was unable to participate due to conflicting schedules but conveyed their Best Wishes.

Dignitaries & delegates in attendance included Chancellor of Moratuwa University & Council Member of SLTC - Professor K K Y W Perera, Secretary to the Ministry of Youth & Sports Anuradha Wijekoon, Secretary to the State Ministry of Rural Roads and other Infrastructure Prof. Ranjith Dissanayake, Director General Telecommunication Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka Oshada Senanayake, Chairman Sri Lanka Telecom PLC Rohan Fernando & Chairman Atomic Energy Authority & Council Member of SLTC Prof. S R D Rosa.

The event coincided with the unveiling of the University crest and the 2025 infrastructure development blueprint of SLTC incorporating all enhancements in progress as well as projected to materialize in the foreseeable future. 10 students were felicitated for outstanding performance in research & innovations, best final year projects & international competition wins while 12 staff awards including Outstanding Research Award, Emerging Young Researcher & STLC President's Research Award were distributed among members of faculty.

Upon declaring the new facility open, Chief Guest Professor Peiris remarked "SLTC's emphasis on research is noteworthy; Universities have two main components - teaching & research. Both are equally im-



portant though in the more traditional approach imparting theoretical knowledge is prioritized over hands-on experience. Eng. Rubasinghe's vision to restore this equilibrium by striking a perceptive balance between theory and practical education is commendable & exemplary. SLTC is a trailblazer in that

regard". Meanwhile Guest of Honor Dr. Gunawardena noted, "Today is a red letter for SLTC as well as the country. Embracing research-based education is bound to yield positive results & we congratulate SLTC for paving the way for it. Hopefully all public & private Universities in Sri Lanka will follow suit". The first & only of its kind in Sri Lanka, the dedicated research facility aligns with SLTC's vision and focus to emerge the number one Research University in the region; it serves to facilitate & foster research as a natural part of University Education.

Spread across an extent of 45,000 sq. ft, SLTC serves to facilitate extensive collaboration about different re-

search groups to produce and disseminate new knowledge across various disciplines. The complex is designed to be one with nature & ample inspiring, interactive spaces to promote freethinking, co-operation & entrepreneurship among undergraduates.

The complex features dedicated laboratories  $\hat{\&}$  co-working spaces for fields of: Telecommunication, Electrical & Electronics, Power System, Environmental Engineering & Technology, Chemical Science, Food Processing & Engineering, Instrumental, Microbiology & Biotechnology, IOT, Civil Engineering and hydraulics.

Speaking at the opening, Founder President/CEO of SLTC Eng. Ranjith Rubasinghe, said "We are excited to expose the next generation of graduates in Sri Lanka to world class infrastructure in research & development thereby offering them not merely theoretical knowledge but also hands-on experience across various technological disciplines. We believe this facility will serve to elevate SLTC as the fore-

most knowledge hub & Research University in the whole of South Asia".

In a short span of time, SLTC has made significant strides in research including publishing the Highest Impact Factor paper in Engineering & Physics 2019, received Presidential Award for the highest impact factor publication in Engineering, Architecture, Computer Science and IT in 2019 and being ranked 19th in Sri Lanka in the Webometrics ranking among other accomplishments. Furthermore, five final year students of SLTC won the International Research Paper Competition at World Innovation Expo in Indonesia last year.

SLTC boasts an erudite panel of lecturers including 40 PhD holders, 2 IEEE Senior members and an IET fellow. It also holds the distinct honor of being the first non-state University to embark on a Post-doctoral programme. The University's research teams are currently engaged in research in areas of: Telecommunication, Embedded Systems & Robotics, Bio Systems, Cognitive Computing, Power Systems Engineering, Applied Mathematics and Sustainable Building.

SLTC has hosted 4 international workshops in collaboration with international partner Universities over the past years to promote Research & knowledge sharing. The Campus offers a wide range of undergraduate programmes to choose from catering to diverse interests of Engineering, Technology, Business, Computing & IT, Music, Textile Technology and Fashion Merchandising, Tourism and Hospitality.



Minister of Education Prof. G L Peiris & Founder President - CEO of SLTC Eng. Ranjith Rubasinghe



Minister of Trade Dr. Bandula Gunawardena, Guest of Honour, Chief Guest Founder President - CEO SLTC Eng Ranjith Rubasinghe, Chief Guest Minister of Education Prof. G L Peiris, Minister of Trade Dr. Bandula Gunawardena, Guest of Honour & Chairman SLT PLC Rohan Fernando

## **VTASL launches** "VTA Gamin Gamata"

#### To take vocational training to villages

400 registered for entrepreneurship We registered 494 for local jo

only trained for their vocation but also

The Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka (VTASL) recently introduced a national programme named "VTA Gamin Gamata" with the objective of taking vocational training to villages. "VTA Gamin Gamata," planned to cover all the Districts of the Island with two programmes already successfully completed, the first programme covering the Anuradhapura District on 12th and 13th January and covering the Kurunegala District on 29th and 30th January. Sunday Observer Education spoke with the newly appointed Chairman / CEO of VTA, Damitha Wickramasinghe, the creator of this new concept.

"The Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka (VTASL) was established in the year 1995 as per a concept of the present Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa was the Minister of Labour and Vocational Training. VTA was established with the intent to provide skills for employment. The Manpower Division, which was called the "Foreman Division," the training arm of Labour Department, which was running technical and vocational training programmes in many parts of Sri Lanka, was extended as the newly established Vocational Training Authority (VTA) making vocational training more accessible to rural youth and depressed segments of the country."

"Gradually, we have grown to be the largest vocational training provider in the country. For example, Sri Lanka has about 350 vocational training centers. Out of these, about 230 are under the VTA. That is the size of our institution. We have doubled this year's intake to 75,000. Before this year, the maximum intake was 30,000 the year 2018."

"The "VTA Gamin Gamata Project" came about as a result of the President Gotabaya Rajapaksa himself giving me direct instructions to take vocational training to villages, in accordance with his Policy Statement "Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour." Up to now, the VTA has been carrying out many promotional activities but, those activities had not reached the grassroots level. When President Gotabaya Rajapaksa went to Anuradhapura for the "Gama Samaga Pilisandara" Programme, several youths in that area have complained to him about their inability to find employment. Then and there President Gotabaya Rajapaksa himself called me and said that he had heard that the



#### VTA Chairman CEO, Damitha Wickramasinghe

VTA is doing a good job, but the problem is information about what the VTA could do to alleviate unemployment has not reached the underprivileged. He told me to think of a mechanism, and told me, "Here I am going from village to village to find out information about the problems the villagers are facing at first hand and why don't you do the same thing?" And he stressed that I am not to just send officials but myself to go to meet the villagers.'

"We had two very successful programmes, the first on in the Anuradhapura District and the second programme in the Kurunegala District. The participation in both these Districts was unbelievable. In those far-off villages, we were expecting crowds of 100 - 150, but, everywhere we went, there were over 500 youth in attendance. In Nochchiyagama in the Anuradhapura District, we had 751 participants. Rajanganaya, being a jungle area, there were 566 participants. At Galenbindunuwewa, there were 540 participants. Thambuttegama there were 261 partipants. 344 participants in Vilachchiya. In Kahatagasdigiliya there were 450 participants. Altogether there were 3000 participants in the Anuradhapura District. We have noticed that the more distance away from Colombo a place is, the participation in that place is more. We would never get such numbers of participants in Colombo."

"Out of that number, 741 participants were registered for training from the Anuradhapura District. We have another programme in which we give the equivalent NVQ Level Certificate to experienced technicians without qualifications with the least supervision. For that programme, we have 174 registered from the Anuradhapura District and we have

and 293 for foreign employment. Basically, the whole 3000 have registered for some programme. Now the duty lies with us to follow up and make the students succeed."

"We have also found a new avenue to address the people. The methodology we use here is making the connection to the youth through the temple or the church in the area. That has been the initial methodology followed in setting up the training centers of the VTA. Most of the training centers have been established in temples. The process is easy because the buildings are already available. It is only a matter of putting in the instruments and instructors. The easiest way of reaching the youth of a village is through its temple and it's Chief Incumbent. Most of the time, the prelates themselves get highly interested is securing employment for the vouths of the village and they spread the message to parents and their offspring. The local political authority also has been very helpful. They also understand the value of this "VTA Gamin Gamata" Programme and send the youth from their subelectorates to attend these meetings. In one location, we try to cover about 15-20 sub-electorates as it is impractical



to hold this kind of programmes in every sub-electorate.'

"Basically, we cover eight locations in every District. The next "VTA Gamin Gamata" Programme is scheduled to be held on 17th and 18th of this Month in the Nuwara Eliya District. Normally we used to hold four programmes per day but it is difficult to do the same in Nuwara Eliya because of the difficult terrain. So we are thinking of extending the programme for three days and holding three programmes per day."

"There are three known aspects of this programme. One is imparting awareness of the importance of vocational training. Most of the youth from rural areas complain of the lack of employment. But, they are not



sufficiently qualified for employment. For example, if one joins the public service in the labour category, his maximum salary will be Rs. 25,000/=. Whereas, if that person gets him- or herself as a proper tiler, that person could earn Rs. 5,000/= - Rs. 7,500/= per day. If that person works for 20 days a month, he could earn a monthly salary of Rs. 100,000/= - Rs. 150,000/=. With that sort of salary, a person could live quite comfortably. But, that message does not reach the people of villages. Everybody is expecting a government job. But, my personal view is that by joining the government service, a person loses his or her productivity and, in the long run, his or her future prospects. Prime example is that the decrease in my salary, caused by coming to the VTA as its Chairman and CEO is about 90%. But, I suffered this loss for the country and the President. If the Chairman had to suffer such a pay cut, you can imagine the salaries of others working here.'

"The other aspect is training and the avenues of employment. At VTA alone, we have 168 specialized avenues of training. In other words, categories of qualification. The student has to select the vocation most suitable for him or her. I always stress to them that they are coming here for their vocation, not vocational training. For example, a student comes here to become an electrician. Not just to train as an electrician. A student should have pride in him- or herself before he gains employment. There is a misconception among the general public that all leftovers join the VTA. But, that is wrong. Even if a person joins SLAS after obtaining a university degree, a "Tile Bass" is much better off than that person. I am not running down government service but that is the truth."

"The other factor is the current job market of the country as well as the world. For the local job market, we have entered into agreements with 15 local companies such as Keells and Cargills. The representatives of those companies are joining with us on site as we go "Gamin Gamata." Companies such as Keells and Cargills are ready to recruit then and there and bring them to Colombo to train them to work in their supermarkets. So, we have success stories with "VTA Gamin Gamata" in its teething stages. Every programme we have held so far, 50 - 60youth find employment. We have to cater for the private sector. The students we train join the private sector. If they still want to join government service, then our purpose is lost."

"For foreign employment, we have joined the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment and foreign employment providers in the private sector. That gives us an idea of available overseas The employment opportunities. vacancies are not only for the Middle East market but also for other countries of the world. Countries such as Japan, Australia, Canada and Singapore have opened their employment markets for technicians. There are several overseas employment opportunities for healthcare workers and caregivers. The annual requirement for caregivers is about 60,000. The beauty of this programme is that students are not

languag Language Centers round the country and teach students Japanese language, Korean language and English IELTS. Those three options are available. With English, the trained persons could go to western countries and the Middle East, wherever English is used. Japanese are useful for those seeking employment in Japan and we are teaching the Japanese curriculum. Korean could be studied by those who expect to be employed in Korea."

'The third objective is to encourage entrepreneurship. That is a focal area of the President and the Prime Minister. They want to generate as much as entrepreneurs as possible who could generate employment opportunities rather than seeking employment opportunities. The vision is that, any country that has developed in the past 50 years, for example Japan, Korea of even Singapore, has generated entrepreneurs who could offer employment opportunities. The basis of China, the "Economic Miracle of Asia," is its Small and Medium Scale Entrepreneurs. That is the foundation. Even the US economy runs on SME's. We are endeavouring to inculcate that culture in Sri Lanka by giving them guidance and there is also a government loan scheme for Small and Medium Entrepreneurs. The Central Bank of Sri Lanka is also tied up with the VTA and entrepreneurs are eligible for loan facilities from Rs. 25,000/= upwards. That is also one of the key areas."

"There is another parallel programme where we train entrepreneurs also at the VTA. We visit their places of work and install a small hoarding saying that "Here is a professional trained at the VTA." Through that also we are endeavouring to create awareness among the villagers. We installed 11 such hoardings in the Kurunegala District. We are conducting such promotional programmes also where the customer of whoever visits the premises would clearly see that message. In one hand, the VTA brand goes up in recognition and the technician will also gain credibility because he or she has been trained by the VTA. The VTA has an existing hierarchy and an infrastructural setup. We are present in almost every Electorate and that makes our tasks easier."

"This is, in a nutshell, "VTA Gamin Gamata" in action," said the Chairman / CEO of VTA, Damitha Wickramasinghe in conclusion.



## **'Asian Journal of Management Studies' Launched**

he Faculty of Management Studies (FMS) of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka recently launched the Faculty Journal named Asian Journal of Management Studies (AJMS). As an 'A' graded faculty in the Sri Lankan State University system, FMS always attempts to be a knowledge hub for the nation by connecting to a broader network. AJMS, a double-blind peerreviewed scholarly journal in business and management, reflects the FMS's attempt to benchmark the faculty's contribution to the growth of the body of knowledge in business and management. AJMS aims to promote and provide convenient access to publish and disseminate research works in business and management in the local, regional and global arena.

The ceremonial launch was held at the Auditorium of the Staff Development Center, of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, where Professor Udaya Rathnayake, Vice-Chancellor, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, attended as the Chief Guest. Prof. Saman K. Herath (Dean, Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture, UvaWellassa University of Sri Lanka) and ManilJayesinghe (President, The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka) attended the ceremony as the Keynote Speaker and Guest of Honour. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the physical gathering was limited to very few dignitaries, including the Heads of the Departments of FMS. Academic, nonacademic, and administrative staff members and the students joined the



Date: 24° February 2021





session via online platforms, including Zoom and Facebook Live.

Sharing his thoughts at the launch, Professor Udaya Rathnayake stated that "It is indeed a great pleasure to see that the Faculty of Management Studies has taken a step forward by launching the faculty journal". By appreciating the effort made by FMS in launching this journal, the Vice-Chancellorfurther stated that "The importance of journals in academic life goes beyond providing a means of communication and a permanent record. Journal articles are the final output of most research, and a researcher's performance and productivity are judged largely on the number of publications

as well as where they appear".

The editorial team of AJMS comprises an eminent panel of Academics representing theFaculty of Management Studies, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. Professor MSM Aslam (Dean – Faculty of Management Studies) heads the journal as the Editor-in-Chief.Dr. ThiliniChathurikaGamage(Senior Lecturer) and Dr. HP RasikaPriyankara (Senior Lecturer) act as the Managing Editors of the journal. The inaugural issue of the journal consists of six articles and a book review by eminent scholars in Sri Lanka.

Commenting on the launching of the journal, Prof. MSM Aslam, Edi-

tor-in-Chief/AJMS and President/Research and Publication Unit of FMS, stated that "As journals are inevitable scientific communication channel for Academic and Research Institutions, AJMS aims to provide a platform to publish new, high-quality and original research papers in the Management discipline in local, Asian and global contexts. Although the initial concept of AJMS is a couple of years old, I am glad that as a faculty, we could launch the journal parallel to the 25thAnniversary celebration of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka".

Addressing the gathering, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies Prof. Athula Gnanapala stated that "As an academic institution, we believe that it is our primary responsibility to work towards the betterment of the society through new initiatives such as journals and magazines to disseminate the new knowledge". He also appreciated the effort rendered by the editorial team of the journal in making the journal a success.

MA 05.01 in

Aanagement

Sharing his views about the journal,ManilJayesinghe (President, The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka) stated that "It is a great initiative taken by the Faculty of Management Studies in providing a platform tothe development of economy where the community can learn from others' experiences and generate new knowledge". He further necessitated the importance of close co-operation between academic institutions and the private sector in commercializing the research outputs.

Prof. Saman K. Herath (Dean, Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture, UvaWellassa University of Sri Lanka) stated that academic journals enhance the global visibility of the State Universities and provide a platform for knowledge dissemination. Most importantly, he has highlighted the importance of research ethics in scientific communication. He emphasized that "Given the competitive nature of research, it has become increasingly challenging for scientists to report unique and pioneering research. Nevertheless, the practice of misreporting data and scientific results continues to be followed by some members of the research community".

Delivering the vote of thanks, Managing Editor of the journal, Dr. ThiliniChathurikaGamage, expressed her sincere gratitude to the distinguished dignitaries who have graced the ceremonial occasion and share their invaluable thoughts despite busy schedules. Further, she delivered her heartfelt obligations to the editorial team, eminent reviewers and authors who have contributed immensely to the journal's success.

The journal's future issues will focus on contemporary issues in management while providing some solutions and recommendations to overcome such issues.

The journal can be easily accessed through https://www.sab.ac.lk/ajms/





We are the premier government institute in the country providing education and training for the development of human resources for tourism and hospitality industries.

### CERTIFICATE COURSE IN EVENT MANAGEMENT

This program is designed and developed specially to support the MICE Tourism sub sector for the first time in SLITHM education deliverance. It is an opening of a provision for those who are awaiting to become an associate in the event management industry (MICE Tourism Sector).

#### **ENTRY QUALIFICATION:**

G.C.E. Ordinary Level / Equivalent Passed with a Simple pass for English Language Or

Five years of MICE tourism sector experiences in and Event Company with English language abilities.

#### PERIOD OF THE COURSE: 06 months

COURSE FEE: 35,000/= (can be paid in two installments) COURSE CONTENT:

Mo	dules of Event Management program
Introd	luction to Tourism
Fund	amental of Event Management
Event	Goals, Objectives
Event	Planning Process
Secur	ity Measures for Event
Event	Concept and Designing
Basic	Event Accounting and Financing
Englis	sh for Event Management
ICT fo	r Event Management

#### COURSE AVAILABLE AT: SLITHM Head Office-Colombo

At the successful completion of the course, students shall be able to acquaint SLITHM & TVEC issued National Vocational Qualification Level-04 Certificates together.

### CERTIFICATE COURSE IN TREKKING & HIKING GUIDE

This program is designed and developed specially to support the Adventure Tourism sub sector in sriLanka. It has opened a provision for those who are awaiting to become professional Trekking Guide in the adventure tourism industry. This Program is ensured to develop their both foundation and skill levels competencies by delivering both theoretical and practical components during the maximum of one year including on the job training IOJT) period.

#### ENTRY QUALIFICATION:

G.C.E. Ordinary Level / Equivalent Passed with a Simple pass for English Language Or

Five years of MICE tourism sector experiences in and Event Company with English language abilities

PERIOD OF THE COURSE: 04 months

COURSE FEE: 40,000/= (can be paid in two installments)

#### COURSE CONTENT:

Modules OF Trekking Guide Program	
General Tourism Module	1
Prepare for Trekking	
Carry Out Briefing	
Health and Safety Measures	Share a
Carry out Navigation Activities	
Handel Necessary Gears	A ADAL
Survival Techniques	Say 2
Perform Casualty Evacuation Process	-5/51
Camping During Trek	

#### COURSE AVAILABLE AT: SUTHM Head Office-Colombo, Bandarawella, Kandy

At the successful completion of the course, students shall obtain SUTHM qualification which will be directed at SUTDA for licensing as well as the National Vacational Qualification Four (NVQ -04.)

Contact: Mr. Anura Alahapperuma - 0718108387 Please send your application by registered post on or before 20th of March 2021 to reach; Registrar, SLITHM, No. 78, Galle road, Colombo-03 General Inquiries-011-2208312-5

All Application forms could be downloaded from website - www.slithm.edu.lk)

### NATIONAL CERTIFICATE IN COMMUNITY BASED TOURISM (CBT)

Community Based Tourism (CBT) is a novel concept to Sri Lanka and which has been developed out of the traditional tourism approaches. Also, it is considered as an alternative tourism typology against the conventional mass tourism. Especially community ownership and their significant involvement in tourism is the key factor in CBT.

National Certificate Course in Community Based Tourism (NVO-4 Level) is designed with the focus of Leaders/members of CBOs engaged with unique feature which has an ovenue for tourism. This Ofmonths Train of Trainer (TOT) programe will provide a valuable opportunity, skills and knowledge for the leaders/members of CBOs to obtain an alternative livelihood in their rural setups. Further this will help to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through tourism.

#### COURSE CONTENT:

Introduction to Tourism	-
Introduction to Community Based Tourism	n (CBT)
CBT Product Development	6
Sri Lankan Studies	1
Sustainable Tourism	19
Personal & Professional Development	
English Communication Skills for CBT Leo	ders
NTRY QUALIFICATIONS: Minimum Educational Qualifications:	- Shoul

- Minimum Educational Qualifications: Should be studie G.C.E. Ordinary Level (O/L)
- · Age Limit: 18 -65 yrs.
- Should be a Leader/Member of a Community Based Association recommended by the Provincial Tourism Authority.
- At least five years' experience of the particular unique/traditional livelihood
- Should be a resident of North Western Province or Central Province

#### **COURSE FEE:** Free of charge

TIME DURATION: 06 months

COURSE AVAILABLE AT: Kandy and Kurunegala

Contact: Mr. Dheera Hettearachchi - 071 8036635 Please send your application by registered post on or before 20th of March 2021 to reach; Registrar, SUTHM, No. 78, Galle road, Colombo-03 General inquiries-011-2208312-5

## Advertorial

## Information Technology and its future role in Student Success

t is not only impact student success models but to take leading roles in future success plans requires campus leaders to rethink their IT structures and determine the best ways to maximize IT potential.

The increased role technology plays on today's campuses, especially in areas such as data collection, analytics and predictive modeling, has taken it far beyond a simple support structure. The ability to not only impact student success models but to take leading roles in future success plans requires campus leaders to rethink their IT structures and determine the best ways to maximize IT potential. The ability for IT to be at the forefront of student success models also raises challenges and questions that need to be answered.

Pelletier sums up the simplistic nature of the future of data on campuses: "With more technology comes more data. With more data comes the need for more technology to make sense of it all. Without experience, insight and a firm fix on their missions, Colleges and Universities can get swamped and ultimately paralyzed by the flood of information."1 Does it not make sense then to include the very people that run technology and data collection on Campuses as part of the bigger picture, especially when strategizing about future initiatives and their impact on student success? Imagine the possibilities with technology staff working hand-in-hand with others on the Campus to better understand what questions need to be answered with data, and what processes need to change with technology to better serve the campus and the students? Some additional soft skills will be needed for IT staff to perform at this level, and IT structures and job duties and responsibilities will need to change.

As Colleges and Universities move forward with technology and the utilization of data, it becomes imperative that both the communication of its potential and a stronger understanding of that potential reach all levels of an institution. While many College and University executives are convinced of data's value, many institutions are still finding their way in learning how to use data effectively and strategically. The point can be raised that the very professionals in charge of data and technology can also be leaders in educating those on Campuses of the many uses of data systems and data collection. However, those same technology professionals would be more valuable if they were part of the equation from the start, offering them a better understanding of the institution's vision, mission, and goals and, therefore, allowing them better insight into the wants and needs of the institutions. Perhaps Koester summed up the IT role for the future when she wrote: "Information technology will play a cen-



that of the workforce development area. Business needs will have to be evaluated, and students who may not fit into the traditional 'credit-bearing' model will have to be tracked and accounted for in the future.

As the IT workforce changes, adapts, and retools to address Institution's technology needs and to address the challenges of student success, affordability and accountability, IT leaders have to take on new roles as well. As Grajek noted, "the leader of the Campus information technology and its applications needs to be a good communicator and salesperson for the internal changes needed, as well as have the ability to build teams and manage the broadening array of technologies".

One example of the successful teaming and leadership of IT in relation to student success can be found at Montgomery County Community College in Pennsylvania. The institution has been ranked among the top Community Colleges in the country for its use of technology to support and enhance teaching and learning. Working with Achieving the Dream, data was utilized to assist with continuous improvement in the areas of first-year experience, student retention, graduation and transfer rates. This was accomplished through the IT team working with decision makers to identify unmet data needs in areas such as enrollment management, student performance, institutional research and ongoing program reviews.7

Another take on successful teaming of resources can be found at the University of Maryland University College (UMUC), where the president determined that analytics could assist the first class and also allowed a grace period for students to withdraw without penalty up to four days after a class began.

The results? Undergraduate completion rose by 7 percentage points over four years, while persistence rates increased by 4 percentage points

How else can IT connect with and improve student success models? Let's turn again to Montgomery County Community College (MCCC) and its focus on improving student access, success, and completion. In 2012, a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation allowed MCCC to launch an Integrated Planning and Advising Services initiative.

The initiative included an early alert system that allowed faculty to monitor progress and identify at-risk behaviors of students, an educational planning tool that allowed students the ability to map out entire degree or certificate programs, and a student dashboard that allowed students to go to a single source for their financial aid. As a result, the College saw increases in full- and part-time persistence for new and continuing students. In addition, the college experienced an 8% increase in persistence from fall to spring, and a 7% increase from fall to fall

Creating a more cohesive Campus student success effort that includes IT isn't accomplished without bumps along the way. Bowers describes the effort to connect student services and IT at the University of Southern California to improve their student success efforts. While key indicators such as persistence, timely graduation, and post-graduation employment or graduate school admission were in place, the ability to marshal forces within multiple departments and manage 25,000 undergraduate students was daunting. Record keeping alone was difficult.

A lead IT manager worked with a senior associate registrar and an associate vice president of planning, assessment, and innovation to craft solutions. Challenges included the unfamiliarity with different sets of jargon and acronyms and the difficulty in managing shared ownership of such a large project. Bowers recommends having departments get to know each other better before working on large-scale projects, taking steps to have non-IT staff improve their own IT knowledge, communicating the work of various departments with their

## **Entry requirements** for Masters Degrees

Considering postgraduate study, but unsure whether you meet the entry requirements for a Masters-level degree? Postgraduate admissions guidelines vary by Course and University, but can be quite flexible.

Your existing qualifications will be important, but you don't necessarily need a great Bachelors degree to apply for a Masters. Your personal circumstances and experience may also be considered during the admissions process.

This guide explains the typical entry requirements for a Masters, which include:

An undergraduate degree in a relevant subject - Depending on the program and institution, you may need a 2.1 in your Bachelors, but this isn't always the case

Language proficiency - If English isn't your first language, you'll need to display a certain ability level, usually through a language test

Professional experience -Some postgraduate programs may require you to have some professional experience (this is usually the case for PGCEs and Masters in Social Work)

Entrance exams - These are only required in certain subject areas and qualifications, including some MBAs

Academic qualifications As postgraduate qualifications, Masters Courses are intended for students who've already completed a Bachelors degree or other undergraduate course.

These existing qualifications show prospective Universities that you have the Knowledge and Academic ability to succeed at Masters level. As such, your previous degree results may be one of the most important entry requirements for postgraduate courses.

A Bachelors (or other undergraduate) degree

Most UK Universities require applicants to have a Bachelors degree in a relevant subject.

International applicants should hold an overseas quali-

Some Universities are willing to consider applicants who do not have the standard requirement of a good undergraduate degree, as long as they have other relevant qualifications or experience.

This is particularly true of vocational courses such as Creative Writing or Journalism, which require the applicant to demonstrate a set of practical skills.

If a candidate has, for example, already spent a period of time working in the industry, or has had work published, this may prove that they have both pre-existing experience, and a real passion for their course.

Ideally, candidates should show both Academic qualifications and practical experience in their chosen field.

Language proficiency If you're studying a Mas-

ters abroad, or studying a course that isn't delivered in your first language, you may need to demonstrate language proficiency as part of your admissions process.

This is usually done through a postgraduate language test. These assess your ability to speak, read and write in a specific language at a level sufficient for postgraduate study.

Note that simply having some proficiency in a language may not be enough. In order to gain admission to a foreign-language Masters you'll need to be able to comprehend and communicate complex concepts in this language.

Some existing language proficiencies may be accepted as evidence - such as professional experience or previous periods of study.

Language requirements (and tests) differ slightly in different countries.

English language requirements

If you're studying a Masters in English as a second language, you may be expected to take an English test as part of the admissions process for a

Masters program. (This is likely in countries like the UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand and parts of Canada).

### **COMMUNITY COLLEGES ARE EXPANDING FOCUS** FROM ACCESS TO SUCCESS. **THEY ARE ALSO LOOKING BEYOND THEIR OWN** WALLS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR CONNECTIONS WITH **LOCAL INDUSTRIES TO CREATE A MORE EDUCATED** WORKFORCE

tral role in the transformation of higher education, offering unimaginable opportunities and demanding unforeseen responses.... IT professionals can and should be at the core of envisioning and shaping the future of our Colleges and Universities."3 It is also important to remember that institutions must be getting the 'right data' as opposed to just more 'big data'. No longer can data collection be a just about education metrics, but rather should be about collecting and analyzing data that has been traditionally missing from higher education. As Busteed noted, this means collecting data that allows for the voices of the consumers and constituents of higher education. This means tracking expectations, experiences, emotions, and outcomes of not just students but

alumni, faculty, and staff in order to better understand how institutions of higher education are performing and how they can improve.

Community Colleges are expanding focus from access to success. They are also looking beyond their own walls to strengthen their connections with local industries to create a more educated workforce. It will be necessary to track an entirely different type of student,

with combating increasing competition for students, rising costs and declining state support. He established a data analytics unit and housed it in the Office of Analytics, Planning, and Technology. A study of student enrollment behaviors noted that students who waited until the last moment to enroll were also at the highest risk of withdrawing or failing a course. This led the University to close enrollment four days prior to IT Colleagues, and staying informed of work in the IT department. Basically, the more information that is shared between IT and other departments, the better the future outcomes are:

Without question, IT is starting to play a bigger role in student success models, and is also starting to become a bigger player at the table during strategic planning stages. However, more needs to be done.

## **Useful Studying strategies for** Students that don't enjoy studying

Why is having a choice of good studying strategies important in our school years? It's because the idea of studying is black or white for most students. They either love it or they despise it. When we're in school, we have to study if we want to make forward progress. When trying to make studying engaging and productive, having a list of interesting studying strategies can help.

But could they actually want to study if they found ways to make the process inviting? You bet they could. Effective studying strategies that make the process enjoyable are a necessity for students. They keep them from getting bored and discouraged.

Studying can become an appealing and proactive experience for students. You can share the following studying strategies and tips as suggestions to help make that happen for all students.

#### 1. Link to the Real World

Our digital natives are looking for real-world connections to learning. They want to know how what we're teaching can be applied to real life. They want to know how it can benefit them beyond school. This is probably one of the best perspectives you can impart to students.

Find ways to connect your content to real-life experiences and situations. Project-based learning activities are some of the best ways to make this happen.

#### 2. Encourage Group Communication

Ask students what they want to accomplish with their study time and how they plan to go about it. Ask them to be open and honest about the challenges they face and provide a supportive atmosphere.

Many of them will have their own studying strategies that they've had success with. These are ideas they can impart to others who are struggling. Let them know that you're all learning together.

#### 3. Find out how they learn Best

Get students to tell you what the best ways are for them to absorb content. Get to know what your kids are doing to maximize the benefits of study time. You'll likely get a bunch of different answers from them. Once you know, you can coax them gently towards developing new approaches. Encourage them to combine their own study methods with ones they may not have tried. Some approaches include:

Positive visualization - Have them use motivational mantras or messages

Proactive thinking -Instead of saying "I don't get this", have them ask themselves "how can I get this?" Guide them to challenge themselves and develop independent thinking processes.

Stressing individuality -Remind your students that each one of them is unique and special, and they learn and study in their own way. Tell them the truth, which is that they're doing iust fine.

Fostering a team atmosphere -Let students know that they can always feel good about wanting to help each other overcome problems and difficulties in studying and learning.

dents to use memory games or employ group challenges to reinforce knowledge retention and exercise their brains.

Taking frequent breaks - The mind is a muscle in itself. It works hard and needs to take a breather now and then. Remind studying students to get up, stretch, have some water, share a laugh with their friends and then get back to business.

#### 4. Set up a distraction - Free Zone

Set up study space with as little distraction as possible. That could mean everything from basic cleanliness to studying in absolute silence, and anything and everything in between. Everyone has a different approach and preferences.

Encourage students to only bring what they absolutely need to a study session. Don't need the iPod, certain books or other equipment? Leave them behind. Encourage them to challenge the stigma of "needing to have things handy just in case". The psychological benefits can be surprising.

#### 5. Focus on Exploration and Problem solving

Students love to be challenged. They enjoy knowing there is a relevant reason for learning what they need to learn. Smart studying strategies can include placing web quests and challenging problem-based activities into students' study time.

#### 6. Encourage Milestones

Having goals and a clear idea of the end point is a hallmark of any successful venture. This includes

Making it a game -Invite your stu- the simple act of studying. Allow students to make a list of tasks for themselves that they can check off as they do their work.

There are psychological rewards in completing tasks and visually striking them off. It provides a sense of both organization and accomplishment.

Students that are studying in groups can set a milestone/accountability system in place to help keep each other motivated and on task. Online task managers can help with this. There are lots of simple free online tools that can help.

#### 7. Have Students Teach Each Other

As far as great studying strategies go, student-as-teacher is one of the most effective and rewarding for the students. According to a study from McGill University, most of us retain knowledge in these capacities. We generally remember:

10% of what we read

20% of what we hear 30% of what we see

50% of what we both see and hear

70% of what we actively discuss

with others 80% of what we experience per-

sonally

95% of what we teach to others

It's easy to see that the best kind of knowledge retention and understanding can come from students teaching each other in different ways. They can also test each other on what they've learned. Along the way, students can get some valuable formative self - and peer-assessment experience.

fication of a similar standard, from a recognized higher education institution.

You'll normally need an upper second class degree or its equivalent for entry to a Masters degree. Some uUniversities and courses also accept students with lower second class degrees.

In extenuating circumstances, it might even be possible for a student with a third class degree to continue to postgraduate study. Note that some Masters courses do not specify the exact grade required, and instead request applicants with a 'good honors' degree'.

Pre-Masters courses

Some Universities offer Pre-Masters courses, which provide students with the chance to improve their skills in order to meet the academic requirements for postgraduate study.

Pre-Masters courses may be offered to international students, to help improve their research skills and academic proficiency in the English language.

The Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma

In some cases, a University may ask a student to complete a Postgraduate Certificate (PG-Cert) or Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) before registering on the corresponding Masters. This might be the case if a student doesn't have the necessary academic qualifications to enroll on a Masters course straightaway.

The Diploma is itself a postgraduate qualification, and is usually shorter than a full Masters course. Boosting the Diploma to a full Masters is often just a case of carrying out a postgraduate dissertation, but this varies course by course.

Relevant experience If you do not have the undergraduate degree required by a Masters course, this isn't necessarily the end of the world.

Nor should you panic if you are a mature student, or returning to postgraduate study after a hiatus.

Tests prove that you have an appropriate level of written and spoken English, and ensure you would not struggle to understand a Masters course taught in English.

There are several different types of English exam. The most common of these are:

IELTS (International English Language Testing System)

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)

Assessment Cambridge English's C1 Advanced and C2 Proficiency

PTE Academic (Pearson Test of English)

Other requirements

Wondering what else might be required to study a Masters? Here's a summary of some of the other key things that may be required by your course.

Entrance exams

A small number of courses require applicants to take subject-related tests as part of the admissions process.

Examples of these are the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) which is required by some MBAs and other management programs, and Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) which are sometimes required if an applicant hasn't studied in the UK before.

Financial requirements

You may be required to show evidence that you are aware of the cost of your Masters, and of how you plan to fund the course.

For example, your funding might come from personal savings, a postgraduate loan, a scholarship, a charity, or even crowd funding.

Attending an interview Some Courses require applicants to attend an interview as part of the postgraduate ad-

missions process. This is an excellent opportunity for applicants to prove that they're passionate about their subject, and that they have what it takes to flourish on a rigorous postgraduate course.

## Strengthening Your Quick Thinking ability



If you're a quick thinker, you pick up new information and ideas easily and 'process' that information swiftly.

For example, a colleague gives you a business plan or proposal to review and by skimming the document, you're able to rapidly extract the essential issues and questions at hand.

Similarly, when reading a case in business school, you could pull out the relevant information promptly. You weren't distracted by or bogged down in facts and figures that may be interesting but that aren't relevant to the core issue.

Or perhaps you've just given a presentation, and members of your audience ask probing questions afterward or disagree with some of your ideas. You quickly weigh their input and respond

with appropriate answers. Clearly, quick thinking is a valuable ability in a world where the pace of change continues to accelerate. How can you develop this key skill? Consider these suggestions:

Read a book on the subject. Potential useful titles include Quick Thinking on Your Feet by Valerie Pierce, Quick Wits: A Compendium of Critical Thinking Skills Activities by Marlene Caroselli, and Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking by Malcolm Gladwell.

Take an online learning course on the subject. Examples include the 'General Thinking Skills' modules offered through www.edwdebono.com. Your

versity extension programs, as well as continuing education programs, may offer such Workshops and Courses.

Practice 'speed thinking'. Whenever you're mulling over a proposal or other situation in which you have to evaluate a lot of information, work to cut to the heart of a matter. Try not to be distracted by or bogged down in facts and figures that aren't relevant to the issue at hand. Force yourself to quickly zero in on the key issues and to draw conclusions about what should be done - even if you feel you need more time. Then jot your ideas down on paper. Next, re-evaluate the situation at your usual pace, and see if you arrived at similar ideas this time around. Once you get better at this, try to go even faster.

Remember Pareto's Principle (also known as the '80-20 rule'). This rule says that in anything, a few (20%) of the people, facts, analyses, etc. involved are vital, and many more (80%) are irrelevant. As you consider new ideas, discipline yourself to look for the few gold nuggets and to sort them out from the sand and gravel, then draw your conclusions without sifting through the remaining 80%

Practice 'thinking on your feet'. Create a short presentation on a topic that interests you, then practice delivering your talk to a trusted friend or colleague. Ask your 'audience' to push you by posing questions and challenging your facts or ideas. Don't worry about messing up - the idea is to practice these skills in a safe environment and get more comfortable, not to act perfectly. Join a Public-Speaking Club. Some people are afraid that they'll get flustered and lose their train of thought in situations where they have to think on their feet. To overcome this fear, consider joining Toastmasters International, a network of Public-Speaking Clubs that offer excellent opportunities to practice thinking on your feet and responding quickly. Strengthening your ability to think quickly takes practice especially if you have a slower, more deliberate cognitive style. But the above suggestions can be an excellent starting point for enhancing this important skill.

## "Everything is ready to conduct GCE (O/L) Examination guaranteeing health security"

- Minister of Education, Professor G.L. Peiris

on. Minister of Education, Professor G.L. Peiris said that the Genral Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) Examination will commence on March 01st and will be conducted for nine days and there are six hundred and twenty two thousand (622,000) candidates are scheduled to sit the examination this time.

He also said that all provisions regarding the conduct of the examination amidst Covid pandemic situation have been set and if any of the students sitting the examination is found to be contracted with the virus, as a precaution two examination centres have been set up in every district cope with the situation.

He also pointed out that the examination will be held this year in 4,513 centres island-wide and funds more than 50 million have been provided in provincial level to set up the additional examination centres and that he had contacted with each Director of Education in the provinces online and by that information regarding the conduct of examination was obtained and accordingly everything is planned to conduct the examination under a complete programme.

Steps have been taken to



## **UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO** FACULTY OF EDUCATION

**POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION (TEACHING OF ENGLISH** AS A SECOND LANGUAGE) **FULL TIME COURSE - 2021/2022** 



guarantee the full health security of the students obtaining the advice of the Public health Inspectors and Medical Officers of Health of the region and discussions were held with the Department of Sri Lanka Railways and the Road Passenger Transport Authority regarding the transport activities during the period of examination and they have already set up a special programme for the transport of students for examinations, the minister pointed out.

If there happen to be any

unfavouable climatic condition in any area, Sri Lanka Navy and the security forces are kept in alert to transport

**STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO GUARANTEE** THE FULL HEALTH SECURITY OF THE STUDENTS **OBTAINING THE ADVICE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH** INSPECTORS AND MEDICAL OFFICERS OF **HEALTH OF THE REGION** 

the students to the examina- Ministry of Education to retion centres and that the parents could be satisfied with the programmes set up by the government regarding the conduct of the examination, sad the minister.

Further, he said that the full attention of the Ministry of Education is focused on continuing the education of the children continuously without any interruption and although the children had to face the examination after a delay, it is the intention of the lease the examination results in June so that the students can be admitted to the Advanced Level classes in July.

Secretary to the Ministry of Education, Professor Kapila Perera, Commissioner General of Examination Sanath Pujitha, Media Secretary of the Ministry of Education Buddhika Wickremadara and many people were present while all the provincial Directors of Education were available online.



### **NEW ADMISSIONS FOR GRADE 01 - 2022**

#### (age to be 5 yrs. by 31.01.2022)

- Applications can be downloaded from the College website: www.hillwoodcollege.com from 08.03.2021 to 19.03.2021.
- Applications are also available at the College Bookshop from 15.03.2021 to 19.03.2021 between 8.00 a.m. & 2.00 p.m. on submission of the original birth certificate of the child.
- Cost of an Application: Rs. 1,000/=.

Completed applications must reach the office on or before 3rd April, 2021.

#### **Principal** Hillwood College, Kandy Tel: 081 2214 214/ Fax: 081-223 4498 E-mail: hillwood@sltnet.lk

company may have purchased a site license for such e-learning programs. Or, you may be able to buy a CD containing modules of interest as well as participate in them online or download them from the developer. Some developers charge a fee for participation in the courses they offer; others offer modules for free.

Consult an expert. Find someone who you view as particularly good at thinking quickly. Ask this person how he or she has strengthened this ability.

Attend a workshop or a Course on the subject. Your company may offer such learning opportunities or may be willing to reimburse your tuition fees if you take such a course through another organization. Local Uni-

## **UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYEWARDENEPURA Faculty of Management Studies**

#### and Commerce

#### **Enrollment of New Students -**2019/2020 Student Intake

Online enrollment of new students selected to the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura will commence from 22.02.2021 to 04.03.2021.

Students are advised to visit the University website www.sjp.ac.lk and complete their enrollments before 04.03.2021 through the *Student Enrollment* link as per the instructions given therein.

Registrar, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

23.02.2021

Applications will be entertained from Graduate Teachers of Government Private/Assisted Schools, Pirivenas and other Educational Institutes for the above course.

#### Applicants should possess:

- a. A Bachelor's degree including a minimum of 30 credits for the course units of English Language and/or Literature from a University/Instituion recognized by the UGC.
- b. A Bachelor's degree with a minimum three years of work experience in the field of English education.
- Completion of NVQ Level 7 (equivalent to Bachelor's c. degree in SLQF) with relevant work experience as determined by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Education and Senate of the University of Colombo.
  - : Applicants should be below 50 years of age on 31st March 2021.
- **Course Content** : Core areas in the Theory & Practice of Teaching of English as a Second Language.
- Duration : One year

Age

- **Course Fee** : Rs. 70,000/-
- Selection Procedure : Language Proficiency Test and/or Interview
- **Applications** : Application forms may be obtained online from the Faculty of Education website: http://edu. cmb.ac.lk

Completed application forms together with a receipt for Rs. 1,000/- paid to the University of Colombo Account No. 206150300001 at any branch of the People's Bank should be sent under registered post to the *Senior* Assistant Registrar, Faculty of Education, University of Colombo, Colombo 03 along with a self-addressed stamped envelope (22x10 cm in size) to the value of Rs. 50/-

Name of the course should be written on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

Last date for receiving completed application forms : 31st March 2021.

Registrar, University of Colombo.



Masters of Science

### **UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY**

Applications are invited for the following Masters of Science Degrees commencing in June 2021.

- Analytical Chemistry
- > Applied Organic Chemistry

#### **Duration:** 18-24 months

#### **Composition of the Course**

Part I: Lectures and Laboratory sessions [on Fridays (5 -7 p.m.), Saturdays (8 am - 6 pm) & some Sundays]

Part II: Research project of three months duration (full time)

#### **Course fee:** M.Sc in Analytical Chemistry- Rs 220,000/ = (Part I only) (Application fee code: 314024000006)

M.Sc in Applied Organic Chemistry - Rs 220,000/= (Part I only) (Application fee code: 314024100005)

Eligibility: The graduates who offered **Chemistry** as a subject for their B.Sc. Degree are eligible to apply. The selection will be on the basis of an interview & placement test.

#### **Application Procedure:**

Application forms and course brochure can be obtained in person or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Assistant Registrar, Academic and Publications Branch, University of Colombo, 94, Cumaratunga Munidasa Mawatha, Colombo 03 or visiting science. cmb.ac.lk/ departments / chemistry

Duly completed application form together with a paying-in-voucher for Rs. 1,500/- paid to the credit of the University of Colombo, with the application fee code (as the A/C No) at the Thimbirigasyaya Branch of the People's Bank (payment can be made at any branch) should be sent to the Assistant Registrar, Academic and Publications, University of Colombo, 94, Cumaratunga Munidasa Mawatha, Colombo 03 under Registered Cover on or before 23rd April 2021

Registrar, University of Colombo, Colombo 03

## Advertorial

## How Jeff Bezos Built One of the World's Most Valuable Companies

Sunil Gupta, Harvard Business School professor, has spent years studying successful digital strategies, companies, and leaders, and he's made Amazon and its legendary CEO Jeff Bezos a particular areas of focus. Drawing on his own in-depth research and other sources, including a new collection of Bezos' own writing, Invent and Wander, Gupta explains how Amazon has upended traditional corporate strategy by diversifying into multiple products serving many end users instead of focusing more narrowly. He says that Bezos's obsession with the customer and insistence on long-term thinking are approaches that other companies and senior executives should emulate.

#### Transcript

**ALISON BEARD:** Welcome to the HBR IdeaCast from Harvard Business Review. I'm Alison Beard.

If you had to name the most successful business leader alive today, who would you say? I can't hear you from my basement podcasting room, but I would bet that for many of you, the answer is Jeff Bezos, CEO of Amazon. This is a man who over the past 25 years turned his online bookstore startup into a diversified company currently valued at \$1.6 trillion.

Amazon is a digital retailing juggernaut, it's also a web services provider, media producer, and manufacturer of personal technology devices like Kindle and Echo. Oh, and Bezos also owns the Washington Post and Blue Origin, a space exploration company. Forbes tells us he is the richest person in the world.

How did he accomplish so much? How did he change the business landscape? What mistakes has he made along the way? A new collection of Bezos's own writing, which full disclosure, my colleagues at Harvard Business Review Press have published, offer some insights. Here's a clip from one speech that's included. The book is called Invent and Wander.

And our guest today, who has spent years studying both Amazon and Bezos, is here to talk with me about some of the key themes in it, including the broad drivers of both the company and the CEO's success. Sunil Gupta is a professor of business administration at Harvard Business School and around forever. What's so unique today? I think unique today is razor could be in one industry and blades could be in completely different industrys.

So for example, if you look at Amazon's portfolio of businesses, you sort of say, not only Amazon is an ecommerce player, but also is making movies and TV shows, its own studio. Well, why does it make sense for an e-commerce player, an online retailer to compete with Hollywood. Well, Walmart doesn't make movies. Macy's doesn't make movies? So why does it make sense for Amazon to make movies?

And I think once you dig into it, the answer becomes clear that the purpose of the movies is to keep and gain the Prime customers. Two day free shipping is fine, but if you ask me to pay \$99 or \$119 for two day free shipping, I might start doing the math in my head, and say, OK, how many packages do I expect to get next year? And is the Prime membership worth it or not?

But once you throw in, in addition to the two-day free shipping, you throw in some TV shows and movies that are uniquely found only on Amazon, I can't do this math. And why is Prime customers important to Amazon? Because Prime customers are more loyal. They buy three or four times more than the non-Prime customers, and they're also less price sensitive.

And in fact, Jeff Bezos has said publicly that every time we win a Golden Globe Award for one of our shows, we sell more shoes. So this is, and he said it in your book, Invent and Wander, also, that we might be the only company in the world which has figured out how winning Golden Globe Awards can actually translate into selling more products on the online commerce.

So this is a great example of the razor being in a very different industry and blade being in another industry. Take another example. Amazon has a lending business where they give loans to small and medium enterprises. If Amazon decides to compete with banks tomorrow, Amazon can decide to offer loans to the small merchants at such a low price that banks would never be able to compete. And why would Amazon be able to do that? Because Amazon can say, hey, I'm not going to make money on loans, as much money on loans, but I'll make more money when these businesses, small businesses grow and do more transactions on my marketplace platform. And I get more commissions. So again, loan can become my razor in order to help the merchants grow and make money on the transaction and the commission that I get from that. The moment I make somebody else's, in this case the banks, core business my razor, they will make a very hard time competing. So I think that's the key change, the fundamental rules of

The more buyers I have, the more sellers I have. The more sellers I have, the sellers I have, the more buyers I get, because the buyers can find all the items. And that becomes flywheel effect, and it becomes a situation where it's very hard for a new player to complete with Amazon.

ALISON BEARD: In this diversification that Amazon has done, how have they managed to be good at all of those things? Because they're not focused. You know, they're not concentrated on an area of specific expertise. So how have they succeeded when other companies might have failed because they lacked that expertise, or they were spreading themselves too thin?

**SUNIL GUPTA:** So I think it depends on how you define focus. Most of us, when we define focus, we sort of define focus by traditional industry boundaries, that I'm an online retailer, therefore going into some other business is lack of focus. The way Amazon thinks about is focus on capabilities.

So if you look at it from that point of view, I would argue that Amazon had three fundamental core capabilities. Number one, it's highly customer focused, not only in its culture, but also in its capability in terms of how it can actually handle data and leverage data to get customer insight. The second core capability of Amazon is logistics. So it's now a world class logistics player. It uses really frontier technology, whether it's key word, robotics, computer vision, in its warehouse to make it much more efficient.

And the third part of Amazon's skill or the capability is its technology. And a good example of that is Amazon Web Services, or AWS. And I think if you look at these three core capabilities, customer focus and the data insight that it gets from that, the logistics capability, and the technology, everything that Amazon is doing is some way or the other connected to it. In that sense, Amazon, and there's no lack of focus, in my judgment on Amazon. Now, if he starts doing, starts makng cream cheese tomorrow or starts making airplane engines, then I would say, yes, it's got a lack of focus. But one of the other things that Jeff Bezos has said again and again is this notion of work backwards and scale forward. And what that means is, because vou're customer obsessed, vou sort of find ways to satisfy customers, and if that means developing new skills that we don't have because we are working MASTERCARD IS EXACTLY THE SAME THING. AJAY BANGA IS GIVING THREE YEAR GUIDANCE TO WALL STREET SAYING, THIS IS MY THREE-YEAR PLAN, BECAUSE THINGS CAN CHANGE QUARTER TO QUARTER. I'M STILL RESPONSIBLE TO TELL YOU WHAT WE ARE DOING THIS QUARTER, BUT MY STRATEGY WILL NOT BE GUIDED BY WHAT HAPPENS TODAY

backwards from what the customer needs are, then we'll build those skills.

So a good example of that is, when Amazon started building Kindle, Amazon was never in the hardware business. It didn't know how to build hardware. But Bezos realized that as the industry moved, people are beginning to read more and more online, rather, or at least on their devices, rather than the physical paper copy of a book. So as a result, he says, how do we make it easier for consumers to read it on an electronic version? And they're spending three years learning about this caset up a time, and five minutes before our call, he sends me an email with a six-page memo. And I said, well, shouldn't he have sent this to me before, so I could at least look at it? He says, no, that's the Amazon style. We'll sit in silence and read it together. And so I read it together, because then you're completely focused on it. And then we can have a conversation. But this discipline of writing a six-page memo, it's a very, very unique experience, because you actually have to think through all your arguments.

ALISON BEARD: You also mentioned the long term focus, and that really stood out for me, too, this idea that he is not at all thinking of next year. He's thinking five years out, and sometimes even further. But as a public company, how has Amazon been able to stick to that? And is it replicable at other companies?

**SUNIL GUPTA:** I think it is replicable. It requires conviction, and it requires a way to articulate the vision to Wall Street that they can rally behind. And it's completely replicable. There are other examples of companies who have followed a similar strategy. I mean, Netflix is a good example. Netflix hadn't made money for a long period of time. But they sold the vision of what the future will look like, and Wall Street bought that vision.

Mastercard is exactly the same thing. Ajay Banga is giving three year guidance to Wall Street saying, this is my three-year plan, because things can change quarter to quarter. I'm still responsible to tell you what we are doing this quarter, but my strategy will not be guided by what happens today. It will be guided by the three-year plan willing to take on the ownership and build something.

**ALISON BEARD:** But don't all of the tech companies offer that?

**SUNIL GUPTA:** They do, but if you think about many other tech companies, they're much more narrow in focus. So Facebook is primarily in social media. Google is primarily in search advertising. Yes, you have GoogleX, but that's still a small part of what Google does. Whereas if you ask yourself what business is Amazon in, there are much broader expansive areas that Amazon has gone into. So I think the limits, I mean, Amazon does not have that many limits or boundaries as compared to many other businesses in Silicon Valley.

ALISON BEARD: So let's talk a little bit about Bezos's acquisition strategy. I think the most prominent is probably Whole Foods, but there are many others. How does he think about the companies that he wants to bring in as opposed to grow organically?

SUNIL GUPTA: So some acquisitions are areas where he thinks that he can actually benefit and accelerate the vision that he already has. So for example, the acquisition of Kiva was to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the systems that he already put in place in his warehouse. And logistics and warehouse is a key component or key part of Amazon's business, and he saw that Kiva already was ahead of the curve in technology that he probably wanted to have that in his own company. So that was obvious acquisition, because that fits in the existing business.

Whole Foods is kind of a slightly different story, in my judgment, because I some ways, you can argue, why is Amazon, an online player, buying an offline retail store, Whole Foods? And in fact, they bought it at 27% premium. So that doesn't make sense for an online retailer commerce to go to offline channels. And I think, in fact, part of the reason in my judgment is, t's not just Whole Foods, but it's about the food business, per se. And why is Amazon so interested in food? In fact, Amazon has been trying this food business, online food delivery for a long period of time without much success. And Whole Foods was one, another way to try and get access to that particular business. And why is that so important to Amazon, even though you could argue, food is a low margin business?

cochair of its executive program, and cochair of its executive program on driving digital strategy, which is also the title of his book. Sunil, thanks so much for being on the show.

**SUNIL GUPTA:** Thank you for having me, Alison.

**ALISON BEARD:** So Invent and Wander. I get that Bezos is inventive. You know, he created a new way for us to buy things – everything. How is he also a wonderer?

**SUNIL GUPTA:** So he's full of experiments. His company and his whole style is known for experimentation, and he says that in so many words that if you want big winners, then you have to be willing to have many failures. And the argument is, one big winner will take care of a thousand failed experiments. So I think that's the wandering part. But also his experiments are not aimless. There is a certain thought and process behind what experiments to do and why they will connect to the old, old picture of what Amazon is today.

**ALISON BEARD:** And your expertise is in digital strategy. How does he break the traditional rules of strategy?

**SUNIL GUPTA:** So for the longest time the way, at least I was taught in my MBA program and the way we teach to our MBA students and executives, is strategy is about focus. But if you look at Amazon, Amazon certainly doesn't look like it's focusing on anything, so obviously Jeff Bezos missed that class, otherwise it's a very, very different thing.

And then you'd say, why is it that so called lack of focus strategy seems to be working for Amazon? And I think the fundamental underlying principle that he's guiding his whole discussion of strategy is, he's changed the rules of strategy. So the old rules of strategy were, the way you gained competitive advantage is by being better or cheaper. So if I am selling you a car, my car is better of cheaper. But the inherent assumption in that strategy statement is, I'm selling one product to one customer. And what Amazon is basically arguing is, the digital economy is all about connection. We have got to connect products and connect customers. Let me explain why that is so powerful.

So connecting products, here the idea is, I can sell you, this is a classic razor and blade strategy. I can sell you a razor cheap in order to make money on the blade. So I can sell you Kindle cheap in order to make money on the ebooks. Now, at some level you might say, hey, razor and blade have been strategy and competition in that direction. The second part of connection is connecting customers, and this is the classic network effect. So marketplace is a great example of network effects.



AND THEN YOU'D SAY, WHY IS IT THAT SO CALLED LACK OF FOCUS STRATEGY SEEMS TO BE WORKING FOR AMAZON? AND I THINK THE FUNDAMENTAL UNDERLYING PRINCIPLE THAT HE'S GUIDING HIS WHOLE DISCUSSION OF STRATEGY IS, HE'S CHANGED THE RULES OF STRATEGY pability of hardware manufacturing. And by the way, Kindle came out long before iPad came out. And of course, that capability now has helped them launch Echo and many other devices.

**ALISON BEARD:** Right. So it's the focus on the customer, plus a willingness to go outside your comfort zone, the wander part.

**SUNIL GUPTA:** Exactly.

ALISON BEARD: Yeah. How

would you describe Bezos's leadership style?

SUNIL GUPTA: So I think there are at least three parts to it. One is, he said right from day one that he wants to be a long-term focus. The second thing is being customer obsessed. And many times he has said that he can imagine, in the meetings he wants people to imagine an empty chair. That is basically for the customer. And he says, we are not competitor focused. We are not product focused. We are not technology focused. We are customer focused. And the third is, willingness to experiment. And fail, and build that culture in the company that it's OK to fail.

**ALISON BEARD:** What about personally, though? Is he a hard charger? Is he an active listener? What's it like to be in a room with him?

**SUNIL GUPTA:** Oh, he's certainly a hard charger. I mean, he's also the kind of guy, when he hires people, he says, you can work long, hard, or smart. But at Amazon, you can choose two out of three. And I think this is similar to many other leaders. If you look at Steve Jobs, he was also a very hard charging guy. And I think some people find it exhilarating to work with these kind of leaders. Some find it very tough.

**ALISON BEARD:** Do you think that he communicates differently from other successful CEOs?

**SUNIL GUPTA:** So the communication style that he has built in the company is the very famous now, there's no PowerPoints. So it's a very thoughtful discussion. You write sixpage memos, which everybody, when their meeting starts, everybody sits down and actually reads the memo.

In fact, this was a very interesting experience that I had. One of my students, who was in the executive program, works at Amazon in Germany. And he is, he was at that point in time thinking of moving to another company and becoming a CEO of that company. So he said, can I talk to you about this change of career path that I'm thinking about? I said, sure. So we that we have.

**ALISON BEARD:** There are so many companies now that go public without turning any profit, whereas Amazon now is printing money, and thus able to reinvest and have this grand vision. So at what point was Bezos able to say, right, we're going to do it my way?

**SUNIL GUPTA:** I think he said it right from day one, except that people probably didn't believe it. And in fact, one of the great examples of that was, when he was convinced about AWS, the Amazon Web Services, that was back in the early 2000s, when a majority of the Wall Street was not sure what Jeff Bezos was trying to do, because they say, hey, you are an online retailer. You have no business being in web services. That's the business of IBM. And that's a B2B business. You're in a B2C business. Why are you going in there?

And Bezos said, well, we have plenty of practice of being misunderstood. And we will continue with our passion and vision, because we see the path. And now he's proven it again and again why his vision is correct, and I think that could give us more faith and conviction to the Wall Street investors.

**SUNIL GUPTA:** Oh, absolutely. And he's one of the persons who has his opinion, and you always surround yourself with people better than you.

ALISON BEARD: How has he managed to attract that talent when it is so fiercely competitive between Google, Facebook, all of these U.S. technology leaders?

**SUNIL GUPTA:** So a couple of things I would say. First of all, it's always good fun to join a winning team. And all of us want to join a winning team, so this certainly is on a trajectory which is phenomenal. It's like a rocket ship that is taking off and has been taking off for the last 25 years. So I think that's certainly attractive to many people, and certainly many hard charging people who want to be on a winning team.

And a second thing is, Amazon's culture of experimentation and innovation. That is energizing to a lot of people. It's not a bureaucracy where you get bogged down by the processes. So the two type of decisions that we talked about, he gives you enough leeway to try different things, and is willing to invest hundreds of millions of dollars into things that may or may not succeed in the future. And I think that's very liberating to people who are

And I would say, part of the reason is, food is something, grocery is something that you buy every week, perhaps twice a week. And if I, as Amazon, can convince you to buy grocery online from Amazon, then I'm creating a habit for you to come onto Amazon every week, perhaps twice a week. And once you are on Amazon, you will end up buying other products on Amazon. Whereas if you are buying electronics, you may not come to Amazon every day.

So this is a habit creation activity, and again, it may not be a very high margin activity to sell you food. But I've created a habit, just like Prime. I've created a loyal customer where you think of nothing else but Amazon for your daily needs, and therefore you end up buying other things.

ALISON BEARD: And Amazon isn't without controversy. You know, and we should talk about that, too. First, there are questions about its treatment of warehouse employees, particularly during COVID. And Bezos, as you said, has always been relentlessly focused on the customer. But is Amazon employee centric, too?

**SUNIL GUPTA:** So I think there is definitely some areas of concern, and you rightly said there is a significant concern about the, during the COVID, workers were complaining about safety, the right kind of equipment. But even before COVID, there were a lot of concerns about whether the workers are being pushed too hard. They barely have any breaks. And they're constantly on the go, because speed and efficiency become that much more important to make sure customers always get what they are promised. And in fact, more than promised.

(Continued on page 56)

## The Power of Listening in Helping People Change

iving performance feedback is one of the most common ways managers help their subordinates learn and improve. Yet, research revealed that feedback could actually hurt performance: More than 20 years ago, one of us (Kluger) analyzed 607 experiments on feedback effectiveness and found that feedback caused performance to decline in 38% of cases. This happened with both positive and negative feedback, mostly when the feedback threatened how people saw themselves.

One reason that giving feedback (even when it's positive) often backfires is because it signals that the boss is in charge and the boss is judgmental. This can make employees stressed and defensive, which makes it harder for them to see another person's perspective. For example, employees can handle negative feedback by downplaying the importance of the person providing the feedback or the feedback itself. People may even reshape their social networks to avoid the feedback source in order to restore their self-esteem. In other words, they defend themselves by bolstering their attitudes against the person giving feedback.

We wanted to explore whether a more subtle intervention, namely asking questions and listening, could prevent these consequences. Whereas feedback is about telling employees that they need to change, listening to employees and asking them questions might make them want to change. In a recent paper, we consistently demonstrated that experiencing high quality (attentive, empathic, and non-judgmental) listening can positively shape speakers' emotions and attitudes.

#### What Makes Listening **Powerful?**

Listening as an avenue for selfchange was advocated by the psychologist Carl Rogers in a classic 1952 HBR paper. Rogers ...

For example, in one laboratory experiment, we assigned 112 undergraduate students to serve as either a speaker or a listener and paired them up, sitting face-to-face. We asked speakers to talk for 10 minutes about their attitudes toward a proposal for basic-universal income or a possible requirement that all university students must also volunteer. We instructed the listeners to "listen as you listen when you are at your best." But we randomly distracted half of the listeners by sending them text messages (e.g., "What event irritated you the most recently?") and instructed them to answer briefly (so the speakers saw that they were

they were worried about what their partner thought of them, whether they acquired any insight while talking, and whether they were confident in their beliefs.

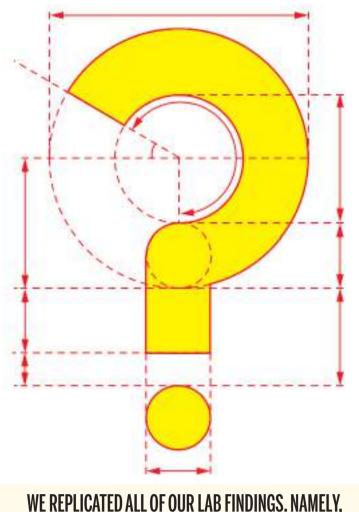
We found that speakers paired with good listeners (versus those paired with distracted listeners) felt less anxious, more self-aware, and reported higher clarity about their attitudes on the topics. Speakers paired with undistracted listeners also reported wanting to share their attitude with other people more compared with speakers paired with distracted listeners.

Another benefit of high-quality listening is that it helps speakers see both sides of an argument (what we called "attitude complexity"). In another paper we found that speakers who conversed with a good listener reported attitudes that were more complex and less extreme - in other words, not one-sided.

In another lab experiment we instructed 114 undergraduates at a business school to talk for 12 minutes about their fitness to become a manager in the future. We randomly assigned these speakers to one of three listening groups (good, moderate, and poor). Speakers in the good listening condition talked to a trained listener, who was either a certified management coach or a trained social-work student. We asked these trained listeners to use all their listening skills, such as asking questions and reflecting. Speakers in the moderate listening condition talked to another undergraduate at the business school who was instructed to listen as he or she usually does. Speakers in the poor listening condition talked with a student from the theatre department who was instructed to act distracted (e.g., by looking aside and playing with their smartphones).

After the conversation, we asked the speakers to indicate separately the extent to which they thought they were suitable for becoming managers. Based on these answers, we calculated their attitude complexity (whether they saw both strengths and weaknesses that would affect their ability to be a manager) and extremity (whether they saw only one side). We found that speakers who talked to a good listener saw both strengths and weaknesses more than those in the other conditions. Speakers who talked to a distracted listener mostly described their strengths and barely acknowledged their weaknesses. Interestingly, the speakers in the poor listening condition were those that, on average, reported feeling the most suitable for becoming a manager.

We tested the relevance of these lab findings in three field studies



### **EMPLOYEES WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE LISTENING CIRCLES REPORTED LOWER SOCIAL ANXIETY, HIGHER ATTITUDE** COMPLEXITY, AND LOWER ATTITUDE EXTREMITY REGARDING **VARIOUS WORK-RELATED TOPICS**

(180 workers, in total). In these studies, we asked employees to talk about their colleagues, their supervisor, or about a meaningful experience at work, before and after participating in a listening intervention known as a listening circle. In the listening circle, employees are invited to talk openly and honestly about an issue, ike a meaningful experience they had at work. They're trained to listen without interrupting, and only one person talks at a time

We replicated all of our lab findings. Namely, employees who participated in the listening circles reported lower social anxiety, higher attitude complexity, and lower attitude extremity regarding various work-related topics (e.g., attitude towards a manager) in comparison to employees who participated in one of the control conditions that did not involve trained listeners.

In concert, our findings sugdistracted). Afterward, we asked the conducted among city-hall employ- gest that listening seems to make

self-aware of his or her strengths and weaknesses, and more willing to reflect in a non-defensive manner. This can make employees more likely to cooperate (versus compete) with other colleagues, as they become more interested in sharing their attitudes, but not necessarily in trying to persuade others to adopt them, and more open to considering other points of view.

Going back to giving feedback, of course we do not claim that listening must replace feedback. Rather, it seems that listening to employees talk about their own experiences first can make giving feedback more productive by helping them feel psychologically safe and less defensive.

#### Listening has its enemies

Our findings support existing evidence that managers who listen well are perceived as people leaders,

team's creativity. Yet, if listening is ing. Constant eye contact lets the so beneficial for employees and for organizations, why is it not more prevalent in the workplace? Why are most employees not listened to in the way they want? Research shows that a few barriers often stand in the

1. Loss of power. Research from our team has shown that some managers may feel that if they listen to their employees they are going to be looked upon as weak. But at the same time, it's been shown that being a good listener means gaining prestige. So it seems managers must make a tradeoff between attaining status based on intimidation and getting status based on admiration.

2. Listening consumes time and effort. In many instances, managers listen to employees under time pressure or while they're distracted by other thoughts or work. So listening is an investment decision: managers must put in the time to listen in order to see the future benefits.

3. Fear of change. High-quality listening can be risky because it entails entering a speaker's perspective without trying to make judgments. This process could potentially change the listener's attitudes and perceptions. We observed several times that when we trained managers to truly listen, they gained crucial insights about their employees they were stunned to learn how little they knew about the lives of people they'd worked with for many years.

For example, several managers reported that when they tried listening to employees who they'd confronted about poor attendance, they learned that these employees were struggling with supporting a family member (a wife dying of cancer, a sibling with a mental disability). This realization threatened managers' attitudes and views about themselves - an experience called cognitive dissonance that can be difficult.

#### Tips for becoming a better listener

Listening resembles a muscle. It requires training, persistence, effort, and most importantly, the intention to become a good listener. It requires clearing your mind from internal and external noise – and if this isn't possible, postponing a conversation for when you can truly listen without being distracted. Here are some best practices:

Give 100% of your attention, or do not listen. Put aside your smartphone, iPad, or laptop, and look at the speaker, even if they do not look back at you. In an ordinary convergenerate more trust, instill higher sation, a speaker looks at you occa- can apply this type of listening in speakers questions about whether ees, high-tech workers, and teachers an employee more relaxed, more job satisfaction, and increase their sionally to see that you're still listen- more challenging circumstances.

speaker feel that you are listening.

Do not interrupt. Resist the urge to interrupt before the speaker indicates that they are done for the moment. In our workshop, we give managers the following instruction: "Go to someone at your work who makes listening very hard on you. Let them know that you are learning and practicing listening and that today, you will only listen for \_\_ minutes (where the blank could be 3, 5, or even 10 minutes), and delay responding until the predetermined listening time is up, or even until the following day."

The managers are often amazed at their discoveries. One shared, "in 6 minutes, we completed a transaction that otherwise would have taken more than an hour"; another told us; "the other person shared things with me that I had prevented her from saying for 18 years."

Do not judge or evaluate. Listen without jumping to conclusions and interpreting what you hear. You may notice your judgmental thoughts but push them aside. If you notice that you lost track of the conversation due to your judgments, apologize to the speaker that your mind was distracted, and ask them to repeat. Do not pretend to listen.

Do not impose your solutions.

The role of the listener is to help the speaker draw up a solution themselves. Therefore, when listening to a fellow colleague or subordinate, refrain from suggesting solutions. If you believe you have a good solution and feel an urge to share it, use a question, such as "I wonder what will happen if you choose to do X?"

Ask more (good) questions. isteners shape conversations by asking questions that benefit the speaker. Good listening requires being thoughtful about what the speaker needs help with most and crafting a question that would lead the speaker to search for an answer. Ask questions to help someone delve deeper into their thoughts and experiences.

Before you ask a question, ask yourself, "is this question intended to benefit the speaker or satisfy my curiosity?" Of course, there is room for both, but a good listener prioritizes the needs of the other. One of the best questions you can ask is, "Is there anything else?" This often exposes novel information and unexpected opportunities.

Reflect. When you finish a conversation, reflect on your listening and think about missed opportunities - moments you ignored potential leads or remained silent versus asking questions. When you feel that you were an excellent listener, consider what you gained, and how you

## Why Do People Leave Jobs? An interview with Professor Brooks Holtom

Working in corporate HR, the cliche statement, "people don't leave jobs, they leave bad bosses," is often tossed around. While there is truth to this statement, I have personally left jobs for other reasons (more money, more flexibility, more upward mobility...).

Global staffing firm Robert Half suggests there's truth to the statement. Their survey found that about half of professionals surveyed (49%) have quit a job due to a bad boss. Alternatively, the 2018 West Monroe Partners study found that "59 percent (of employees) said they would leave because of a more appealing offer from a new company, not because they're seeking an escape from their current company." So what is the real reason?

#### Why do people leave their employer?

I reached out to Brooks Holtom, a Professor of Management at Georgetown University, to find out more. Brooks's research focuses on how organisations acquire, develop and retain human and social capital.

Brooks's research appears in the top journals in management (Academy of Management Journal, Journal of Applied Psychology, International Journal of Human Resource Management, and others) and has a high impact (e.g., h-index = 30, i-10 index = 39; 13,000 Google cites). He has performed research in or served as a consultant to many organizations, including Bayer, Booz Allen Hamilton, Capital One, Citibank, International Monetary Fund, KPMG, Microsoft, Nordstrom, Rio Tinto, Rolls Royce, Sprint, United States Air Force, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the World Bank.

He received the Human Resource Management Scholarly Achievement Award in 2013 from the Academy of Management and has twice received the Professor of the Year award for the Georgetown University Executive Masters of Leadership Program.

Sarah: What made you decide to devote your career to studying talent management?

Brooks: I started my professional life as a tax accountant working for a Big Four accounting firm. I quickly learned that while business interested me, tax accounting didn't. So, I asked, "What job would I do if money were no object?'

Based on my experience as a graduate assistant as a masters-degree student, I realized that I liked teaching and research. Moreover, in contrast to the highly structured and deadline-driven experience in public accounting, the less frantic, more self-directed life of a University professor appealed to me.

So, the next question to address was, "Which discipline?" As noted, I enjoyed business and, over time, determined that the questions that most interested me were around how organisations can attract, develop and retain top talent. That led me to get a Ph.D. in Organisational Behavior and Human Resource Management.

Sarah: You've done leadership coaching and training all over the world. Without naming names, what is one of your most memorable coaching experiences?

Brooks: Some of the most memorable and challenging executive training experiences of my life have occurred in the beautiful Italian town of Orvieto, about 90 minutes north of Rome. There, at a former monastery, I have worked with many bishops, archbishops and cardinals in the Catholic Church to implement the financial reforms envisioned by Pope Francis for the Vatican. Implementing change in an ancient, worldwide and very large institution is a recipe for a good challenge - which I love. Plus, the food and vistas were amazing.

Sarah: I enjoyed your article Why do people stay: Using job embededness to predict voluntary turnover", which was a finalist for the Academy of Management Journal Best Paper Award. You talk about two main reasons why people leave their jobs: turnover shocks and low job embeddedness. Can you explain?

Brooks: Our research has found

that most people do not daily consider their feelings of attachment to their job or organisation. Instead, there are "shocks" or events that happen somewhat randomly that cause them to actively process the question, "Is this the best situation for my family and me?"

The shocks might be positive and personal (e.g., getting accepted to a graduate program) or negative and organiastional (e.g., getting passed over for promotion). Their key feature is that they prompt reflection on satisfaction, commitment, engagement or embeddedness. Sometimes people leave quickly after the assessment, and sometimes leaving takes longer. Often people experience shocks and stay.

Embeddedness is the notion that there are important connections between a person's work and non-work life that need to be considered to fully understand that person's employment choices. Someone who loves her job but really hates where she lives, is not likely to stay in that job long term. Embeddedness captures the degree to which a person fits well in their job and community, has meaningful connections to people and institutions and would make a big sacrifice if she had to leave for some reason. People who experience low embeddedness are more likely to leave than those who are highly embedded.

**Sarah:** You've written extensively about the benefits of employee recognition for lowering their voluntary turnover. What practical advice do you have for hiring managers reading this article who want to do a better job of recognising their staff - especially in this current remote work setting?

Brooks: Make it a regular practice to send personal notes to recognise behavior. These notes might be sent by text, email, or old-fashioned mail. The medium doesn't matter as much as the message. Be specific. Explain how the action observed benefitted you or others. Express thanks. Frequently.



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Applications fee	Rs. 1,000.00	Library subscription	Rs. 5,000.00
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Examination fee	Rs. 1,500.00	Laboratory deposit	Rs. 5,000.00 (refundable)

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- Certified copies of the certificates of Academic / Professional qualification (in PDF format) 6.
- 7. Letter of release from employer (only for full time students who are currently employed) (in PDF format)
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Inquries:

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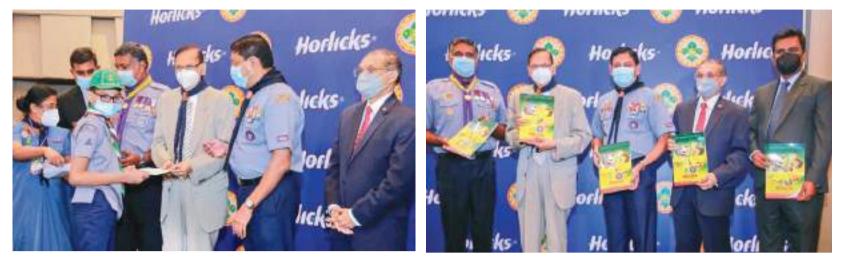
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## **"Duties of Scouts Movement** in imparting team spirit commendable"

## Minister of Education, Prof. G.L. Peiris



Minister of Education, Prof. G.L Peiris said that the flexibility in ideas happen in the children during childhood and the Scouts Movement does a great deal of service by putting a very strong foundation to face the challenges in life and to grow the virtues, to build team spirit among children, and to help empathy and reconciliation.

Minister made these observations while attending the opening ceremony of the special series of programme conducted with the contribution of the Asia Pacific region under the 'Let us make all children Cub Scouts' theme with the intention of further growth of cub scouts in Sri Lanka.

President of the Sri Lanka Scouts Movement Merril Gunatilleke, Chief Commissioner Major General Milinda Peiris, Chairman of the Execu-



tive Committee Kapila Kalyana Perera, Deputy Chief Commissioner Janaprith Fernando, Cub Scouts Assistant Commissioner, Project Leader Wathsala Wijewickrema, Senior Commissioners District Commissioners and Representatives of the Scouts Management and many others were present at this occasion held at Colombo Hilton Hotel recently.

World Scouts Movement that was started in England in year 1907 was started in Sri Lanka in 1912 by George Stevenson and as of today, the Scouts Movement has spread to 216 countries around the world and there are nearly 40 million scouts consisting of Cubs, Juniors and Seniors within the age range of 5 years to 24 years and is very active in all countries.



with the Scouts Movement to represent after identifying the current requirements by becoming a bridge between North and South Provinces. Minister also pointed out that the Sri Lanka Scouts Movement has the ability to support the children to get involved in extracurricular activities other than education.

## What will education look like in 20 years? Here are 4 scenarios

The COVID-19 pandemic shows us we cannot take the future of education for granted.

By imagining alternative futures for education we can better



neural signals.

We'd see flexible individual and

group work on academic topics as

well as on social and community

needs. Reading, writing and cal-

culating would happen as much as

debating and reflecting in joint con-

versations. Students would learn

with books and lectures as well as

through hands-on work and creative

expression. What if schools became

learning hubs and used the strength

of communities to deliver collabora-

tive learning, building the role of

non-formal and informal learning,

and shifting time and relationships?

appear altogether. Built on rapid ad-

vancements in artificial intelligence,

virtual and augmented reality and

the Internet of Things, in this fu-

ture it is possible to assess and cer-

tify knowledge, skills and attitudes

Alternatively, schools could dis-

international. Power has become more distributed, processes more inclusive. Consultation is giving way to co-creation.

We can construct an endless range of such scenarios. The future could be any combination of them and is likely to look very different in different places around the world. Despite this, such thinking gives us the tools to explore the consequences for the goals and functions of education, for the organisation and structures, the education workforce and for public policies. Ultimately, it makes us think harder about the future we want for education. It often means resolving tensions and dilemmas:

#### (Continued from page 54)

## How Jeff...

hasn't done a good job, or hasn't at least done the public relations part of it that they have done a good job. Now, if you ask Jeff Bezos, he will claim that, no, actually, they have done things. For example, they offer something called carrier choice, where they give 95% tuition to the employees to learn new skills, whether they're relevant to Amazon or not. Pretty much like what Starbucks does for its baristas, for college education and other things. But I think more than just giving money or tuition, it requires a bit of empathy and sense that you care for your employees, and perhaps that needs, that's something that Amazon needs to work on.

ALISON BEARD: And another challenge is the criticism that it has decimated mom and pop shops. Even when someone sells through Amazon, the company will then see that it's a popular category and create it itself and start selling it itself. There's environmental concerns about the fact that packages are being driven from warehouses to front doors all over America. And boxes and packaging. So how has Bezos, how has the company dealt with all of that criticism?

SUNIL GUPTA: They haven't. And I think those are absolutely valid concerns on both counts, that the small sellers who grow to become reasonably big are always under the radar, and there are certainly anecdotal evidence there, small sellers have complained that Amazon had decided to sell exactly the same item that they were so successful in selling, and becoming too big is actually not good on Amazon, because Amazon can get into your business and wipe you away. So that's certainly a big concern, and I think that's something that needs to be sorted out, and Amazon needs to clarify what its position on that area is, because it benefits from these small sellers on his platform.

And your second question about environmental issues is also absolutely on the money, because not only emission issues, but there's so many boxes that pile in, certainly in my of the imaginary chair in which basement, from Amazon. You sort of say, and it's actually ironical that Millennials who are in love with Amazon are extremely environmentally friendly. But at the same time, they would not hesitate to order something from Amazon and pile up all these boxes. So I think Amazon needs to figure out a way to think about both those issues.

Clearly Amazon either comes across as a very hard charging, driven person, which probably is good for business. But the question of empathy is perhaps something lacking right now.

ALISON BEARD: Yeah. The other issue is his just enormous wealth. He did invent this colossally valuable company, but should anyone really be that rich?

SUNIL GUPTA: Well, I guess that's, you can say that's the good or the bad thing about capitalism. But I think, and again, my personal view is there's nothing wrong in becoming rich, if you have been successful and done it with hard work and ingenuity. But how you use your wealth is something that perhaps will define Jeff Bezos going forward. I think Bill Gates is a great example how he actually has used his wealth and his influence and his expertise and his brilliance into some certain thing that actually is great for humanity.

Now, whether Jeff Bezos does that down the road, I don't know, whether his space exploration provides that sort of outlet which is both his passion as well as good for humanity, I don't know. But at some point in time, I think it's the responsibility of these leaders to sort of say, my goal is not simply to make money and make my shareholders rich, but also help humanity and help society.

ALISON BEARD: If you're talking to someone who's running a startup, or even a manager of a team at a traditional company, what is the key lesson that you would say, this is what you can learn from Jeff Bezos? This is what you can put to work in your own profession?

SUNIL GUPTA: So I would say two things that at least I would take away if I were doing a startup. One is customer obsession. Now, every company says that, but honestly, not every company does it, because if you go to the management meetings, if you go to the quarterly meetings, you suddenly go focus on financials and competition and product. But there's rarely any conversation on customers. And I think, as I mentioned earlier, that Jeff Bezos always tells his employee to think a customer is sitting, because

- think through the outcomes, develop agile and responsive systems and plan for future shocks.
- What do the four OECD Scenarios for the Future of Schooling show us about how to transform and future-proof our education systems?

As we begin a new year, it is traditional to take stock of the past in order to look forward, to imagine and plan for a better future.

But the truth is that the future likes to surprise us. Schools open for business, teachers using digital technologies to augment, not replace, traditional face-to faceteaching and, indeed, even students hanging out casually in groups - all things we took for granted this time last year; all things that flew out the window in the first months of 2020.

To achieve our vision and prepare our education systems for the future, we have to consider not just the changes that appear most probable but also the ones that we are not expecting.

Scenarios for the future of schooling

Imagining alternative futures for education pushes us to think through plausible outcomes and helps agile and responsive systems to develop. The OECD Scenarios for the Future of Schooling depict some possible alternatives:

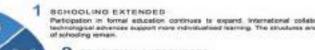
#### Rethinking, rewiring and re-envisioning

The underlying question is: to what extent are our current spaces, people, time and technology in schooling helping or hindering our vision? Will modernising and finetuning the current system, the conceptual equivalent of reconfiguring the windows and doors of a house, allow us to achieve our goals? Is an

entirely different approach to the organization of people, spaces, time and technology in education need-

Modernising and extending current schooling would be more or less what we see now: content and spaces that are largely standardised across the system, primarily schoolbased (including digital delivery and homework) and focused on individual learning experiences. Digital technology is increasingly present, but, as is currently the case, is primarily used as a delivery method to recreate existing content and pedagogies rather than to revolutionise teaching and learning.

What would transformation look like? It would involve re-envisioning the spaces where learning takes place; not simply by moving chairs and tables, but by using multiple physical and virtual spaces both in and outside of schools. There would be full individual personalization of content and pedagogy enabled by cutting-edge technology, using body information, facial expressions or



2 EDUCATION OUTSOURCED

Traditional actooling systems break down as a involved in educating its citizens Learning take privatised and feakle snangements, with digital te

#### 3 SCHOOLS AS LEARNING HUBS

Schools remain, kut stoarsty and experimentation Opening the "school wels" connects schools to their o changing losse of harmonic LEARN-AS-YOU-GO

ation takes place everywhere, anytime. Distinctors between formal and informing are no longer valid as society turns itself entirely to the power of the machine.

- What is the right balance between modernising and disruption?
- How do we reconcile new goals with old structures?
- How do we support globally minded and locally rooted students and teachers? How do we foster innovation while recognising the socially
- highly conservative nature of education?
- How do we leverage new potential with existing capacity? How do we reconfigure the spaces, the people, the time and the technologies to create pow-
- erful learning environments? In the case of disagreement, whose voice counts?
- Who is responsible for the most vulnerable members of our societv?
- If global digital corporations are the main providers, what kind of regulatory regime is required to solve the already thorny questions of data ownership, democracy and citizen empowerment?

Thinking about the future requires imagination and rigour. We must guard against the temptation to choose a favorite future and prepare for it alone. In a world where shocks like pandemics and extreme weather events owing to climate change, social unrest and political polarisations are expected to be more frequent, we cannot afford to be caught off guard again.

This is not a cry of despair rather, it is a call to action. Education must be ready. We know the power of humanity and the importance of learning and growing throughout our life. We insist on the importance of education as a public good, regardless of the scenario for the future.

ALISON BEARD: And at what point will it have to? I mean, it seems to be rolling happily along.

**SUNIL GUPTA:** Well, I think those issues are becoming bigger and bigger, and it's certainly in the eye of the regulators, also, for some of these practices. And not only because it's too big, and there might be monopoly concerns, but these issues will become larger, and any time you become a large company, you become the center of attraction for broader issues than just providing shareholder value.

ALISON BEARD: Yeah. So those are weaknesses possibly for the company. What are some of Bezos's personal weaknesses that you've seen in studying him and the company?

SUNIL GUPTA: So I think one thing that stands out to me, and at least in the public forums, I have not seen any empathy. And it's, I mean, we talk about that the leaders have, should have three qualities. They should be competent. They should have a good character. And they should have compassion. So he's certainly very competent. I mean, he's brilliant in many aspects, right, from the computer vision and AI and machine learning, to the nuances of data analytics, to the Hollywood production, etc. He also seems to have good character, at least I have not heard any personal scandals, apart from his other issues in his personal life, perhaps.

Those characteristics of competence and character make people respect you. What makes people love you is when you show compassion, and at least I haven't seen compassion or empathy that comes out of him. I mean, he certainly that's the person that we need to focus on. Howard Shultz does the same thing at Starbucks, and that's why Starbucks is so customer focused.

So I think that's the first part. And the argument that Bezos gives is, customers are never satisfied. And that pushes us to innovate and move forward, so we need to innovate even before the rest of the world even sees that, because customers are the first ones to see what is missing in the offering that you have.

And the second I would say that I would take away from Jeff Bezos is the conviction and passion with what you do. And many times that goes against the conventional wisdom. And the Amazon Web Services is a great example of that. The whole world, including the Wall Street Journal and the Wall Street analysts were saying, this is none of Amazon's business to do web services. But he was convinced that this is the right thing to do, and he went and did that.

And part of that conviction may come from experiments. Part of that conviction comes from connecting the dots that he could see that many other people didn't see. I mean, that's why he went, left his job, and went to Seattle to do the online bookstore, because he could see the macro trends as to what the Internet is likely to do. So I think that's the vision that he had. And once you have the conviction, then you follow your passion.

ALISON BEARD: Sunil, thanks so much for coming on the show.

SUNIL GUPTA: Thank you for having me.

ALISON BEARD: That's Sunil Gupta, a professor at Harvard Business School and the author of "Driving Digital Strategy." Bezos's new book is called "Invent and Wander."

This episode was produced by Mary Dooe. We get technical help from Rob Eckhardt. Adam Buchholtz is our audio product manager. Thanks for listening the HBR IdeaCast. I'm Alison Beard.

instantaneously. As the distinction between formal and informal learning disappears, individual learning advances by taking advantage of collective intelligence to solve real-life problems. While this scenario might

seem far-fetched, we have already integrated much of our life into our smartphones, watches and digital personal assistants in a way that

would have been unthinkable even a decade ago. All of these scenarios have important implications for the goals and governance of education, as well as the teaching workforce. Schooling systems in many countries have already opened up to new stakeholders, decentralizing from the national to the local and, increasingly, to the



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## **JOURNEY OF THE NATION**

Information and communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA) is the apex government entity spearheading the national digital transformation journey. As the agency for driving the national digital agenda, ICTA is entrusted to action the digital strategy of the vision for vistas of prosperity and splendor.

ICTA plays an integral role in building a digitally inclusive nation by delivering efficient and citizen-centric digital government solutions, facilitating a strong digital economy with technology diffusion and innovation to build a prosperous country.

We invite dedicated, innovative and dynamic professionals to be part of this journey.

#### **POSITIONS REQUIRED**

#### **DIGITAL ECONOMY**

**Director – Technology Diffusion** Senior Manager – Industry Development Senior Manager – Technology Diffusion Senior Manager – Regional Cluster Development Manager – Industry Development Manager – Technology Diffusion Manager – Regional Cluster Development Manager – Capacity Building Manager – Startup Ecosystem Development

#### **TECHNOLOGY**

**Software Architect** Technical Lead (Fullstack Java/JavaScript) Lead Information Security Engineer Senior Software Engineer (Mobile Development)

#### Use the following link to obtain details of job roles. https://www.icta.lk/careers

**Chief Executive Officer** The Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka 160/24, Kirimandala Mawatha, Colombo 05.

www.icta.lk 💂 94 112369099 🛛 😏 @icta\_srilanka 🚽

#### **DIGITAL GOVERNMENT**

Senior Manager – Line of Business Solutions Senior Manager – Shared Solutions Manager – Line of Business Solutions Manager – Shared Solutions

#### **DIGITAL SERVICES Director – Services Marketing** Senior Manager - Services Marketing

Senior Manager – Digital Services Senior Manager – Platform Services



The selected candidates will get the opportunity to be part of the team that drives national level digital transformation projects touching millions of lives of citizens.

Please forward your application along with contact details of two non-related referees within 14 days (on or before March 13, 2021) of this advertisement to careers@icta.lk. Indicate the position applied for, in the subject line of the email. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted.

The selected candidate will receive an attractive remuneration package, in keeping with the market standards.



### STATE PHARMACEUTICALS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION STATE MINISTRY OF PHARMACEUTICAL

PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND REGULATION

We are looking for qualified, dynamic, self-motivated, career ambitious, team players to join SPMC to fill the following vacancies.

#### Every applicant,

- i. Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
- ii. Should be physically and mentally fit to discharge the duties of the post well and to serve in any part of the Island.
- iii. Should be of excellent moral character.

#### 1. POST OF MANAGER PRODUCTION (MM 1-1 – GRADE II)

#### **Qualifications: External Candidates**

- (a) (i) First Degree in Natural Sciences, Pharmacy or Engineering from a University recognized by the University Grants Commission,
  - Or
  - (ii) Any other equivalent Bachelors' Degree of a University/Institution recognized by the University Grants Commission,

#### And

(b) Computer Literacy, And

(c) Minimum of 05 years post qualifying experience relevant to the field of Production of Pharmaceuticals.

#### **Qualifications: Internal Candidates**

- 1. Having obtained the qualification required by the external candidate Or
- 2. Completion of minimum 5 years satisfactory service in a post in the Junior Manager Category (JM 1-1) in the subject area relevant to the post

#### • Salary Scale :

- MM 1.1- 2016- Rs.53,175/= 10 x 1,375/= 15 x 1,910/= 95,575/= In addition to the above salaries, government approved allowances are also paid.
- **Age**: Should not be less than 22 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not be applicable to internal applicants.
- Method of Recruitment Written competitive examination and structured interview.

#### Fringe Benefits for the post of Manager Production :

- Attendance & performance incentive.
- Encashment of unutilized annual and sick leave.
- Provide Medical insurance scheme and Medical reimbursement scheme.
- The Corporation will contribute 15% of the salary towards the EPF whilst the employee will have to contribute 10%.
- The Corporation will also contribute 3% of the salary towards the ETF.
- Gratuity will be paid in accordance with the Gratuity Act No. 12 of 1983 and MSD circular No. 2/2016 on 25.04.2016.
- Other Fringe Benefits

#### 2. POST OF PROJECT SECRETARY - (Contract Basis for 03 years)

We are finding a Proactive, Mature ,take initiative and well organized person with ability to work fast under pressure, with an attention to all details highly resourceful, ability to multi-task and work independently as well as in a team for the post of Project Secretary, has be responsible to the Project team for all matters relating to SPMC construction Project for new manufacturing plant in Horana, Millewa.

#### Main Duties of the Project Secretary;

- Maintain all the documentation securely
- Preparation of letters, documents and other related Correspondence
- Assist Project Co-ordinator to carry out tasks given by the Project Management Committee and Steering Committee
- According to the requirements of SPMC, additional tasks will be assigned

#### **Qualifications** :



#### **HEALTHCARE**

Access Group of Companies is one of the fastest growing conglomerates in Sri Lanka. Launched in 1990 with a simple business idea, Access today has grown and diversified into many fields, drawing strength from its core business areas such as Engineering, Telecommunication, Power & Energy, Healthcare, Information Technology & General Trading.

The Healthcare arm of the Access Group specializes in Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices in a wide range of specialties including Orthopedics, Ophthalmology, Radiology, Operating Theartre Equipment and Laboratory Equipment etc.

With a focus on premier quality, Access has introduced globally renowned Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment brands backed by industry leading research and development activities to Sri Lnaka.

With the ongoing expansion we are looking for a suitable candidate for the above position to promote and assist in developing world renowned Radiology imaging Equipment

We invite the best in the field to take the opportunity to be a part of this team.

### **Application Specialist - Radiology Equipmnent**

- Past Experience Radiology Equipment and with a Medical and Clinical Background
- Providing Clinical and application support during installation and demonstration
- Overall management of training and development of the marketing staff Should be able to Schedule training sessions and product knowledge training to the marketing team
- Strong organizational and communication skills
- Should consist of a medical/ Clinical background in Radiology equipment (CT, MRI etc.)
- Should have a medical/ radiology background related degree or similar
- 03 04 years' work experince in Radiology field
- Should be able to analyze market trends, and provide marketing strategies
- Meet necessary personal for discussions and demonstrations

If interested, please forward a complete resume with contact details of two non-related referees to reach us within 10 days of this advertisement. The resume should be forwarded to **amila.r@access.lk** or sent by registered post to the under mentioned address, including the position applied.

ACCESS INTERNATIONAL (PVT) LTD "Access Towers", 278, Union Place, Colombo - 02, Sri Lnaka. Web: www.access.lk



Havleys

Expanding the frontiers of our country, our people and our company



## JOIN OUR WORLD TODAY!

#### **Hayleys Group**

Hayleys Group is amongst Sri Lanka's largest, and most respected diversified conglomerates with a turnover in excess of USD 1 Billion. To explore the World of Hayleys, visit us at: www.hayleys.com.

#### **Hayleys Fabric PLC**

One of the pioneers in fabric manufacture, situated in Neboda – Horana, is a BOI approved company, listed in the Colombo Stock exchange, is a subsidiary of Hayleys PLC.

- 1. Pass GCE (A/L) Examination or Diploma in Business Administration, with certifications in secretarial studies
- 2. Fluent in English Language, good written and verbal communications, especially in preparing the minutes of the meetings (office and field)
- 3. Professional and pleasant personality with inter personal skills
- 4. Minimum of two years experience in a project secretarial role
- 5. Proficient in MS Office applications (Excel, Word and Power Point)

#### Salary : Rs. 60,000/ = Per month

• Method of Recruitment - Structured interview.

#### Fringe Benefits for the post of Project Secretary :

- The Corporation will contribute 15% of the salary towards the EPF whilst the employee will have to contribute 10%.
- The Corporation will also contribute 3% of the salary towards the ETF.
- Other Fringe Benefits

#### General Instructions:

- Application using the prescribed form should be forwarded with names , addresses and contact details of two non-related referees. Certified copies of all Educational Certificates should be enclosed along with the application. Application form could be downloaded from the official Website of the State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation http://www.spmclanka.lk
- Applications from employees in Government Department and Statutory Bodies should be forwarded through their Heads of Institutions who should certify whether the applicant could be released to take up appointment, if selected.
- The post applied for should be written on the top left hand corner of the envelope which contain the application should be sent to the following address by registered Post within 07 days of this advertisement.
- The applications not complying the above requirements will be rejected.

#### Chairman

State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation No. 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha Kandawala Estate - Ratmalana.



#### Head of Supply Chain

We are looking for a senior person with experience, preferably from the Apparel/Fabric industry to be overall in charge of the entire supplier chain function amounting to a buy of over USD 4Mn per month. The selected candidate will report to the Managing Director/CEO and will be positioned in the senior management category with a suitable designation in line with the person's experience and management structure of the company. Remuneration will depend on your experience and is negotiable.

#### Key Responsibilities:

- Liaising with Foreign principals, suppliers, logistics partners and other related institutions.
- Plans, manages, and coordinates all activities related to the sourcing and procurement of necessary materials and supplies needed to meet the changing levels of product demand.
- Handling Customs/BOI requirements.
- Coordination with clearing agents, freight forwarders and transportation companies to arrive at the best rates. Reviews and approves all freight terms and agreements.
- Collecting relevant information, analyzing, compiling reports and preparing required documentation.
- Develops appropriate supply chain strategy to maximize customer satisfaction at the lowest possible cost.
- Leads the supply chain team in executing best practices and measuring performance through agreed upon Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- Directs and coordinates global supply chain functions through strategy, resource optimization, profitability maximization, and KPIs resulting in the maximization of customer satisfaction.
- Ensuring adherence and compliance to the set procedures in terms of procurement and other supply chain related financial and non-financial controls and providing recommendations for continuous improvement.

#### **Candidate Profile:**

- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Supply Chain/Logistics, or equivalent experience.
- 5+ years of supply chain, logistics and import procedures for foreign procurement experience at Senior Manager Level.
- Ability to continuously add value to the supply chain function.

(O) thehayleysgroup

- Good communication/negotiation skills.
- Experience in using SAP would be an added advantage.

If you think you have what it takes to be successful in this challenging role, please apply via email to **careers@hayleysfabric.com** indicating the **position applied for on the subject line of the email**. The closing date for applications will be **10th March 2021**. Pay and benefits of this above position will be competitive and the rewards are performance driven. Hayleys is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

To find out more about our career opportunities, log on to:

in hayleys–fabric–plc

hayleysfabriclk

www.hayleys.com/careers/

### The Housewives' companion Classifieds on Daily Acws

#### VACANCY Following Vacancies are Available for state of the art Food truck affiliated with the COLOMBO FOOD COURT **Chefs** (who are specialized in making Burgers, Sauces & Fried rice) Helpers Free accommodation and Attractive remuneration Package Inclusive at Service Charge Tel: 077-4625093 | 077-7785093 VACANCY · ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY An active Association representing agriculture based industrialist seek the service of an energetic Administrative Secretary. The ideal candidate should be well experienced in the similar field be capable in performing following duties and functions. Reporting to the committee and perform secretarial duties Processing, Typing (Sinhala, English) editing formatting reports and documents Filling documents as well as entering and maintain data base Liaising with external institutions and general membership Arranging and scheduling appointments, Meetings travel bookings and events. Observing best business practices and etiquette within the association. General legal background, ability to travel independently, high interpersonal ability and fluency in two languages both spoken and written will be advantages. An official Motor bike could be provided if required for traveling purpose. Please forward your resume by email actcomcey@gmail.com Before 12th March 2021 All Ceylon Traditional Coconut Oil Manufacturers Association. 1st Floor 223, Hill Street. Dehiwela. **BANK OF CEYLON**

### **MANAGEMENT TRAINEE**

The closing date of applications for the above post advertised in this newspaper on 06th December 2020 has been extended to 15th March 2021.

Therefore, submit your application through our website **www.boc.lk** (under the tab "Careers") **on or before 15th March 2021** and keep the **"Application Reference Number"** for your future reference.

The candidates who have already applied and received the "Application Reference Number" to their e-mail do not need to apply again.

The age limit should be 30 years or below as at closing date i.e. 15th March 2021.

All the other contents in the advertisement published on 06.12.2020 will remain unchanged.

Human Resource Division Bank of Ceylon Head Office Colombo 01





IANK OF GEYLON

(B)



## **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (COO)**

Since the inception in 1999 as an entrepreneurial endeavor, 20 years hence, the Group has reached a leadership position in the Cashew Nuts segment with annual turnover in excess of Rs. 500 million while nurturing a strong brand. The Group of Companies has two factories and 20 branded stores nation-wide, supported with a fast-growing e-commerce business to cater to the direct-to-home segment.

The Group has undertaken a transformation program to capture the potential to be 3-4 times the size it is now. In consultation with consultants of repute, the way forward of transforming the Group from what it is to being an admired best-in-class corporate in Sri Lanka has been undertaken, possibly with a view of considering a public offering.

A key next step in this transformation program is the recruitment of the Chief Operating Officer.

### **Reporting to : Executive Chairman and Managing Director**

- We are looking to hire an experienced, visionary, results-oriented COO to strategize and mobilize the collective strength of the company to achieve unparalleled growth by harnessing a team-oriented performance culture.
- To oversee our company's accelerated growth while ensuring operational excellence in delivering customer satisfaction. The COO will, among others, optimize our company's operating capabilities, employ strategies to maximize growth through customer satisfaction.
- To manage all areas of Marketing, Sales and Distribution (S&D), R&D, Factory, Packaging, Operations and Customer Support.
- To formulate marketing led S&D for demand creation and demand based production to maximize utilization through increased productivity.
- To keenly strategize and execute on the further development of indirect, direct, on-line channels under own/co-branded/private labels to serve both the domestic and export markets.
- Design product/factory/marketing/S&D roadmaps that will predictably enable to profitably and appreciably increase market share.
- Growth centric budget preparation and focused monitoring of achievement against monthly budget while employing strategies to safeguard company's assets, receivables and stock turnover.

## **O** 1

#### UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA SRI LANKA

The University of Moratuwa will entertain applications for the under mentioned posts from suitably qualified persons up to 26.03.2021.

#### **Faculty of Architecture**

#### **Department of Architecture**

Senior Lecturer Grade I/Senior Lecturer Grade II/Lecturer (Unconfirmed) /Lecturer (Probationary)

#### Areas of Expertise

• Architecture

#### SALARY SCALES #

- (a) Senior Lecturer Grade I -Rs.91,310 - 7 X 2,170 - 106,500 p.m. [U-AC 3 (I)] w.e.f. 01.01.2020 Academic Allowance # of 151% of salary will be paid
- (b) Senior Lecturer Grade II -Rs.79,360 - 11 X 1,630 - 97,290 p.m. [U-AC 3 (II)] w.e.f. 01.01.2020 Academic Allowance # of 151% of salary will be paid
- (c) Lecturer (Unconfirmed) Rs.69,580 5 X 1,630 77,730 p.m. [U-AC 3 (III) w.e.f. 01.01.2020 Academic Allowance # of 131% of salary will be paid
- (d) Lecturer (Probationary) -Rs.54,600 - 10 X 1,335 - 67,950 p.m. [U-AC 3 (IV)] w.e.f. 01.01.2020 Academic Allowance # of 115% of salary will be paid
- In addition to the above salary, cost of living allowance and other approved allowances will be paid to the selected candidate/s.
- Salary and Academic Allowance will be paid according to the University Grants Commission Circular No. 17/2016 (v) dated 01.06.2018 and No. 17/2016 (vi) dated 14.06.2018, Commission Circular No. 13/2017 dated 15.06.2017 and Department of Management Services Circular No. 04/2016 dated 18.08.2016.

Applications should be sent only Online and further particulars and application forms along with the handout could be downloaded from the University web site - **www.mrt.ac.lk/web/vacancies** up to 26th March2021. Online applications should be submitted to reach Senior Assistant Registrar, Establishments Division, University of Moratuwa, on or before the closing date of applications.

Applicants from the University System/Government Departments/ Corporations and Statutory Boards should channel their applications with the recommendation of the Heads of their respective Institutions, using form 'A' and attaching the scanned copy of the same.

Applications received after the closing date and incomplete applications and applications not submitted in prescribed format of the University of Moratuwa will be rejected without intimation.

Registrar University of Moratuwa, Moratuwa. 23.02.2021

### **BE BETTER INFORMED!** News you can trust now free on your mobile phone.



- Ownership for the overall Group P&L performance. Purposeful setting of Sales & Marketing targets based on budgetary forecasts, sales volume targets, product pricing terms and revisiting the credit terms/limits as required.
- Lead the development of plans and programs, including R&D, to hit all assigned targets, with strong focus on developing new product variants to capture new market segments.
- To ensure success by having a keen desire to understand our company's core values and culture.
- Ideal candidate will be an exemplary proven leader who will inspire all levels of team members, have excellent business acumen, performance track record and have sound understanding of growth oriented business strategies.

### Profile

- Experience in FMCG is a must.
- Minimum 15 years of experience in FMCG with 5 years of C-suite/CEO-2 experience in (a) firm(s) having annual turnover of around LKR 5 Billion.
- Track record as head of Marketing and S&D role with an international FMCG or blue chip company is an advantage.
- The incumbent must have a proven track record in marketing led sales management, selling skills, managing multi-level distributors and pricing policies. Hands-on experience in key account management, relationship building and good understanding of marketing principles and concepts, financials, sensitivity to numbers, swift interpretation of financial reports/analysis, etc.
- BSc/BS/BA Degree and preferably an MBA/ACMA.

In addition to an attractive remuneration package, a rare opportunity with great growth prospects awaits the selected candidate to steer this growth transformation.

Please send your applications within 14 days to chairman@royalcashew.lk and/or ruwan@greenwayasia.com and/or WhatsApp to +94 71 441 3771.





### SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

### VACANCIES

The Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka will entertain applications for the undermentioned posts from suitably qualified persons up to 23.03.2021.

#### 1. FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & LANGUAGES

#### **Department of English Language Teaching**

	i. Post :	Senior Lecturer - Gr. I / Senior Lecturer Gr. II / Lecturer (Unconfirmed) / Lecturer (Probationary)	- (02 Nos.)
	Subject Area :	English	
	ii. Post :	Temporary Instructor in English	- (05 Nos.)
2. REGISTRAR'S		OFFICE	
	1. Post :	Statistical Officer Gr. II	- (01 No.)
		Candidates who have applied for the post of Statistical Officer Gr. Paper Advertisement published in Sunday Observer dated 28.06.2 apply again as per this advertisement.	·

**SALARY SCALES :** 

## **State Mortgage & Investment Bank Career Opportunities at SMIB**

SMIB, as the premier housing bank to the Nation, is in the process of restructuring the bank's operation to offer a higher level of customer satisfaction and a wider variety of services. As such, we invite applications from candidates who have demonstrated dynamic leadership roles and make full commitment to achieve business goals with relevant qualifications and experience for the following posts.

MIB

#### **BOARD SECRETARY**

#### **Key Responsibilities**

The Board Secretary should fulfill the responsibilities of the Bank and the Board of Directors to maintain the highest standards of effective corporate governance. The Board Secretary will provide leadership, initiative, and innovation in effective corporate governance through the execution of responsibilities including the following;

- Convening meetings of Board of Directors and the Board Subcommittee meetings/management meetings as required.
- Formulating meeting agenda and circulation/uploading of board papers and other documents required for the meetings well in time.
- Ensuring all meetings are minuted and monitoring of Board decisions.
- Assisting the preparation of the Bank's annual report.
- Ensuring minutes books are properly maintained.
- Ensuring compliance to corporate governance requirements.
- Organizing online meetings

Lecturer (Probationary)	Rs. 54,600 - 10x1,335 - 67,950 p.m.	(U-AC 3 (IV) - 2016A)
Lecturer (Unconfirmed)	Rs. 69,580 - 5x1,630 - 77,730 p.m.	(U-AC 3 (III) - 2016A)
Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Rs. 79,360 - 11x1,630 - 97,290 p.m.	(U-AC 3 (II) - 2016A)
Senior Lecturer Gr. I	Rs. 91,310 - 7x2,170 - 106,500 p.m.	(U-AC 3 (I) - 2016A)
Temporary Instructor in English	Rs. 41,095 p.m. (Fixed)	
Statistical Officer Gr. II	Rs. 50,625 - 3 x 1,125 - 54,000 (EB) 55,335 ;	(U-EX I (II) - 2016 A)
	12x1,335 - 71,355 p.m.	

#### AGE LIMIT :

Age limit for the posts of Temporary Instructor in English and Statistical Officer Gr. II is 45 years. This age limit will not apply for employees of the University System, employees of Government Departments / Corporations / Statutory Boards.

#### **BENEFITS** :

Appointees to the permanent posts are required to contribute 10% of their monthly salary to the Universities Provident Fund, the University in turn contributes a sum equivalent to 8% to the University Pension Fund, 7% to the Universities Provident Fund (UPF) and 3% to the Employees Trust Fund (ETF).

Appointees to the temporary posts will contribute 10% of their monthly salary to the UPF, the University in turn contributes a sum equivalent to 15% to the UPF and 3% to the ETF.

In addition to the above salary, Cost of Living Allowance, Academic Allowance, Research & Development Allowance and other due allowances approved by the University Grants Commission will also be paid to the staff where relevant.

The appointees for Senior Lecturer Gr. I, Senior Lecturer Gr. II, Lecturer (Unconfirmed) and Lecturer (Probationary) are entitled to Academic Allowance of 151%, 131% and 115% of the basic salary of their posts respectively.

#### **SABBATICAL LEAVE :**

All appointees to the posts of Senior Lecturer Gr. II and above are entitled for one year Sabbatical Leave with pay once in every seven years of service and as per the provisions of relevant UGC circulars. Air passage will be paid by the University to the Teacher and his/her spouse when proceeding abroad on such leave.

#### **CONDITIONS OF SERVICE :**

Selected candidates if presently serving in a Government Department will have to obtain his/her release through their respective appointing authority. Government employees will not be entitled to maintain their pension rights whilst in the University Service.

#### HOW TO APPLY :

Application Forms and qualification guidelines could be either downloaded from the University Web Site : www.sab. ac.lk or obtainable from the Deputy Registrar (Academic Establishments) of the University, by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope 9"x4" in size on or before 15.03.2021.

Applicants from the Public Service / Corporations / Statutory Boards, should forward their applications through their respective Heads. Duly completed applications on prescribed forms together with certified copies of Degree Certificates, Professional Certificates, etc. should be sent under Registered Cover, indicating the post applied for on the top left hand corner of the envelope, to reach the Deputy Registrar (Academic Establishments), Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, P.O. Box 02, Belihuloya on or before 23.03.2021.

#### Candidates are advised to submit separate applications when applying for more than one post.

#### Special Note :

Candidates are encouraged to download the Applications from the University Website and submit the advanced copy (scanned copy) of the completed application to the academicest@adm.sab.ac.lk before the closing date, mentioning that original will be sent through registered post.

Every correspondence or inquiry, if needed with regard to the forwarding of applications, to be sent to the email academicest@adm.sab.ac.lk or 045-2280215.

Applications received after the closing date or incomplete applications or applications those have not been prepared in the prescribed format will be rejected without intimation. The University reserves the right to shortlist the candidates, if necessary

Actg. Registrar Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

#### Qualifications

She/He should be an Attorney-at-Law or a Member of Institute of Chartered Corporate Secretaries of Sri Lanka (ICCSLK) or a Member of Institute or Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (UK)

#### Experience

Overall, 12 years' experience of which at least 05 years' experience in Secretarial work in a similar capacity. Experience in a Bank / Financial Institution would he preferable.

#### Remuneration

Salary Scale- Rs. 158,890 - 4,935 x 12 - 218,110 per month together with bank approved allowances. Monthly gross salary on this basis would be approximate.

Age - Not more than 45 years (However, the age limit will not apply to those already employed in state sector organizations).

#### **General Conditions**

Method of Selection - Inviting applications as per the recruitment policy and procedure of the bank. Selection by an Interview.

#### **Other benefits**

- Provident Fund contribution 15% by the employer and 10% by the employee. The bank contributes to the ETF
- The annual bonus of two months gross salary
- Housing loans at concessionary rates after confirmation in the service
- Benefits under the bank's medical scheme
- Encashment of unutilized medical leave

#### Closing Date for Applications - 15/03/2021

#### How to Apply

Interested qualified candidates should send their Curriculum Vitae and copies of their Educational/ Professional transcripts and the names, addresses and contact numbers of two professional non-related referees. Post applied for should be indicated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope enclosing the application.

All applications will be treated in strict confidential and any form of canvassing will be regarded as a disqualification. The Bank reserves the right to decide the selection, postponement or cancellation of recruitment or any other action and/or change the selection criteria for this recruitment. The decision of the Board of Directors will be final and conclusive.

Applications should be sent under Registered Post to:

General Manager / CEO, State Mortgage and Investment Bank, No.269, Galle Road, Colombo 03.

## The Housewives' companion **Classifieds on** Daily Acws

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 agre Email: realcommestate@gmail.com

PROPERTY

Replies to Classifieds

&

Casual Advertisements published C/o the

#### Daily Acws

should only be sent by ordinary post.

Replies sent under registered cover will not be accepted.

unicef 😡

Application deadlin

**MARCH 8, 2021** 

Job number : SSE351

#### VACANCY NOTICE

Support UNICEF Sri Lanka Country Office (SLCO) to strengthen the risk-informed programming and resilience building at national and sub-national level planning, budgeting and monitoring in WASH sector.

Contract type : Consultancy Duty station : Colombo

#### We are looking for

- A qualified individual with a Master's degree or equivalent in Climate Change, Water Management, Environmental Management, Natural Resource Management, Hydrology, Geography, Development Studies, and Disaster Management.
- At least 8 years of relevant professional experience in the fields related to climate change, water conservation/management aspects, environment management, and development sectors as well as experience of working with governmental entities, research and policy institutions and communities.
- If you are a committed, creative professional and are passionate about making a lasting difference for children, the world's leading children's rights organization would like to hear from you.
- UNICEF is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce and encourages qualified female and male candidates from all religious and ethnic backgrounds, including persons living with disabilities, to apply to become a part of our organization.

UNICEF is a non-smoking working environment.

Only short-listed applications will be acknowledged.

#### Apply online

https://jobs.unicef.org/cw/en-us/job/538358 apply far this pasition. It is transitiary to could your profile

# VACANCIES

SENIOR LECTURER | LECTURER



## **BE A PART OF A** WORLD-CLASS TEAM

National School of Business Management (NSBM Green University), the Premier Degree School in Sri Lanka, with an excellent academic environment and outstanding facilities, is in search of outstanding personalities as fulltime academics with relevant gualifications to join the NSBM Team for the following subject areas.



**WHO ARE WE** Dreamron Group of companies is in the business of manufacturing and marketing a wide range of quality Professional Cosmetics, Hair Care, Skin Care , Toiletries products and making inroads into Perfume market to extend its product portfolio for more aggressive growth. It's 120,000 sqft manufacturing facility and office complex is located in a 10 acre land with two plants certified by GMP, ISO 9001-2015 - one plant is dedicated to exports with BOI approval and another for local brand manufacturing and 3rd party contract manufacturing. The group has 4 business entities namely; Kindai Kagaku Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, Harumi Holdings (Pvt) Ltd, Dreamron Lanka (Pvt) Ltd and Dreamron College of Art and Beauty. The group employees over 650 people. Currently Dreamron products are marketed in over 20 countries and the group is specialized in manufacturing OEM brands and Private labels for several leading global cosmetic and toiletries brands. Dreamron has a very dominant market position in the local professional Cosmetic market with a wide range of solutions.

WHO WE WANT We are looking for an experienced Marketing Professional with a relevant bachelor's or masters degree and proven track record in a similar capacity spanning over 10 years - a strategist with strong analytical skills and creativity who can take the lead for brand growth for elevated business results.

He should be a strong personality with superior communication & PR skills to provide the right leadership and collaborate across other functions for org-wide synergy.

#### Reporting to the Group CEO/Managing Director this senior position will be directly responsible for the following;

- Asses the competitive position of the company thru formal and informal consumer & market audit
- Develop and execute profitable brand growth initiatives to deliver business plan goals
- Build marketing & sales promotion programs to support specific marketing objectives across different sales channels and customer segments
- Liaise with the creative ad agency to ensure targeted returns are met thru brand building investments
- Work with sales teams recognize sales growth opportunities and propose and implement sales strategy to align with marketing and brand growth
- Develop and implement digital communication and e-commerce strategies for specific target audiences

The successful candidate will be offered a market competitive remuneration package inline with qualifications, experience and capacity, measured through a systematic assessment process.

Submit your application within the next 7 days to		
E-mail	: hr@dreamroncosmetics.com	
Address	: Dreamron Lanka (Pvt) Ltd.,	
	No. 112, Sunethradevi Road, Kohuwala, Nugegoda	
Tel	: 0112 853 804 Fax: 0112 853 805	

www.dreamron.com

## Sri Lanka Insurance

#### FACULTY OF SCIENCE

#### DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING AND HEALTH CARE

1. Human anatomy and physiology

2. Molecular biology

3. Immunology

4. Analytical Chemistry

## QUALIFICATIONS

#### SENIOR LECTURER

- A Bachelors Degree and a Masters Degree in an appropriate field of specialization from a recognized university. An earned Doctorate will be an added advantage.
- At least 5 years of teaching experience at the undergraduate/graduate level in a recognized university.

#### LECTURER

- A Bachelors Degree in an appropriate field of specialization with a first class from a recognized university.
- A Masters Degree and lecturing experience will be an added advantage.

#### TEACHING ASSISTANT

We are also looking for fresh graduates who have a Bachelors Degree in an appropriate field of specialization with a first class from a recognized university to join our NSBM team as academics.

Candidates should also possess strong interpersonal skills, indicates your fields of expertise and a detailed curriculum ability to work independently and unsupervised, be resourceful, be committed and aspire to succeed, be of the envelope or email your CV to careers@nsbm.ac.fk self-motivated, be able to thrive in a fast and high pressure with the position applied on the subject line to reach us on work environment and be prepared to work long and or before 10th March 2021. irregular hours.

vitae with the position marked on the top left hand corner

#### VICE CHANCELLOR

Attractive remuneration packages beyond industry National School of Business Management. standards are on offer for the ideal candidate. Please NS8M Green University. apply via registered post with a cover letter which Pitipana, Homagama.







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a salarail



Sri Lanka Insurance the state insurance giant is on the lookout for an Insurance Marketing Specialist to pilot the company's Life Insurance Category.

If you are a Marketing Specialist in the field of life Insurance we would like to hear from you.

#### **Assistant General Manager - Life Insurance Category Marketing**

Directly reporting to Deputy General Manager - Head of Marketing you will be responsible for developing & Driving the overall Marketing Strategy for the Life Insurance Category of the Company. The role involves a complete understanding of the Sri Lankan Life Insurance Market, with good exposure to Life Insurance products and processes.

#### Job Duties & Responsibilities;

- Develop & drive the Life Insurance category to achieve the objectives of the company which includes developing strategic & tactical marketing plans for category
- Be responsible & drive the product development function of the category through close research and close monitoring of the market & to drive product innovation and product road mapping process for the Life Insurance brand portfolio.
- Liaise with external agencies (advertising/research etc..) to ensure strategic brand positioning & targeted Marketing communication and liaise with external stake holders to develop strategic partnerships
- Responsible to drive the category brand activations and maintain effective external visibility.
- Drive distribution support initiatives through the distribution network to reach the company top-line targets, designing & driving rewards & recognition schemes for the distribution channels through internal data analytics and constantly use MIS to evaluate the current behavioural trends to take timely and corrective action. Ensure a clear flow of information to all stakeholders.
- Developing and tracking of key brand, consumer and business metrics to ensure success of all category initiatives.
- Drive the Social Media strategy of the Life Insurance category to achieve set KPIs.
- Be involved in developing the sales training strategies for the category and guide the sales training to achieve the company objectives.
- Responsible in managing a high performing team through constant training motivation and knowledge sharing.
- Be responsible to driving the CRM strategy for Life category
- Responsible for managing the Category budget to achieve the set objectives.
- Overall Responsible for the overall growth of the Life Insurance category & customer engagement.

#### **Pre-Requisite**

- Should possess a Degree in Marketing from UGC approved university or post graduate diploma in marketing from Chartered Institute of Marketing UK, or from Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing
- Being a Chartered Marketer or Holding aMBA will be an added advantage
- Minimum of 12 years' hands on experience in the field of Insurance Marketing and at least 7 years in a senior managerial capacity.
- Age should be between 35 45.

#### Skills

Strategic & Positive Thinking, Organizing, Decision making, Controlling, Communicating, Interpersonal relations, Team work, Problem solving, Leadership

#### Attitude

Ability to work under pressure, Punctuality, Target achieving, Knowledge sharing, Imitativeness, Willingness to accept responsibilities, empathy & a team player

If you believe you possess the above qualifications and experience, send in your CV along with the names of two non-related referees within 07 days of this advertisement to the address given below, stating the post applied for on the top left corner of the envelope or e-mail to jobs@srilankainsurance.com stating the post applied for on the subject line.

#### Deputy General Manager – HR & ER

Sri Lanka Insurance, No. 21, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02. **Company Registration Number: PB 289** 



1. Nursing



## **UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA**

#### VACANCY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the following post in the University of Peradeniya.

#### 1. BURSAR

Salary Scale: 95320-7x2170; 11x2700-140210 p.m. [U-EX 3(II)]

In addition to the basic salary of the above salary scale, following allowances will also be paid.

- I. Cost of Living Allowance Rs. 7,800.00
- II. Additional Allowance 20% of the Basic Salary
- III. Monthly Compensatory Allowance (MCA) 45% of the Basic Salary

#### **Qualifications:**

1. (a) Should possess the Membership of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CASL) or its equivalent;

#### AND

(b) Should possess at least six (06) years of experience in accounting and/ or auditing in an executive capacity after acquiring the qualification at 1(a) above.

#### OR

- 2. A holder of the post of Deputy Accountant/ Deputy Bursar/ Deputy Internal Auditor in the University Grants Commission or Higher Educational Institution/ Institute with the following;
  - Confirmed in that post with three (03) years of satisfactory service in that post of which one (01) year should be after acquiring the qualification at 1(a) above.

#### OR

- 3. A holder of the post of Senior Assistant Accountant/ Senior Assistant Bursar/ Senior Assistant Internal Auditor in the University Grants Commission or Higher Educational Institution/ Institute with all of the following:
  - Confirmed in that post with ten (10) years of experience in accounting and/ or auditing in an executive • capacity;
  - At least eight (08) years of satisfactory service of above ten (10) years should be in the post of Senior Assistant Accountant/ Senior Assistant Bursar/ Senior Assistant Internal Auditor in the University System;
  - Three (03) years of above eight (08) years of experience should be after acquiring the qualification at 1(a) above.

#### OR

- A holder of the post of Deputy Accountant/ Deputy Bursar/ Deputy Internal Auditor in the University 4. Grants Commission/ Higher Educational Institution/ Institute with all of the following;
  - Confirmed in that post;
  - Possess Intermediate qualification of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CASL) or its equivalent;
  - Possess a Masters' Degree in Accountancy/ Finance/ Management\* from a recognized University/ HEI:
  - Twelve (12) years of experience in accounting and/ or auditing in an executive capacity after successful completion of the Intermediate qualification of the CASL or its equivalent;
  - Ten (10) years of above experience should be in the post of Senior Assistant Accountant/ Senior Assistant Bursar/ Senior Assistant Internal Auditor or above in the University system.

#### OR A holder of the post of Deputy Accountant/ Deputy Bursar/ Deputy Internal Auditor in the University 5. Grants Commission/ Higher Educational Institution/ Institute with all of the following;

- Confirmed in that post with three (03) years of satisfactory service in that post; ۰
- Possess a Bachelor's Degree from a recognized University/ HEI;
- Possess Intermediate qualification of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CASL) or its equivalent

#### or

Higher National Diploma in Accountancy (HNDA) conducted by the Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education (SLIATE) or its predecessor;

- Fourteen (14) years of experience in accounting and/ or auditing in an executive capacity after obtaining the Intermediate qualification/ HNDA stated above;
- At least five (05) years of such experience should be in the post of Deputy Accountant /Deputy Bursar/ Deputy Internal Auditor and/ or in the post of Senior Assistant Accountant/ Senior Assistant Bursar/ Senior Assistant Internal Auditor in the University system carrying the salary scale denoted by salary code U-EX 2(I).

#### OR

- A holder of the post of Deputy Accountant/ Deputy Bursar/ Deputy Internal Auditor in the University 6. Grants Commission/ Higher Educational Institution/Institute with all of the following;
  - Confirmed in that post; Possess a Bachelor's Degree from a recognized University/ HEI
    - or
  - the Intermediate qualification of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CASL) or its



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## AYURVEDIC DOCTOR

Looking for a potential candidate with below requirements to fulfill the position of Ayurvedic Doctor:

Certificate from Ayurveda Medical Council is a must

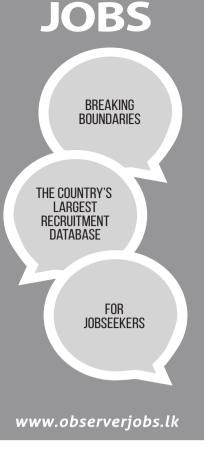
Good command of English Language

Residing in Colombo District

 Ability to work in any part of Sri Lanka Recently Graduated or Age above 50 years

If you are interested in joining our team, please submit your CV to jobs@siddhalepa.com stating the subject as S/HR/AYUR/001 on or before 17.03.2021

**GROUP HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER - HETTIGODA GROUP** SIDDHALEPA D. No 33/3, Sri Dharmarama Road, Ratmalana. T: 011 2736910 / 077 3370991 F: 011 2735465



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### **GROUP HUMAN RESOURCES & COMPLIANCE MANAGER - COLOMBO**

We are a Leading Group of Companies in the Forefront of the Apparel Trade. Our pride is our technologically advanced machinery and the collective coordination and firm bonds within our workforce to achieve and fulfill our Timely and Quality Shipments to our Customers.

We do have a senior position of Human Resources & Compliance Manager to lead a Professional Human Resource team and sustain skills of the human capital.

If you possess on following professional qualifications and had held a senior position in Human Resources & Compliance Management over a period of 15 years.

#### Requisites

- Degree in Human Resources Management from a reputed university or institute.
- Sound knowledge in Sri Lankan labor law
- Conversant in professional certification of the industry
- Should have a good knowledge of Compliance Requirements and maintain the established standars and take corrective action





equivalent

or

Higher National Diploma in Accountancy (HNDA) conducted by the Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education (SLIATE) or its predecessor;

- Not less that eighteen (18) years of experience in accounting and/ or auditing in the University system;
- Three (03) years of above experience should be in the post of Deputy Accountant/ Deputy Bursar/ Deputy Internal Auditor in the University system.

OR

- 7. A holder of the post of Accountant Grade II of the Sri Lanka Accountants' Service with the following;
  - Should possess the Membership of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CASL) or its equivalent; or

Master's Degree in Accountancy/ Finance/ Management\* from a recognized University/ HEI.

Note: 'Accounting and/or Auditing' experience means, experience gained in an executive capacity in Accounting and/or Auditing in a State or Reputed Private Sector Organization.

\* Term 'Management' means a Degree in Management/ Public Administration/ Business Administration with major component in Accounting and Finance.

#### Method of Recruitment:

Selection by a structured interview

Age Limit: Age limit will not apply. The compulsory retirement age of employees of the University service is sixty years. The selected candidate will be on probation for a period of three years or one year (for confirmed employees of the University System) reckoned from the date of assumption of duties.

#### **Other Benefits:**

- 1. The holder of the post of Bursar after confirmation in the appointment, will be eligible for Sabbatical Leave of one year's duration with pay or two years' duration without pay on completion of the seven years of service. Those proceeding abroad on Sabbatical Leave shall be entitled to receive full air passage for himself/ herself as well as for the spouse.
- 2. Further training where appropriate will be supported by the University.
- Research allowance and accommodation, transport and communication facilities will be provided 3 according to prevailing circulars.

#### **General Conditions:**

- The University reserves the right to shortlist the applications and summon candidates for the interview, I. based on the prevailing rules and regulations.
- II. Employees of Government/ Corporations should forward their applications through the Heads of respective Departments/ Corporations along with a certified statement of the present salary particulars. The applications which are not received through the proper channel on or before the closing date will not be considered.
- III. The selected candidates will become contributors to the Universities Provident Fund as well as the Universities Pension scheme, the contributions being 10% from the employee to the Provident Fund and 7% and 8% from the employer to the Provident Fund and Pension Fund respectively. Further contribution of 3% will be made by the employer to the Employees Trust Fund.
- IV. Application forms should be downloaded from the University Website at http://www.pdn.ac.lk/ Vacancies/ and duly completed application along with photocopies of certificates in proof of qualifications and experience should be sent by Registered Post to Senior Assistant Registrar, Non-Academic Establishments Division, Senate House, University of Peradeniya on or before 29th March 2021.
- V. Name of the post (Post of Bursar) should be stated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.
- VI. Applications will not be entertained personally and the University will not bear any responsibility for such submissions. Incomplete, illegible, late applications, applications without documents of proof, applications which are not submitted through prescribed format and which are not submitted through proper channel will be rejected.

REGISTRAR University of Peradeniya

28th February 2021

- for any shortcomings
- Knowledge of the software and Payroll is also essential
- If you possess LLB or MBA from recognized institute
- Accredited certification or Registration from environmental management system
- Sound knowledge and working experience in rewarding and compensation procedures
- Sound knowledge in implementing disciplinary procedures
- Any prerequisites on preproduction or production process will be distinct advantage
- Should be fluent in writing and oral in English and Sinhala languages



If you are confident and with above prerequisites please forward your CV within 07 days to Group General Manager Operation, via Email: lakmal.dissanayake@maliban.com

EAM Maliban Textiles (Pvt) Ltd

261, Siri Dhamma Mawatha, Colombo 10.





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## IMMEDIATE VACANCY

We are the Leading Computer Software **Developing Company Located in** Maharagama, reuires the well experienced or trainee candidates to be filled

#### **Customer Support Executive Cum Accounts Clerk - Female**

- Experience with similar capacity would be an added advantage
- Trainees are welcome
- > Age between 20 35
- > Attractive Remuneration

If you are suitable for above position, send your CV quoting the position applied in the subject of the email

to gsspvthr@gmail.com including contact Details of two non-related referees.

#### Marketing Kangaroo 🗎 Assistant Manager Cabs (MALE)

Do you want to be a team member of Sri Lanka's premier and preferred cabs service provider?

#### The Profile

- Qualified in sales and marketing. Outgoing personality with High Communication
- Skills in English. Computer Literacy (MS OFFICE / EXCEL).
- ➢ Possession of valid Riding/Driving License.
- Experience in any field as a Marketing Executive
- (Transport and Travel field preferred).
- Age between 25 to 45 years.

#### The Rewards

Attractive Remuneration package awaits together with other benefits.

Please send your applications to info@2588588.com or send by post to below address for early appointments for interviews

#### 0112580047

The Senior Manager HR & Administration KANGAROO CABS (PVT) LTD No: 485/7A, Gunawardena Mawatha, Wijerama, Gangodawila, Nugegoda.





ACE Healthcare (Pvt.) Ltd. is a BOI approved Pharmaceutical and Cosmeceutical Manufacturing Plant designed to comply with GMP, WHO-GMP, EU-GMP and US FDA Standards, located in Horana, Sri Lanka.

Applications are invited for dynamic, result - oriented, individuals to fill below positions.

#### QUALITY ASSURANCE EXECUTIVE / QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER

- Qualifications
- Qualified in BSc in Chemistry, BSc in Pharmacy or equivalent qualification from a recognized university.
- · Knowledge of cGMP and quality operations would be an added advantage.
- Previous experience (2-3 years) in a similar capacity would be an added advantage.



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Experience in similar field will be and added

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NVQ level 3-4 or similar qualification from a recognized technical

Fair knowledge in VSD PLC HMI micro controller pneumatic system

Good knowledge in 3phase wiring distribution and control systems

Ability to take up appointment at short notice & those living in

close proximity to Kesbewa, Homagama or Horana will be preferred.

Contact No: 0773 791 560

Please forward your CV to :

- Industrial mechanical application knowledge experience in an

Should be willing to work long hours & shift woks.

Attractive salaries & incentives

**Qualifications & Experience:** 

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& Hydraulic system

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Age below 45

advantage.

institute.

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## **Bandaranaike** Centre for **International Studies (BCIS)** VACANCIES

## SENIOR RESEARCHERS

The Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies (BCIS) is a research and education based institution which focuses on International Relations and its sub disciplines.

BCIS has decided to expand its research/academic programs in International Relations and related subjects and therefore is in search of experienced, qualified and conscientious researchers willing to contribute to the advancement of the institution.

In this light, applications are now called for the Post of Senior/Junior Researcher.

#### Tasks and Responsibilities

- · Develop IR related research concepts/projects
- Produce analytical reports and develop BCIS areas of interest
- · Carry out qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis
- Supervise and mentor junior researchers
- · Coordinate on going/new initiatives and liaise with stakeholders.

#### Qualifications and Skills

- A Masters' qualification in International Relations or Political Science (or related Social Sciences) from a recognized local or foreign University. A PhD is also advantageous.
- A minimum of five (5) years of relevant professional work experience.
- Excellent communication, analytical and writing skills in English with proficiency in IT.
- Networking skills and links with think-tanks and related stakeholder organizations/development partners in Sri Lanka and outside.
- Passionate, innovative and enthusiastic team player.

### JUNIOR RESEARCHER

#### **Qualifications and Skills**

- A Masters' qualification in International Relations, Social Sciences and its sub disciplines from a recognized local or foreign university.
- A minimum of five (5) years of relevant professional work experience.
- Excellent communication and writing skills in English (Trilingual skills will be an added advantage).
- · Good communication skills with a sound knowledge in IT.
- · Passionate, innovative and enthusiastic team player.

#### Salary : Negotiable

Application submission deadline : March 21, 2021.

Potential candidates can email their CVs with a covering letter addressed to the Director/BCIS.

Director Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies (BCIS) BMICH, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07. Tel No. : 011-2687124 Fax No.: 011-2691176 e-mail : admin@bcis.edu.lk

## Sri Lanka Insurance

Sri Lanka Insurance, The No 1 General Insurance Company in the country, is looking out for a No. 1 Marketing Specialist to lead the winning formula.

 Age below 35. · Fluent in English.

#### Duties and responsibilities

- Maintaining and supervising the Quality assurance measures adopted by the company.
- · Assure that all products and manufacturing processes comply with relevant QA standards.
- Attend to product complaints and customer queries.
- Conduct internal audits.
- · Prepare SOP, procedures, and other required documents.
- · Maintain Good Manufacturing Practices in the manufacturing, filling, and packaging area.

#### **QUALITY CONTROL EXECUTIVE / CHEMIST**

#### Qualifications

- · Qualified in BSc in Chemistry, BSc in Pharmacy or equivalent qualification from a recognized university.
- · Knowledge of cGMP and quality operations would be an added advantage.
- · Hands-on experience in a Pharmaceutical Laboratory (2-3 years) in a similar capacity would be an added advantage
- Sound knowledge in operation, calibration of laboratory instruments such as HPLC, FTIR, UV-Visible spectrophotometer is required.
- Age below 35

#### Duties and responsibilities

- · Maintaining Good laboratory practices, laboratory safety measures and train the staff.
- · Perform and supervise quality tests from manufacturing to finished products as per SOP.
- Performing Analytical Method Validation activities
- · Inspect raw materials and packing materials.
- Calibration, Verification of laboratory instruments.
- · Maintain Good Manufacturing Practices, in the manufacturing, filling, and packaging area.

#### MICROBIOLOGIST

#### Qualifications

- Qualified in BSc in Microbiology or equivalent qualification from a recognized university.
- · Knowledge of cGMP and quality operations would be an added advantage
- Previous experience (2-3 years) in a similar capacity would be an added advantage.

#### Age below 30.

#### Duties and responsibilities

- Planning and carrying out testing Growing microbe cultures
- Environmental monitoring
- · Assure proper Collection of samples from a variety of locations.
- · Recording, analysis and interpreting the data

#### PRODUCTION EXECUTIVE / PRODUCTION OFFICER

#### Qualifications

- B. Sc/ B. Pharm degree or any other relevant qualification.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- For Executive grade- A minimum 03-04 years of experience in a similar capacity will be required
- For Officer grade- looking for fresh graduates.
- Age below 35 years

#### Duties and responsibilities

- Efficient supervision of production process and lead the production team to achieve expected targets. · Adhere to the cGMP functions
- · Train and guide production floor employees to achieve planned production output.
- · Ensure health and safety aspect of employees and make them aware on 'Safety First culture'.

An attractive remuneration package based on experience awaits the right candidate. Please forward your CV with name & contact numbers of two non-related referees along with the post you are applying within 7 days of this advertisement to Manager, HR division, Ace Healthcare (Pvt) Ltd. Please mention the post you are applying in the subject line of the e mail.

📀 No. 72/A, Illimba Road, Kandana, Horana, Sri Lanka. 🛛 💿 hr@acehealthcare.lk 🔇 0112 620712/3/4

If you are a Marketing Specialist in the field of General Insurance we would like to hear from you.

#### Assistant General Manager - General Insurance Category Marketing

Directly reporting to Deputy General Manager - Head of Marketing you will be responsible for developing & Driving the overall Marketing Strategy for the General Insurance Category of the Company. The role involves a complete understanding of the Sri Lankan General Insurance Market, with good exposure to General Insurance products and processes.

#### Job Duties & Responsibilities;

- Develop & drive the General Insurance category to achieve the objectives of the company which includes developing strategic & tactical marketing plans for category
- Be responsible & drive the product development function of the category through close research and close monitoring of the market & to drive product innovation and product road mapping process for the General Insurance brand portfolio
- Liaise with external agencies (advertising/research etc...) to ensure strategic brand positioning & targeted Marketing communication and liaise with external stake holders to develop strategic partnerships
- Responsible to drive the category brand activations and maintain effective external visibility.
- Drive distribution support initiatives through the distribution network to reach the company top-line targets, designing & driving rewards & recognition schemes for the distribution channels through internal data analytics and constantly use MIS to evaluate the current behavioural trends to take timely and corrective action. Ensure a clear flow of information to all stakeholders.
- Developing and tracking of key brand, consumer and business metrics to ensure success of all category initiatives.
- Drive the Social Media strategy of the General Insurance category to achieve set KPIs.
- Be involved in developing the sales training strategies for the category and guide the sales training to achieve the company objectives.
- Responsible in managing a high performing team through constant training motivation and knowledge sharing.
- Be responsible to driving the CRM strategy for General category
- Responsible for managing the Category budget to achieve the set objectives.
- Overall Responsible for the overall growth of the category & customer engagement.

#### **Pre-Requisite**

- Should possess a Degree in Marketing from UGC approved university or post graduate diploma in marketing from Chartered Institute of Marketing UK, or from Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing.
- Being a Chartered Marketer or Holding a MBA will be an added advantage.
- Minimum of 12 years' hands on experience in the field of Insurance Marketing and at least 7 years in a senior managerial capacity.
- Age should be between 35 45.

#### Skills

Strategic & Positive Thinking, Organizing, Decision making, Controlling, Communicating, Interpersonal relations, Team work, Problem solving, Leadership

#### Attitude

Ability to work under pressure, Punctuality, Target achieving, Knowledge sharing, Imitativeness, Willingness to accept responsibilities, empathy & a team player

If you believe you possess the above qualifications and experience, send in your CV along with the names of two non-related referees within 07 days of this advertisement to the address given below, stating the post applied for on the top left corner of the envelope or e-mail to jobs@srilankainsurance.com stating the post applied for on the subject line.

#### Deputy General Manager – HR & ER

Sri Lanka Insurance, No. 21, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02. **Company Registration Number: PB 289** 





## VACANCIES **SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION (SLSI)**



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Applications are invited from gualified citizens of Sri Lanka for filling the following vacancies of the SLSI.

**Ministry of Technology** 

#### **Deputy Director General - Senior Manager Category (HM 2-1)**

### **Deputy Director General**

#### **Qualifications - External**

Bachelor's Degree in Engineering (four years) or Science Stream (Physics, Chemistry, Food Science, Textile, Microbiology, Environmental Science, Fisheries, Agriculture, Biology, Biotechnology, Molecular Biology, Mathematics, Information Technology or Statistics) - Special Degree (four years) or General Degree (three years) with a class which is recognized by the University Grant Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka.

A Postgraduate Degree qualification (Masters`) in Science/ Engineering/ Agriculture/ Business Administration/ Management which is recognized by the University Grant Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka or Chartered membership of a recognized professional Chartered Institution in a related field to the post.

#### Experience for the above post

Minimum of 19 years experience after first degree in the technical field/ scientific field/ other relevant field at a "Managerial Level"out of which 07 years of experience should be at Senior Managerial Level with a proven track record in a Corporation, Statutory Board/Institution or a reputed Private Institution.

A proven ability to lead and direct multi-disciplinary teams with experience in proper deployment and efficient management of human and other resources

#### Internal (01 or 02 below)

01) Having obtained the gualifications required by the external candidates above

02) A minimum of four (04) years satisfactory service in a Director (Technical) or Director (Engineering) post in the Senior Manager Category

A proven ability to lead and direct multi-disciplinary teams with experience in proper deployment and efficient management of human and other resources The role of supervision of five Divisions will be held with the selected candidate.

Salary Scale

#### LKR 91 645.00 - 12 x 2 700.00 - LKR 124 045.00

Age Should be not less than 35 years and not more than 55 years (Upper limit will not be applicable to internal applicants)

#### **Director - Senior Manager Category (HM 1-3)**

## **Director (Administration)**

#### **Qualifications - External**

Bachelor's Degree in Management, Public Administration, Public Management, Business Administration or Human Resource Management (four years) which is recognized by the University Grant Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka.

A Postgraduate Degree qualification (Masters') in Business Administration, Human Resource Management, Management, Public Management or Public Administration which is recognized by the University Grant Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka or Chartered membership of a recognized professional Chartered Institution in a related field to the post.

#### Experience for the above post

Minimum of fifteen (15) years relevant experience after first degree at a "Managerial Level" out of which 03 years of experience should be at senior manager level with a proven track record in a Corporation, Statutory Board/Institution or a reputed Private Institution.

A proven ability to lead and direct multi-disciplinary teams with experience in proper deployment and efficient management of human and other resources

#### Internal (01 or 02 below)

01) Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above

 O2) Completion of minimum three (3) years satisfactory service in the post of Senior Deputy Director (Administration) with Postgraduate Degree qualification (Masters`) in Business Administration, Human Resource Management, Management or Public Administration which is recognized by the University Grant Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka or Chartered membership of a recognized professional Chartered Institution in a related field to the post. and

A proven ability to lead and direct multi-disciplinary teams with experience in proper deployment and efficient management of human and other resources

The selected candidate will be in charge of the Administration Division and, is responsible for administrative functions of the Institution. He/She should have excellent leadership and communication skills to facilitate with staff at all levels

#### Salary Scale

LKR 86 865.00 - 15 x 2 270.00 - LKR 120 915.00

Age Should be not less than 35 years and not more than 55 years (Upper limit will not be applicable to internal applicants)

### **Director - Senior Manager Category (HM 1-3)**

### **Director (Finance)**

#### **Qualifications - External**

Bachelor's Degree in Accounting/Financial Management/ Business Administration or Commerce (four yeas) which is recognized by the University Grant Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka with

A Postgraduate Degree qualification (Masters') in Accounting/ Financial Management/ Business Management which is recognized by the University Grant Commission (UGC) ized professional Chartered Institution in a related field to the pos of Sri Lanka or Cha o of a recoo

#### Experience for the above post

Minimum of fifteen (15) years relevant experience after obtaining above qualification at a "Managerial Level" out of which 03 years of experience should be at senior manager level with a proven track record in a Corporation, Statutory Board/Institution or a reputed Private Institution.

A proven ability to lead and direct multi-disciplinary teams with experience in proper deployment and efficient management of human and other resources

#### Internal (01 or 02 below)

- 01) Having obtained the gualifications required by the external candidates above
- 02) Completion of minimum three (3) years satisfactory service in the post of Senior Deputy Director (Finance/ Audit) with Postgraduate Degree qualification (Masters`) in Accounting/Financial Management/ Business Management which is recognized by the University Grant Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka or Chartered membership of a recognized professional Chartered Institution in a related field to the post and

A proven ability to lead and direct multi-disciplinary teams with experience in proper deployment and efficient management of human and other resources

The selected candidate will be in charge of the Finance Division and, is responsible for managing the finances of the Institution according to the accepted standards of accounting and Government Rules & Regulations

#### Salary Scale

#### LKR 86 865.00 - 15 x 2 270.00 - LKR 120 915.00

Age Should be not less than 35 years and not more than 55 years (Upper limit will not be applicable to internal applicants)

#### Director - Senior Manager Category (HM 1-3)

### **Director (Technical)**

#### **Qualifications - External**

Bachelor's Degree in Engineering (four years) or Science Stream (Physics, Chemistry, Food Science, Textile, Microbiology, Environmental Science, Fisheries, Agriculture, Biology, Biotechnology, Molecular Biology, Mathematics or Statistics) - Special Degree (four years) or General Degree (three years) with a class which is recognized by the University Grant Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka

A Postgraduate Degree qualification (Masters') in the relevant field to the subject area of the post which is recognized by the University Grant Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka or Chartered membership of a recognized professional Chartered Institution in a related field to the post.

#### Experience for the above post

Minimum of fifteen (15) years relevant experience after first degree at a Managerial Level out of which 03 years of experience should be at senior manager level with a proven track record in a Corporation, Statutory Board/Institution or a reputed Private Institution.

A proven ability to lead and direct multi-disciplinary teams with experience in proper deployment and efficient management of human and other resources

#### Internal (01 or 02 below)

01) Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above

02) Completion of Minimum of three (3) years satisfactory service in the post of Senior Deputy Director (Technical) or Senior Deputy Director (IT) with Post Graduate Degree qualification (Masters') in the subject area relevant to the post which is recognized by the University Grant Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka or Chartered membership of a recognized professional Chartered Institution in a related field to the post.

and A proven ability to lead and direct multi-disciplinary teams with experience in proper deployment and efficient management of human and other resources

The selected candidate will be in charge of one of the Technical Divisions and, is responsible for administrative functions of the Division. He/She should have excellent leadership and communication skills to facilitate with staff at all levels

#### Salary Scale

#### LKR 86 865.00 - 15 x 2 270.00 - LKR 120 915.00

Age Should be not less than 35 years and not more than 55 years (Upper limit will not be applicable to internal applicants)

Assigned vehicle or transport allowance as per the 01.

- Public Enterprises Circular No.PED 1/2015 & PED 1/2015 (i) Benefi 02. Encashment of unutilized medical leave
  - 03. Life Insurance Cover & Medical Insurance Cover
- 04. Reimbursement of medical expenses subject to a limit
- 05. Annual incentive payment as approved by the General Treasury Opportunity to work in a professional environment
- Other 06.
  - 07. Professional Allowance
  - 08. Communication allowance

Applications indicating the name in full, age, educational qualifications and any other relevant particulars together with copies of certificates and names and addresses of two non-related referees should be forwarded under registered cover to reach the Director General, Sri Lanka Standards Institution, No. 17, Victoria Place, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08 on or before 2021-03-15. Those employed in Public Sector Institutions should forward their applications through the respective Heads of the Institutions. The post applied for should be clearly stated on the top left corner of the envelope.





YEARS OF EMPOWERING THE NATION

- The salary will be negotiable.
- The Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital Board reserves to itself the right to make/not to make an appointment.
- The post applied for should be marked on the left-hand corner of the envelope.
- Applicants should send their applications with full curriculum vitae and with names of the two (02) not



THE FIRE WITHIN YOU

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



The Bank of the People

related referees to reach the undersigned on or before 15th March 2021.

#### Chairman,

Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital, Thalapathpitiya, Nugegoda.



#### **Immediate Vacancies**

We are a subsidiary of Access Engineering PLC, a leading CSE listed company with core business of construction. We are also in the construction business highly specialized in leisure sector along with ceiling/Aluminium manufacturing and installation.

With our rapid expansion of our business we are looking for dynamic and energetic people who believe in taking the Company to the highest level.

#### **Construction Division - Site**

#### Site Engineer/Senior Technical Officer -Finishing

> NDT, HNDE, NCT or equivalent qualification with minimum 05 years' Experience in finishing works.

#### **Aluminium Division - Factory**

#### Engineer

- BSc in Production & Manufacturing/ Mechanical Engineering or equivalent qualification
- > More than one-year experience in a similar capacity, preferably in Aluminium fabrication Industry.

#### Store Executive

- Store Management Diploma or equivalent with minimum three year Experience
- Excellent Knowledge in Computer Programs (Excel, Word and Other Software)
- Knowledge in Bin Card Management, Inventory monitoring and Report

Preparation, Stock Maintain and Stock Report, arranging Stocks According labelling and 5S and Good Housekeeping Practices.

Please forward your complete resume by mail/ e-mail with contact details of two non-related referees and a passport size photograph to reach us on or before 14th March 2021, indicating the post applied for on the top left corner of the envelope or in the subject cage of the e-mail. Any form of canvasing will be a disgualification.

Email to: hr@accessprojects.lk

Access Projects (Pvt) Ltd Access Tower I, No 278, Union Place, Colombo 02

ICTAD-C1 & ISO 9001-2015 certified Company



**POST OF ACCOUNTANT** 

1. Eligibility Criteria

#### VACANCIES

(SLIATE)

Applications are invited for the following posts in SLIATE. The applications must reach the Director General, SLIATE, "Janawathu Piyasa", No. 320, T.B. Jayah Mawatha, Colombo 10 under registered post on or before 28.03.2021. Please indicate the post applied for on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

#### 1. Hostel Warden/Hostel Matron

Subject Area	Location
Hostel Warden/Hostel Matron (vacancies 04)	Dehiwala - 02 - female
	Ampara - 01 - female
	Colombo 01 - male

#### 3.1 External Recruitment

#### **Educational Qualifications**

- Should have passed in the GCE O/L Examination 06 subjects in not (a) more than 02 sittings with Credit Passes for
  - 1. Sinhala/Tamil/English Language
  - 2. Mathematics
  - and
  - 3. two other subjects
- Should have passed all the subjects (except General Paper) at GCE (b) A/L. However, it is sufficient to pass in 03 subjects at one sitting under old syllabus. and
- Should have successfully completed a study course in Information (c) Technology / Typing / Stenography.

#### 1.2 Internal Recruitment

Employees in the SLIATE Service who have satisfied education (a) qualification indicated in 3.1 (a), (c) above and completed 05 years' service in minor grades.

#### Salary scale: -

#### MA 1-2- 2016 - 27,910 -10 x 300 -7 x 350 -12 x 710 - 49,080

#### Note: In addition, government approved allowances will be paid.

#### Conditions of Service: -

- Selected candidates will become the contributors to the Employees' 1. Provident Fund (EPF) contributing 10% of their earnings and the SLIATE contributing 15% of their earnings from its funds and also contributing 3% of their earnings to the Employees' Trust Fund (ETF).
- Age limit is below 45 years for all categories. However, it is not applicable 2. for those who are in the permanent cadre in the Public/State sector.
- Applicants in Government Departments, Corporations and Statutory Boards 3. should send their applications through the Heads of respective Institutions.
- Selected applicants holding pensionable posts in Government Departments 4. will have to obtain their release through the Director General of Establishments. However, they will not be entitled to pension rights whilst in the service of the SLTATE.

Applications received after the closing date will be rejected without intimation.

**Director General** Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education No. 320, T.B. Jayah Mawatha Colombo 10.

- 1.1 Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
- 1.2 Required Educational Qualifications/Professional Qualifications and skills
  - Associate member of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CA Sri Lanka)/ Chartered Institute of Management Accountants of UK (CIMA - UK)/Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)/Institute of Certified Management Accountants of Sri Lanka (CMA-SL)
  - Degree in Accountancy/Finance from a recognized University would be an added qualification.
  - Sound knowledge on SLFRS/LKAS, specially SLFRS 9 impairment computations.
  - Strong analytical skills and literacy in MS Office suite.
  - Effective communication and interpersonal skills

#### **1.3** Experience

- Minimum of Five (05) years' experience in a similar capacity.
- 1.4 Age : Not more than 45 years.

#### **2.** Key Responsibilities

- Preparation of periodical Financial Statements and MIS reports
- Timely submission of regulatory reports ensuring compliance with new regulatory requirements pertaining to financial reporting
- Perform IFRS related computation

#### **3.** Remuneration

An attractive remuneration package awaits the right candidate.

#### 4. 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.

Applications with two non-related Referees, should be sent by registered post to Senior Manager - HR, P.O.Box 2085, Colombo 02 within 10 days of this advertisement. It is required to indicate the position applied on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

application given in our Website will be rejected.

of the relevant certificates and forwarded in

other modes and not in accordance with the

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

#### CHAIRMAN, **AIRPORT & AVIATION SERVICES (SRI LANKA)** (PRIVATE) LIMITED, **BANDARANAIKE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.** KATUNAYAKE.



#### Sunday Observer February 28, 2021 67

slim, consid-

extremely at-

Well-qualified,

assets.

innocent

essential.

OB159314

daughter.

posi-

and is married. Please

respond with fam-

ilv details and horo-

scope copy to propos

alst1994@gmail.com

OB159017

m

Proposals

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Seeking for a Christian partner for our daughter 27 years, completed PQHRM and reading MBA, 5 feet in height, works as a partner in our small family enter-OB159354 prise.

Able G/B respectable parents in Maharagama seek NS/TT educated son for young looking fair, pretty slim daughter 1980 Dec. 5'5" professionally qualified Scientist holding managerial national consultancy firm in Melbourne, willing to settle in Sri Lanka or Australia Rahu 7. Reply with full family details HC contact number to: w ijaya3275@gmail.co m Telephone:- 0112-848624. OB159101

About Colombo suburbs B/G parents seek a partner for their only child 29, 5'1", very pretty educated in Musaeus College, degree in HR, Diand ploma in Psychology, IR, Childhood Education working as a Senior Executive in Colombo. Inherits a luxury house. 2 acres land with a house and a vehicle. Graduated parents. Father Gemologist, mother teacher seeking employed, well established son. Willing to go abroad as well. mp roposal4567@gmail.c om OB159259

About our daughter by BG retired parents Bodu Govi born in from Colombo for

Piyumi - 011 2 429 383 Gayani - 011 2 429 342/343 Academically Above 5'10" tall academically and proprofessionally qualifessionally qualified fied son below 41 well-mannered son is years well mannered sought by Buddhist and caring is sought parents from Kandy by respectable Chrisfor their 5'10" height, parents from tian graduated and pro-Colombo suburbs for fessionally well-actheir daughter born complished daughter in 1989, 5'4" with working in the Management cadre who is pleasing personality, brought up with good educated at a leading values. Caste immate-Girls' School accomrial. Email: marriage plished and employed proposal05@gmail.co

and

24

with means, divorced OB159288 after a brief marriage Absolutely beautiful due to incompatibiland attractive 5'5" ity, no children, pardaughter ents seek a suitable born in 1993, inherwell employed well its a valuable assets. mannered partner. She works as a bridal Differences immadresser for a reputed terial. Please reply bridal dress maker. B/ K parents seek a dewith family details, cent educated son, beand contact number. Email : nishakaper low 32 years old with sober habits. E-mail: era299@gmail.com proposalchari@yaho OB159014

OB159190 Academically Academically and professionally qualiprofessionally qualified son is sought by fied caring & smart Govi/Buddhist famson (below 36 years) from a respectable ily from Colombo for G/B family is sought their daughter, 40, by G/B parents from 5'5", who is working Colombo suburbs in Colombo. Please for their 5'3" pretty reply with family deprofessionally tails and horoscope. qualified daughter 29 E-mail: years currently well

1600@gmail.com employed in London. She is a UK PR Holder, and inherits as-Academically sets both UK and Sri Lanka. Pl reply with professionally qualified son, preferably full family details and horoscope. Email: w a Doctor working prop21@gmail.com OB158130

in the UK is sought by G/B professional parents living in the Academically and UK for their accomprofessionally qualified kind hearted simplished 32 year old ilar caste son is sought 5'6" tall daughter. She is a Doctor working as a Specialist Regis their 33 yrs. 5'2" very fair extremely pretty slim young looking details : uksavi12@g daughter postgradumail.com OB159068 ate qualified, working



Academically and Academically professionally professionally qualified, caring, fied well-mannered mannered, tall (above similar caste son is 5'8"), fair son sought by B/G retired sought by Roman Catholic parents for parents from Colomtheir only daughter, bo suburbs for their a Doctor. She is 26, fair, pretty, 5'5". Son years, 5'5" pretty sought should preferslim daughter. and ably be a non-smoker Postgraduate from a with sober habits, UK University and between 27-30, from Roman Catholic. employed in a prirespectable vate firm in Colombo. ily. Please reply with Email required defamily details, contact number. propos tails and social media e942021@gmail.com links to : marriage.pr

Academically

ops.321@gmail.com OB159150 Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son from a respectable family is sought by parents from Nugegoda for their daughter born in 1994 July 5 well-mannered. She holds a BSc (Special) degree from a State university. Please

and

of

fied.

mproposa

OB159319

and

reply with a copy horoscope family details and contact OB159309 number. Academically

assets. Reply with and family details, horoprofessionally qualiscope of son to m.pr caring son is oposal0101@gmail.co sought by parents for

Academically or pro-

and Academically profesquali- sionally qualified well employed son sought wellby B/G parents from Colombo District is for their pretty well mannered daughter 89/Sept. 5'3" having IT, MBA currently employed as IT Engineer in reputed company. Owns substantial dowry with motor car. Reply with horoscope and family details. Email: pmpr famoposal@yahoo.com OB159356

Academically professionally quali-OB159160 fied well-mannered son is sought by B/ and G parents for their professionally qualionly daughter, fair fied, religious, good and pretty 85/9, 5'3" looking, caring, emgraduated with B.Sc. ployed son age beand partly qualified tween 32 and 35 from in CIMA, willing to a respectable middle migrate. Inherits asclass family is sought sets. Reply with famby parents for their ilv details, horoscope, qualified, beautiful T/N, email: proposal1 only daughter. Prefer-2342019@gmail.com ably from Kandy area. OB159181 She is 31 + years of Academically qualiage, born in 1989,

fied son (preferably height 5'2" and has in Medical field) is a BSc. Degree in IT sought by Sinhala working in a Senior Buddhist parents role in a reputed Mulfrom Western Provtinational Company ince for their fair in Colombo. Sinhala pretty daughter born Buddhist from Kandy in 1993, 5'. She is a District. She owns final year Medical our house in the Pujastudent in KDU (not pitiya area and other Cadet) caste is immaterial. Please reply with horoscope and family details. cl19 911024@gmail.com OB159009

their daughter born Academically qualiin July 1992, height in September, 1992. fessionally qualified fied, preferably BSc son is sought by B/ 5'4", pretty, well-Engineer / MBBS She is fair, pretty and S parents (Execu-5'2", currently workhandsome Doctor mannered and kindtive in Gov. Sector) son from respectable ing and living in Sinhearted. She is wellfrom Panadura, for family is sought by gapore (PR) as a Enemployed with an IT their daughter born Roman Catholic pro- vironmental Engineer in 1990, height 5'2" fessional parents for Degree awarded from (BEng from NUS). employed, BSc in IT their pretty daughter Horoscope Kuja 8. Academically, protrar in the NHS in the UK University. Caste SLIIT MSc Moratu-(MBBS) Doctor 38 UK. Please reply with immaterial. Please re- wa University. Reply years, 5'3" height. details and a copy of with family details Please respond with family details. E-mail: the horoscope to do and horoscope. Email: mrgprop6@gmail.co dreply@gmail.com ruvibhashani7077@g OB159154 m OB158977 mail.com OB159337 OB159089 com Marriage Proposals CHARGES DOMESTIC MARRIAGE PROPOSALS Rs. 560.00 } def vAT 1st 15 words Each Additional Word DISPLAY MARRIAGE PROPOSALS Rs. 475.00 One Column Centimeter (Inclusive of VAT) **Care of Paper Charges** Rs. 200.00 (Minimum size 3cm x column INTERNET EDITION Domestic - Rs. 400.00 Cost of the Rs. 400.00 Sunday Observer Display Deposit exact amount in REPLIES Account NO.000000 377 of DOMESTIC MARRIAGE PROPOSALS 08 OR 0G OR 0G P.o. Box 2226, Sunday Observer, Lake House Colombo **BOC Lake House Branch** nd forward the slip via email or fax **DISPLAY MARRIAGE PROPOSALS** Green light for ONLINE TRANSFER C/o Sunday Observer, Lake House Colombo 10 imail : classified@lakehouse.lk un 011 2429 375/ 2 429 380 Hotline Inquiries

by Sinhala parents for their academically / professionally qualified daughter who resides in Australia and well employed. She is looking for a partner with a steady job who is willing to

share life with its ups and downs in an honest and open relationship. She is in her very early forties but looks very much younger, slim, attractive, intelligent healthy and well versed in domestic chores. Interests are theater, arts, films, books, cooking etc. We prefer a son who is never married, healthy, non smoker who is between 41 - 45 years old. Only those who are serious about marriage

should respond. Prealready domiciled in family Australia. and caste immaterial. Please reply de ege569@gmail.com OB159024

Academically & professionally qualified, caring son who preferably living is abroad is sought by B/G parents from OB159038 Colombo suburbs.

for only child, born

Academically / profes- Academically / pro-Affluent, professional sionally qualified son fessionally qualified G/B parents seek, a from a stable family well-employed, parttall, handsome partbackground is sought ner devoid of vice ner, a well-qualified from decent family professional or a busibackground sought nessman, financially for fair, pleasant, well-established and slim, 5'6" tall, wellfluent in English, TT/ mannered daughter NS, above 40, from who studied in leadsimilar background, Colombo Budfor only daughter, ing dhist girls' school. fair, She is an Accountant ered cum Banker having tractive and charmcompleted CIMA, ing. well-employed with MBA and IBASL (Banking) exams and substantial employed as Manager Caste, religion differin a reputed bank. We ences are immaterial are B/G/K retired fifor the right partner. nance professionals Divorced from respectable famparty considered. Full details and contact ily background living numbers in Colombo suburbs. Our only son and his Email: whp266@gma wife are both academil.com ically / professionally An academically qualqualified and serving ified, well-mannered in the managerial cadson from a respectre of leading group of able Buddhist family companies an reputed is sought by Kandyan company respectively. B/G parents for their

fer a person who is Please contact with younger details and Born in 1994, 5'4", Religion copy of horoscope. attractive, well man-Email address: viva nered, kind-hearted ha0720@gmail.com and quiet and enthu-OB159318 siast in culinary. Mu-

Academically, saeite and holds BSc. professionally qualified (Honours) in Marpartner sought by keting Management S/B/G professional (University of Plymparents Colombo outh, UK) and MBA suburbs for daughter (University of West London). Employed 1985 born, 5'3" pleasas an Executive at an ant, fair, slim, Singapore citizen, works International Travel Establishment. Inheras Manager, studied in Colombo Buddhist its assets. Parents are school. Owns apartin Singapore and inherits assets Sri tions in the Corporate

retired from Senior Management daughter is a Lawyer

А kind hearted, qualified, non smokpleasant parting ner sought for Govi, Buddhist, 49 years old, 5'2" height, BSc, MSc qualified, pleasant cheerful but responsible and very kind, executive lady reputed national in organization having six figure salary. No family encumbrances. Divorcers and widows also considered. If kids, kids will treat as her own. Email: ga mm31391@gmail.co

A leading lawyer father Salagama Buddhist looks for his professionally qualified pretty, pleasant, fair only daughter with assets working at a private organization in Colombo. 5'5" 30 years Kuja 8 studied at a leading school in Colombo, academically and professionally qualified smart son with assets. Please do reply. mn sdv678@gmail.com OB158164

OB159352

A respectable Catholic / Buddhist parents from Colombo suburbs seek a well mannered son for their verv pleasant & pretty daughter born in 1989, 5'4". Graduated for MD (Doctor of Medicine) & Masters (MPH) from a foreign University. Employed as a managerial position in a Firm in Colombo while reading for MBA. Preparing for Medical Board Examinations & willing to migrate. Please respond with fam-OB159248 Sector and the elder ily details. Email : ra ydeep32@gmail.com OB159016 A Sinhala Buddhist professionally qualified BSc pleasant 43, 5'2" working with PR OB159156 in Australia and assets in Sri Lanka, parents in A Kandy B/G par- seek suitable respect-OB159099

1990, 5'3", parents looking for educated and well mannered son for their daughter. She was graduated as a Software Engineer. Please call: 045-2288718 (Balangoda) after 7.00 p.m. OB159261

About our search : slim and pretty (MBBS) Doctor GP om 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 : prop osalgw2021@gmail.c om OB158604

About 1986 beauty 5'5" Panadura Christian Methodist College MBA complete Bedfordshire, Bank Manager six figure salary luxury house and car, over 40 million only for signature marriage. (did not live Academically together). Email: anu rap1977@gmail.com enokafdo17@gmail.c OB159303 om

About 1989 MBBS Doctor very beauty Doctor. Bodu Govi 5'5", 200 citizens million assets, Doctor or good person. E- Email: marriagepro

as an Assistant Director at Central Bank of Academically and Sri Lanka, having atprofessionally qualified well mannered tractive remuneration fringe benefits, owns caring son from a substantial assets. pr respectable family opksk2016@yahoo.c is sought by B/G/D professional parents

from Colombo suburb for their daughter educated at leading school in Colombo with a pleasing personality born in 1989 / October, 5'4" tall MBBS doctor doing her internship. Please reply with full family at a private company details, copy of horoin Colombo drawing scope and contact dean attractive salary. tails. OB159331

and

Father Buddhist Govi. mother Buddhist Du-Academically rawa. E-mail: propo professionally qualisalpann@gmail.com fied well mannered OB159305 partner is sought by

retired parents for and professionally qualitheir 1990 January fied partner is sought born Bodu Govi 5'4" by B/G parents residbrown complexion ing in Kandy for their pleasant engineerfair slim 33 years old, ing graduate daugh-5'2" daughter MBBS ter who is currently Australian working in a private considered. sector company. hmp roposal2020@gmail.c ply with details to : tc proposal1992@gmail.

Kindly reply with fessionally well-employed, mannered caring son is sought by G/B mother from Kandy, for her young-

Lanka.

est daughter. She is well-employed Australia with master ents looking for an able son. Email:- mpr qualification willing academically and pro- opos.aus@gmail.com to settle in Austra- fessionally qualified lia, 28 years, 5 fts, son for their January tan complex. Kuja & 1987 born, 5'3" fair Kethu in 7th house. with a pleasing per- are seeking a suitable Those living in Aus- sonality Research En- son for their younger tralia preferred. Regineer daughter living ply with family de- in Sydney. Please retails with H/cope. m ply with horoscope to prop56@gmail.com : kandy111396@gmai OB159111 l.com

Affluent Govi Bud- A kind hearted, dhist respectable qualified, non smokmother seeks suitable ing pleasant partner preferably sought for Govi, Budpartner Doctor for my daughdhist, 49 years old, ter born 1993 final 5'2" height, BSc MSc vear Medical student qualified, pleasant cheerful but responin Government University. Fair slim and sible and very kind, attractive 5'2". Lookexecutive lady in reing for handsome son puted national orgawith sober habits, nization having six elder son is MD Docfigure salary. No famtor. Younger son is an ily encumbrances. Di-Engineer Overseas. vorcees and widow-Reply with family de- ers also considered. tails horoscope and If kids, Kids will be TP Number. Email - r treated as her own, gamagek@gmail.com Email: gamm31391@

BG Christian middleclass retired parents daughter 1992 May born qualified Accountant in a private firm in Colombo. Grown in a Sinhala environment, Tamil rose, cannot speak Tamil. Send details to: cbent.901@gmail. OB159226 com

BG Colombo professional parents with two children, seek a suitable partner for their daughter born 1990 October, 5'2", completed PhD in Computer Science, Australia. Only brother at Graduate level in the financial field. Please reply with horoscope & details to mpsrilanka2017@ gmail.com OB159158

> Continued on page 68



Piyumi- 0112 429 383 Ramani - 0112 429 347 | Gayani - 0112 429 343 / 342

OB159180 Academically and professionally qualified non-smoker teetotaller partner is sought by Colombo suburb retired teacher parents for their slim, pretty daughter 5'7", 33 years, BSc Engineer (Moratuwa) with assets working



page 67 respectable

Bodu Deva retired respectable parents from Galle suburbs seek an academically professionally and qualified well-mannered, caring son for their pleasant, pretty and kind-hearted daughter youngest 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. Bodu Email: nsdproposal@

Bodu Govi parents seek an educated cultured person for their daughter following Master degree in Australia born in late 1987, 5'4" fair pretty separated owing to mismatch in a short period. Priority is given to quality of person than religion or caste. 2021.weddi ng.proposal@gmail.c OB159321 om

gmail.com OB158992

Bodu Govi retired parents from a very respectable family from Kurunegala seek a Doctor, Engineer or highly educated son of a similar background for their youngest daughter. Pretty, slim, fair, kind hearted, educated from a leading girls school and born in 1995, Kuja 7 horoscope, 5'6" tall, working in a bank. Two elder sisters a Scientist in Australia a copy of horoscope, and Medical Doctor family details and in SL. Both are mar- contact number. Kujaried. Please call: 037- 8. proposalvsp@gmai 2233277. OB159256 l.com

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Contacts -

0777 27 00 67

0777 27 08 45

Bodu Karawa / Govi parents with very ents from Colombo family suburb seek a suitable son for their only background seek an daughter 27 yrs. (Nov. educated son from a 1993) 5'2" pretty slim respectable family bebrought up with Sinlow 31 years for their hala Buddhist values. daughter 25 years She was educated at a pretty 5'6" tall Hon. leading girls school in Graduate in Business Colombo & holds de-Management workgree in medicine from ing as an Executive a foreign University in a well-recognized organization, inherinherits substantial assets. Father is a reits substantial assets. tired C.E.O. of a Govt. Non-malefic horoinstitution & mother scope. Please send is a graduate teacher. horoscope and fam-Reply with family ily details in first letdetails, horoscope & ter. Email : marriage

contact information. pro1996@gmail.com Email: spcgm@yah OB158588 oo.com, Radala/Govi rathne@gmail.com parents seek partner

for their 34 yrs., old Buddhist, Kandyan, only daughter 5'6", high caste parents studied at the Hillseek an educated and wood College and professionally quali-Girls High School fied partner from a Kandy, qualified postsimilar family for graduate diploma in their pretty, attractive Marketing at SLIM, daughter 29 years & preferably living 5'3". She is presently abroad. E-mail: mkel pursuing her PhD in egamaO@gmail.com life sciences overseas. OB159254

She has one more year to complete. Re-Bodu/Govi parents in ply with horoscope, Canada, seek an acaall details and contact demically qualified number to email: ma well-mannered son rriageproposal803@g for daughter 27, pretmail.com OB159113 ty, fair, 5'4". Canadian graduate works in Ontario. Reply with horoscope. canadap

B/G business parents from Galle seek wellmannered handsome rop234@gmail.com & educated partner OB159140 for their 1990 May born pretty daughter, Catholic Bodu/Govi parents

parents professional parents able fessional seek a qualified and from Colombo suburbs seek professionvirtuous son-in-law ally and academically for only child born in qualified well-man-1992. She is an MBBS Doctor and studied nered (TT/NS) son in a leading School for their pretty slim daughter brought up in Colombo. She is with Buddhist Sin-5'2" in height, with a hala values born in very pleasing person-1994, 5'5" educated ality and loves music. at leading girls' school Please respond with in Colombo employed family details and a as a lecturer in state copy of horoscope of university pursue your son via email w postgraduate studies ithaproposal@gmail.c overseas. Please reom ply with full family

Colombo B/G parents details and a copy of hailing from an affluhoroscope. Email: 20 ent family seek a suit-21mproposal@gmail. able partner for their OB159178 professionally quali-

com

.com

seek

convent

Graduate

parents

iaykhguna

OB159093

B/G, 39, 5'6", beautified daughter, emful, very fair, UK eduployed in the Medical cated Lecturer, read-Sector. (Born in 1985, ing for Ph.D., owns height 5'8"). ramani assets, divorced no .fernando2008@gm encumbrances. mang ail.com 0773486021, alayojana1112@gmail 0112793832. OB159005 OB158986

Catholic Govi Sinhala Colombo Govi Budparents in Colombo dhist parents seek edprofessionally ucated kind hearted qualified partner behandsome son with low 45 years with non malefic horosober habits for their scope for their youngeducated est daughter born in daugh-1985 Jan, height 5'2" ter born 1977, 5'4", slim pretty and fair in employed in leadcomplexion graduated ing Organization in in IT and working for managerial position. a reputed IT company Reply with family in Colombo. Email: p details contact Teleroposal3388@gmail.c phone Number - su om ba.ediri@gmail.co

m Call 0112410179. Colombo G/B parents OB159001 seek a qualified employed son for their Negombo daughter. 42 yrs, 5ft, edu-

professional family seeks similar educated cultured business partner for youngest daughter 31 years, 5'3", fair, slim, pretty UK graduate holds MBA running her own business, reply with horoscope, family details. prop osl2021@gmail.com OB159115

Colombo G/B respectprofessional family seeks well educated cultured OB159042 partner 1984, 5'2", well educated smart pretty, UK qualified Engineer daughter business consultant. Reply horoscope with family details. prop osl2021@gmail.com OB159117

> resident Colombo parents business looking for their educated pretty daughter 1995, height 5'3", have done Business Management degree. Owns new luxury house, vehicle valuable assets. Please reply with details and horoscope. E-mail: pr oposalmarriage195@ gmail.com OB159051

Colombo respectable Dewa parents seek a son non-smoker, teetotaller for their graduate daughter born in 1983 (October) 37 years old, working at OB159333 a reputed company differences immateri-

al. Reply with family details and horoscope. OB159021 for their 1976, 5'4",

pretty, charming religious daughter Ex-Colombo slim. She is a qualified Govi Buddhist busiparents seek ness same caste partner for daughter 1993 April, height 5'3", educated at a leading girls school Business Management graduate. Dowry available. swarnapala61@gmail

159022.

suburbs Govi Buddhist par-(land owning) reents in UK, seek business partner for pretty fair family seeks educated daughter, qualified as businessman or pro-Doctor of head and fessionally qualified neck and working son for their elder as a dentist in UK. educated Born 1986, 5'5" tall, at Sirimavo Bandabrought up with Budranaike College obdhist values. Looking tained MBA from for academically and University professionally qualiholds PR. MSc from same university born fied son. Preferably height 5'5" a Doctor. Please no very pretty fair slim divorcees. Please resmart active and spond with horoscope

spectable

daughter

Monash

virtuous. Govi Bud-

dhist or Catholic

warnapala1961@gm

ail.com 0114884261.

leading girls school in

Colombo, BSc (Hon-

ours) Colombo, MSc

(Moratuwa) well em-

ployed in Colombo. p

roposal.4953.c1@gm

France, Buddhist par-

ents seek a suitable

partner above 5'8"

tall (below 32 years)

for their eldest daugh-

ter 23 years (1997 in

Paris) 5'6" 5th year

medical student in

Paris. Please email

copy of horoscope to

il.com preferred Sri

Lankans living in Eu-

Gampaha B/G par-

ents seek a well-man-

nered educated son

OB159196

chamini.k70@gma

rope.

ail.com

OB158972

Non

OB159204

considered.

1988

Medical Faculty, the to proposal202011@h girl is 28 years old otmail.com OB159262 fair slim and 5'4" in malefic horoscope. s G/B parents from South residing in Colombo suburbs seek an educated graduate son for daughter Colombo 05, B/G parabout 5', 1987 June, ents seek, academically qualified well English graduate

employed caring son, teacher, father spefor their elder daughcialist Doctor. Rahu ter. She is very pretty 1, Kethu 7. propo with excellent characsalgle@gmail.com ter, born in 1980 May, OB159245 height 5'1", studied at

suitable partner for their pretty daughter G/B respectable parents seek an educated holding degree born son for their beautiful in 1993 fair slim height 5'3" a web daughter, in Australia, brought up with journalist in a leading Sinhalese values, media firm, for fur-1997/1 born 5'3" obther details, contact: tained a degree in in-0112470900. dasheer ternational business kfmmc196@gmail.co management (Sri m Lanka) and Master Mother is looking for of Commerce in Aus-

a well educated parttralia. Please reply ner for her Ameriwith horoscope, contact details to: propo can citizen, 44 yrs sal.dr65@gmail.com old younger looking OB158997 beautiful

who is working as Inviting an educated a nurse. She is a diprofessional in forties vorcee, no children. especially from Eng-Please apply with the lish countries for B/G horoscope. OB159250 unmarried beautiful daughter currently re-Negombo, siding abroad. Owns middle class, retired

Our daughter aged 33, is currently completing her PhD (Engineering) in New Zealand, Moor parents, father is a Medical Doctor and brother is an Engineer. Please reply to: mproposal. sl.2020@gmail.com

with sister 33 years,

5'2" fair educated

daughter looking edu-

cated partner. Roman

Catholic special. men

0061400772270, 011-

2256558. OB159306

Moor parents from

Colombo looking for

a partner for their

daughter who passed

out from the Colombo

height, the girl in-

herits valuable assets

along with a house.

Please send your de-

tails to: nikahpropo

Moor parents from

Colombo-12 seek a

well-educated profes-

sional well-groomed

OB159057

OB158627

sal992@gmail.com

kafdo@hotmail.com

OB159223

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. OB158573

Pannipitiya 1986, 5'3" Govi Buddhist Graduate, Postgraduate only daughter working in government authority in permanent post with dowry. Suitable son is

sought. OB159283 Parents seek Bodu Govi honest suitable daughter young partner 33 year only daughter 5'4" tall slim beautiful charming attractive featured girl belonging Sinhalese valued fam-Catholic ily recently divorced after brief marriage due to incompatibility no children educated teacher presently living in New Zealand with PR. Reply email: jayaboc@yahoo.com OB159338

professionally qualified caring son for their daughter MBBS Doctor 5'3" born 1987 September. Please reply with OB159336

graduated in BSc, Mgt: (J'pura) employed in a private bank. Kuja in 7th House. Please reply with horoscope to: proposalmrg:90@ gmail.com OB159174 lombo suburb seek

suitable partner for pretty, fair daughter

5'4", born 1984. (BSc. Hons.) Lecturer in Biological Science. Kataka Kuja 7. Equivalent or higher education, stable employment Colombo Convent and good character. educated, graduate (Kuja in 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, teacher (English me-12) preferred. Please dium) daughter. Tel: send details / horo-038-2239110 (call afscope to : aspiration ter 7 p.m.) E-mail: su sdawn@gmail.com ranaf2002@yahoo.co OB159012 m OB159258

ligious son for pleasant daughter 5'1", 41, passed A/L and higher studies. Gifts furnished house, coconut properties 12 B/G parents in Co- acres, fixed deposit cash. E-mail: kjms TP: male@gmail.com OB159257 Catholic parents close to Moratuwa seek an Kandy K/G/B Parents seek an educated well employed educated and relison for pretty fair and slim daughter of 29 years. Studied gious minded partner at a leading Girls' School. Graduate in Management and for their 32 years old employed. Also, she is a director in family owned company.

seek

cated, employed, re-Accountant CIMA/ reading for MBA. Owns a vehicle will inherits a house in Colombo. Requests family details/horoscope. E-mail: mgp rop19@gmail.com 011-2502473.

and ecutive, BSc, MBA. Owns house, car. per erain65@gmail.com OB159167 Gampaha District

Govi Buddhist parents seek Doctor / businessman son for their daughter born 1996, height 5'7" educated in leading OB159095 Colombo school doing final year in Software

Engineering daughter, non-malefic horoscope. Email: marriag eprop2096@gmail.co OB159281 m Govigama Budhdist parents seek qualified partner for daughter Attorney-at-law 39 years. Please re-

nip417@gmail.com

fessionally qualified son for their daughter ply with a copy of

OB159195 ahoo.com OB159081

assets, academically Teacher parents seek professionally, unmarried, educated, highly qualified. Digood charactered vorced without enpartner for their cumbrances also 47 years, unmarconsidered. Relocaried, BSc. Graduate tion possible. gunaw Teacher daughter. a1942@gmail.com She speaks all three OB159138 languages. Email - s

Kandy B/G Govt. com Servant parents seek academically and pro-

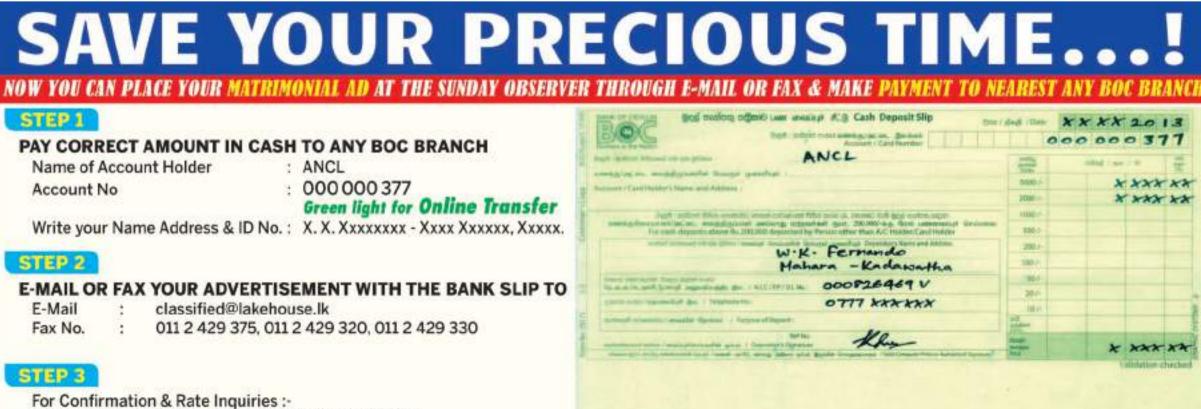
1993 December 5'4" tall, tan and pretty. Mgt degree holder professionally qualified in private sector. Sister is a teacher and brother is an Engineer. Non-malefic horoscope. Reply with horoscope and full dehoroscope. chanda tails with contacts via email: proposal.70@y

hiropeiris@yahoo. Continued on 031-2272818. page 69 OB159162

BRIDE

Academically and professionally qualified daughter from Colombo suburbs wishes to find a qualified, smart & tall son from similar family background for marriage. She is 28 years (1992) 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. infoprop2019@gmail.com Tel - 011 4 897 363



Piyumi - 011 2 429 383, 011 2 429 342, 011 2 429 343

C/O Sunday Observer - Lake House, Colombo 10.

Legally terminated a proposed engagement limited only to the signature. Two brothers are graduates. Inherit assets. Reply with family details copy of horoscope and contact number

E-mail - proposalkandy20@gmail.com

OB159049

.com

BRIDE

#### Sunday Observer February 28, 2021 69



FOR INQUIRIES : Eamani - 011 2 129 347 Piyumi - 011 2 429 383 Gayuni - 011 2 429 342/343

Continued from page 68



job seek well-Parents mannered goodcharactered, educated partner (groom) for / 0112437085. amah their only daughter in the family, final year Medical student, in

a Medical College in Republic of China, Govi Buddhist pretty fair in complexion, religious, thirty-two old divorcee vears of an unsuccessful marriage of a shorter period. Legally separated, She possesses a two storeyed house and other assets and properties. OB158975

Professionally aca demically qualified Catholic well-mannered handsome son height above 5'6" below 37 years is sought by respectable Catholic wealthy parents for their pretty slim professionally qualified daughter 33 years height 5'5" studied in a Colombo school. details and Family contact number to: r jbm60@gmail.com OB159185

Professionally qualified / established son is sought by Govi R/C parents (also willing to migrate with the right partner). Caste / religion immaterial. Daughter 1992 (July), 5'6" height, very pretty with pleasing personality employed in leading bank. Inherits cent family backassets. Write with all family details & contact No. to: gdtkpere ra3561@gmail.com OB159200

Roman Catholic Well connected, edu-Tamil, Vellalar 1985 cated, born fair daughter height 5' MBA/CMA double degrees workible, ing senior Accounts follow-Executive ing Masters, looking graduate standard looking good partner Colombo or abroad. 0776447014 es1960@gmail.com OB159164

Sinhala Catholic reparents spectable seek an educated, well-mannered son that is studying and/ Well established busior employed in the ness USA or Canada for for their pretty fair their beautiful 1993 born, 5'1" daughter. daughter 23 years. 5'6" in height stud-She is professionied at a leading inally qualified and emternational school in ployed while pursu-Colombo finished her ing Graduate Studies in the USA. Please respond with a con-

tact number. Email : sriyap81@gmail.com OB159152 Sinhalese parents seeking a Christian partner for their only daughter, 32 years age and lives in Melbourne, Australia. She is 5'4" and has completed her studies up to Master's level and now works for an

Australian Company m as a Financial Plan-Well ner. She is a decent, ents respectable and wellmannered girl with means. She is slim and fair, 0114897695. OB159368

employed

Southern

ground,

medium

ter.

salth93@gmail.com

in leading overseas

Buddhist and horoscope. E-1993, 5'2" pretty, mail: dunesha@gmai slim well mannered l.com daughter with a de-Western



We are looking for a professional professionally qualiparents (Govi / Budfied, handsome, well dhist / Colombo subbrought up and reaurbs), seek a compatsonably social and non smoking friendly son, who partner between the ages of 28 and 32 for lives in UK for our their daughter born wonderful daughter. in 1993. She was edu-We are professional cated at an Anglican parents living in Longirls' school and comdon. Our daughter is pleted university education in the US open very beautiful, fair, to living abroad or slim. Proposal should in Sri Lanka. Please leading to marbe email details, and a riage. She was born copy of the horoscope and educated in Lonto inquiry401983@g mail.com OB159209 don, 33 yrs and 5'3",

qualified in Law in LLB & LPC. She is family from kind, down to earth, Colombo B/S seeks brought up with Sinhalese values. Owns a property in London. s hantieb@hotmail.co.

uk

Engineering degree We G/B doctor parand completed her ents from Colombo MBA at University of West London She suburbs seek a proowns over 800 milfessional lion with assets, seeks well mannered kind an educated handhearted caring son some son from an for our daughter born established business 1994, 5'6", Mefamily residing in Coin lombo, Please send chatronic Engineerthe horoscope and deing graduate from an tails of the family and Australian university, son business families currently reading for only and Sri Lankan her PhD and prepared residence only. Email nsjp1110@gmail.co to live in Australia or OB159134 Canada. Her Kuja

in 7th house. Reply respected parwith family details in Colombo & horoscope to prop district seek suitable partner for their osal467@gmail.com pretty, eldest daughter born in 1982, 5'5' in height. Please reply with family details

marriage. Write in Sri Lanka. Parents spectable professional OB159313 virtuous son for their yourself, with chilseek suitable kind parents from Copretty younger lookdren also welcome. m m pretty daughter below Province lombo suburbs, from ing daughter 1985 ithila12d@gmail.com Bodu Govi (horo-34 yrs. from Australia a family with similar 5'4" LLB / BSG Oct. with Shani OG159351 for our legally sepabackground, for their lead business analyst fied, rated son. email: prop 5'10" tall, very handhearted daughter is in a global IT compa- About our son born osal5645@gmail.com some, kind-hearted, ny. Reply with family 1990, 5'5", Senior OG159097 sought by respectable 33 years old only son details. 0362233749. Software Engineer B/G parents living in working for an In- graduated in USA Academically quali-OB159173 the USA for their one ternational firm in with BSc. and M.Sc. fied charming daughand only son, born in An upcountry Budter living in UK Colombo. Studied at in Business Man-1988 Western Prov-1986, well broughtup overseas or willing to ince Govi Buddhist Ananda College & agement. Currently Sinhala Buddhist valmigrate is sought by Lyceum. Masters de- working as a Business parents seek a profes-Sinhala Buddhist parsionally qualified cargree from Sheffield Executive at a multients for their eldest ing son with a good national company in Halm - UK. Sinhala, son 5'5" born in June family background USA. Inherits sub-Buddhist. Resides in 1988 BA (Hons) curfor their pretty daughstantial assets in Sri Malabe seeks a prorently living and emter, smart educated fessionally / academi-Lanka and overseas. ployed in London as and well employed. cally qualified daugh- Please email family a Business Develop-Reply with horoscope ter preferably below details and a copy of ment Manager. Partthe horoscope to: ma and family details. pr 28. E-mail with horotime Musician. props Canada or USA for ops202010@gmail.co scope to cyn90pro@g rriage3021@yahoo.co 1988london@gmail.c OB159332 mail.com OG159244 m OG159284 m om OG159310 Have Your SUNDAY OBSERVER LADU OB159307 02 We are looking for a professionally qualified, handsome, well Advertisement in brought up and reasonably social and friendly son, who umina Paper too lives in UK for our wonderful daughter. m We are professional for just parents live in London. Our daughter very beautiful, fair, slim, proposal Rs. E-mail your advertisement to, classified@lakehouse.lk 011 2 429 383 Piyumi Ramani - 011 2 429 347 Gayani - 011 2 429 342 / 343

fessionally qualified daughter of a family with three educated children living in Canada is proposed for an educated son not over 28 years. Professional parents (G/B) in Sri Lanka invites suitable parents in Sri Lanka and overseas including Australia to reply with the family details and a copy of the detailed horoscope to: uv253799@gmail.co OB159186

1996, daughter with a pleasing personality. Postgraduate, well employed and inherits valuable assets. Buddhist parents seek OB159365 a suitable son from a business family. Con-

tact: 2021febmarry@ gmail.com OB159072 qualified 40, 5'2", Colombo Executive fair daughter

seeking well mannered son. Reply full details and horoscope. Assets 35 million. pro pda2015@gmail.com

Able well established professional 46Y young looking, OB158995 divorced with one

WP/GB hereditary respectable parents seek educated handsome

1996 born 5'4" pro- Academically professionally qualified B/G, 5'7", 1986 born Senior Software Engineer employed in a wellknown IT Company with sober habits is looking for a kind-hearted bride. Father (Doctor) and mother (Teacher) deceased. Elder brother lives in Australia with his wife. Having migration plans. Sri Lankans living in Australia will be preferred. Sri Lankans who are willing to migrate will also be

> sun.suranjaya@gmail OG159070 .com Academically professionally qualified beautiful daughter who is permanent resident in Canada is sought by parents for our son. He is graduated in IT field, working as an IT Engineer in a famous company in London, Ontario, Canada. He is a non smoker, teetotaller OB159300 with excellent character, 32, 5'11" height

Please reply with details email: yamuna fernando09@gmail .com 031-2275972.

Academically professionally qualified fair pretty daughson, invites an inter is sought by G/B dependent lady for highly connected re-

and Academically and professionally qualified fair, pretty kindhearted daughter is sought by Sinhala Buddhist parents from Western Province for their professionally qualified son born in 1991 Oct., 5'3", well brought up with Sinhala Buddhist values. He studied in a leading School in Colombo, an Engineer BSc. (Moratuwa) MSc. (UK) currently reading for his PhD. (USA) caste is immaterial. Kindly reply with horoscope and family details. asmh preferred. Email - da k5765@gmail.com OG159037

> Academically proand fessionally qualified pretty slim beautiful daughter is sought by S/B/G parent Colombo for their son 5'11", 40, handsome, kind hearted employed Senior position prescompany tigious Colombo graduate England famous university Interior Arch Design. Owns assets luxury houses, differences immaterial. lav c.wijethunga@gmail. OG158983 com

Academically professionally qualified Sinhala Buddhist respect-OG159103

able handsome NS/ and TT BSc IT Engineer, 38, 5'10" working in Govt. of Australia, stay in own house in Melbourne and assets

Academically Academically, qualifessionally qualified fied partner sought by B/G Colombo suburbs slim, fair daughter is sought by Buddhist professionally qualified parents for their / Karawe parents for their educated son USA qualified son who is 29 yrs., 5'7" Software MSc/BSc in height. He has Engineer. Employed B.Eng., M.Eng. and 37. 5'9" religious, was a recipient of brought up to Sinha-Japanese Government lese culture. Reply full-scholarship. He with family details is currently working and horoscope. pare as an Emerging Technt1083@gmail.com

OG159035 Academically qualified pretty slim daughter is sought bv Buddhist Karawa respectable well-to-do parents in Colombo suburbs for their

nology

handsome well-mannered son with good personality 33, 5'8" NS/TT Government University Lecturer PhD (abroad). Inherits substantial assets. Brother doctor, caste immaterial. Email: m arriage2019@yahoo.c

om

G2021015507

Academically qualified, fair, slim, pretty daughter is sought by S/B/G professional parents from Colombo suburbs for handson born in some 1991, studied at Colombo leading school, 5'7", Senior Engineer (BSc.) (MA). Inherits substantial assets. sar athwim53@gmail.co OG159246

Academically quali

pretty kind

A suitable partner. propreferably 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 Consultant the life and culture in a reputed internain USA. A teetotaltional consulting firm ler, non-smoker. He in Tokyo. He is open is 46 years old but looks much vounger to migrate to another than that. Divorcees country in the longare also considered. term (Kuja 7). Please Please send us your send family details daughter's details to: with horoscope to d sudafer@gmail.com OG159215 0915617210.

suitable Roman

Catholic bride sought

А

Best way to fulfil

ECC - Acc. Biz 000000377

Green light for

**Online Transfer** 

OG159363 Age Fourty Four MBA qualified height 5'4", six figure salary, son, father looking for Sinhala religious, Buddhist bride. Email:- s enehasa487@gmail.c OG159136 om An educated, pretty

ilanka9129@gmai

l.com

well-mannered and daughter is sought bv respectable Udarata B/G mother for her handsome and educated son living in Australia. Holding a Senior Executive position in a reputed private firm. Widower, one kid, born in 1980, 5'10" height, differences immaterial. Prefer those who

are currently living

ife812@gmail.com

grating to Australia.

the family. (only Aus/

by parents for their only son 30 years, 5'11'' tall, handsome, well educated abroad. Graduated from prestigious university from London. An present working Marketing Manager at Multinational Food chain abroad with good package, living with parents. Bride must be English speaking as well as Sinhalese, age of 26 to 29 years considered, father is working as an Executive, mother is housewife. Interested parties pls send all details with contact numbers to email: ha ppylife19615@gmail. OG159359 com in Australia. Please A well established respond to partnerl Govi Buddhist parents seek an educated (preferably a profes-OG159028 sional) pretty, slim daughter for their dhist family seeks Barrister-at-Law (UK) & Attorney-ata daughter for their Law (SL) son, 6 feet son, 5'7", fair, Athtall, aged 27, fair and slim. Respond with (BSc) and entreprehoroscope to: propos neur, working in al2021.marriage@gm Japan. He'll be mi-OG158119 ail.com A happy daughter is A well mannered, warmly welcomed to educated & pleasant, working or non work-Sinhala Buding, dhist girl with a good character, is sought by well connected OG159144 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 & teetotaller 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: mpgro om@gmail.com. All information treated strictly private & confidential. OG157913



Professionally qualified, well mannered caring son is sought by Bodu Govi mother from Colombo for daughter born 1980, 5'3", pretty, MBA holder, working in a leading company in Singapore. Contact: 0112 941875. OB159364

Respectable G/B parents from Colombo seek qualified suitable handsome kind partner (live in the UK) for our pretty daughter 26 + resides in the UK and studying Bio-Medical Science at Cardiff University (final year) her brothers live in the UK. Reply with family details. 1 akpropos@gmail.co  $m \quad 00447846543284$ (after 3.00 p.m.) 011-2696402. OB159278

Retired parents K/ B respectable family seek educated professional businessman between 45 - 55 for pretty teacher. Details horoscope in first mail. pearecostn zgroom@gmail.com OB159357

Roman Catholic Sinhala parents from Colombo suburb seek a partner for their daughter, 27 years 5 feet, attended a leading Catholic Convent, well educated, employed as an executive in a private firm. She inherits substantial assets, Please reply with full details to job. Has individual email:- ndc5105@gm OB159330 2802019. ail.com

scope company in Colombo Mangala Yogaya) 23 as a Senior Software vears, 5'5" daughter Engineer, executive working in a private parents seek handbank in Colombo, some, virtuous, highparents are looking for a kind hearted, edly employed son from ucated partner from a respectable family. a respectable family. Only younger sister Roman Catholics & (Software Engineer). Tamils also considpropj93@gmail.com ered. propo19983@g OB159091 mail.com OB159142

South B/G parents We are Christian parseek academically & ents well established professionally qualiin Canada seeking a fied well mannered kind, well mannered, son from respecteducated (profesable family for their sional designation) daughter 1993, 5'6" partner residing in Government English Teacher. our daughter 33 years Currently pursuing of age. She is well a Bachelor's Degree. mannered, bearing She owns a valugood Sri Lankan famable property. propo ily oriented values, attractive, slim and fair, 5'5". She is pro-OB159029

fessionally qualified S/G/B mother seeks with an MBA, eman educated caring ployed at a reputable son for 1989, 5'3", company in a Senior MBA qualified daughposition. E-mail: dpr Owns valuable oposal15@gmail.com

assets. proposalind ra1989@gmail.com OB159031

Temporary resident in Australia 26 yrs., 5'1", degree holder. She is a kind hearted attractive girl with simple life style. Seeking educated kind hearted partner by her parents.OB159252 The mother of a very

should be leading to respectable Catholic marriage. She was family in Colombo is born and educated in seeking a gentleman London, 33 yrs., and age 47-50 with good 5'3", qualified in law education and a lucrain LLB & LPC. She is tive job, for a smart kind, down to earth, girl, 47, 5'5". Who is brought up with sindoing well in a good halese values. Owns a property in London. s means. Tele No: 011hantieb@hotmail.co. OB159003 uk OB159255

ues, with sober habits. Non-smoker and lete, 1988, Engineer non-alcoholic, 6'1" in height and handsome holding a BSc. in Chemistry. Currently working as a Pharmacy Lab Technician in the USA and also

Jpn students can be owns a house. Mothconsidered for now). er is an Assistant dma.boulevard@gmai Teacher of the USA l.com Board of Education. (was a Science and A pleasant tall daugh-

Math Teacher in Sri ter is sought by G/ Lanka) and the father B mother for PhD is a retired Photo Lab qualified, healthy son, Technician. Please re-6ft tall, born in 1973 spond with family dewith sober habits, emtails with the copy of ployed in USA. Legalthe horoscope includly separated after very ing the date, time and brief marriage with place of birth (City or no encumbrances. town) with a photo Reply with horoscope with contact number and details. usaprop to rathnath@gmail.co osal333@gmail.com OG159076

OG158082 BRIDEGROOM This Prominent Space is Available for Your BRIDEGROOM ad. Box Size - 6cm x 6.3cm 0777 27 00 67 Contacts -0777 27 08 45

Continued on page 70



Continued from page 69 5'8" some



А well-mannered educated & pleasant, working or nonworking, Sinhala girl with Buddhist character, а good is sought by wellconnected respectable Sinhala Govi Buddhist parents for their only son. He is well-educated and has been brought up in a very strong Buddhist Sinhalese cultural background, born in 1991. After completing his studies in the United Kingdom he is presently managing the family business companies in Sri Lanka. Please reply with family details, horoand contact scope numbers. itsrath91@ gmail.com OG159188

ter

old

om

5'7'

Bodu / Govi parents seek a partner for their 30 years smart looking son 5'5" born 1989 November, he is a professionally qualified Chartered Accountant and completed MBA in Finance and BSc. in Accounting as well. He is working as Senior Manager Senior Internal Auditor at Ministry of Finance in Republic of Seychelles for salary of 51ks with luxury apartment given by the Government. Father has his own business in Matara Town and mother is a housewife, he has one elder brother and one sister. They are working as a Doctor and an Engineer. Both were married to a Doctor and an for Engineer. Inherits BSc, substantial assets from his father we are ing as an Executive in reputed company. looking actually pretty educated and well Please mannered daughter. family 0412250549, proposa horoscope to; propos lmatara7@gmail.com al2020yr@gmail.com OG159033

Born 1965, divorcee, height, handmuch (very young looking) established, seek a pleasant kind hearted partner from a respectable family for early marriage. Please reply with full details including contact number to, lifewj2014@g mail.com OG159079 Buddhist Karawa re-

puted business parents from Kadawatha seek a well mannered fair and pretty daugh-(with/without job) for their 32 yrs

son BA, MBA qualified, invite proposals with family details and horoscope. p roposal4015@gmail.c OG159055

B/G fair, handsome son born in 1977 qualified IT Engineer - Sri Jayawardenapura and MSc. in UK, studied at Royal College - Colombo. Owns IT Company and assets in Gampaha. Dowry not compulsory. Retired

mother seeks pretty seek partner below 38 yrs. No family encum-OG159039 brances. B/G mother seeks a pleasant, slim and a quiet daughter who is academically and pro-

B/G respectable parents seek a well educated pleasant daughter for their son who is a leading Lawyer born in 1986, 5'10", practising in Colombo based. Studied in a leading private college in Kandy, obtained a Degree from Australia also. Father and the daughter also Lawyers and second son is an MBBS (Sri Lanka) Doctor. Please reply with family details and Telephone Nos. to pr oposal8621@gmail.co m or call 0772510862,

0322240012. OG159148

ed and well brought fessionally qualified

pretty, houses. spaces. material.

Govi

caring

B/G South respectable family, mother seeks a fair, pretty educated daughter from respectable family for our youngest son, 1983, 5'8" graduated with High Dip. (NDES), BEng (UK), MSc (UK) and presently following Chart. Eng (UK) working as a Consulting Officer in Civil Engineering field Airport (AASL) Katunayake and willing to migrate if nec-

essary. 0412228956 k d7240@yahoo.com OG159323 B/K respectable parents from Colombo an educated, pleasant, kind heart-

up partner for their son, a Software Engineer by profession, born in 1983, 5'6' in height, teetotaller non smoker with pleasant mannerisms, he studied at a leading for son, 27, 5'7", slim boys' school and pursued higher studies and handsome, Civil in IT, in SL and UK, Engineer, educated currently employed abroad. He is a Di-

Colombo 05, B/G, CIMA, MBA comwith an umblemished pany Director, only character, below 30 child of family, paryrs, for his British ents seek virtuous, citizen sporty music intelligent loving daughter, son owns towards the end of business Consultant training lands, and in the UK, 39 yrs and many assets, 45 years, 5'7". Reply to. virgin fair and very handproposal@yahoo.com some, looks 32 years, height 5'10", legally separated from first

Gampaha marriage, no encum-Bodu / Govi mother brances, should be a retired Government unmarried, below 35 Servant seeks a suityears, differences imable partner, a quali-2503525,fied pleasant look-2587501. OG159105 ing girl for her only son, born in 1987, December 1993, Bodu

well-respected height 5'7", studied at affluent family, fa-Ananda College Cother, a University lombo, employed in Professor and mother, apparel company as a Teacher in a leadan IT Manager, only ing girls' school, seek sister gone overseas well-mannered, for her highest studand honest ies. Please send your daughter for their family details and educated, handsome, contact details. mail well-mannered son. thilinad@gmail.com Height 5'9" and he is working as an Ex-

ecutive in a reputed Gampaha firm. Early educa-Southern Govi Budtion in Royal College, dhist parents seek Colombo and is a bride below 35 with Graduate in Business PR status in foreign Management. Only country for their fair sister is married to son 37 years height an affluent educated 5'6" owns new house family. Proposed son and other assets (reinherits properties cently retired after and assets exceeding working abroad for 250 Million located 10 years), family with in Colombo and Galle business background Districts. Please conpreferred. Hopes to tact with horoscope and complete family settle overseas after details of similar caste marriage. Email: san and stature. proposal duuw46@gmail.com s 2020@vahoo.com

Father seeks a bride Govi Buddhist respectable established business partners seek a suitable daughter for their educated businessman doctor son, 32+, NS/TT, height 5'11", Sole Proprietor of his established business, Kuja in 8th house. E-mail : propo sals1999@outlook.co OG159192 OG159146 m District

son

Govi Sinhala Christian mother seeking a kind daughter in marriage for their only son born 1990 September 5'7" studied in a leading school working as an executive in a leading company for more details contact asdealws@g mail.com OG159227

Govi, Buddhist respectable professional his

G/B business parents from Colombo seek OG159296 pretty fair slim fluent in English professionally academically qualified, settled overseas or planning to migrate daughter. Caste religion immaterial for Civil Engineer son B Eng, MSc from reputed foreign universities working as Research Associate abroad, 5'4", 33, very handsome fair corporation. hobbies travelling. In-Kuja in 08th House. herits valuable assets Uthrapal Nekatha. in Sri Lanka. Malefic Marriage restricted to horoscope. Reply with full family details & registration may also reply. Email: thilaka2 horoscope. Email: pro posalig@hotmail.com

G/B parents Colom-Malay parents looking a Malay or Moor bo suburbs seek an educated honest well girl around Colombo age 30, 33 no Abaya smart fair and tall educated, for son working abroad Tan/ C well educated contact after 10 a.m. 2334035. OG159061 Moor father and con-

Canada verted mother seek Please reply an educated bride family for qualified son 32 horoscope and conyears 5'6" with a good tact details. canman overseas job and well gala88@gmail.com settled in life. Bride should be willing to accompany after mar-Respectable Kandyan

riage. sheh89sham@g Buddhist mail.com OG159053 seek well educated fair and kind hearted NWP Govi Buddhist daughter for their businessman father professionally qualiseeks pretty educated

bride (preferably from business family) for handsome elder son 1996, 6' with sober posaljun21@gmail.co habits owns house & OG159298 property and reputed business. Kurunegala G/Catholic 30 year Ratnapura Gampaha old Engineer son 5'6"

Kandy areas are more suitable. 0322245595. OG159087

NWP 1993 October 5'4" Government Electrical Engineer son, parents seek educated well mannered daughter preferably Doctor, Banker. 031-2265742. OG159085

professional parents seek accomresiding in Parents plished daughters in Province Western law from respectable seek a pretty wellbackground mannered daughter for their sons, 1985 for their son. Bud-& 1988 born, profesdhist, Born in 91 sionals, height 57" June. He is very hand-& 5'11" respectively, some, well-mannered. well-employed in Qa-(Computer MSc tar, Rasi Idapam & Science) from Mora-Kattakam. Maternal tuwa Campus. Holds grandmother was a responsible post. а Kandyan Buddhist. substantial Inherits Similar mixed par- amount of assets from enting will also be parents.

fied, handsome son aged 42 and height 5'11", Australian citizen, legally separated, having a son aged 05 years. Please reply with family details and horoscope. mviha 1280@gamil.com 037-5672434. OG159253 Roman Catholic parents from Colombo suburbs seek a pretty and educated daughter from a respectable family for son 34, gainfully employed at a leading multination-

Respectable G/B par-

ents seek academi-

cally and profession-

ally qualified pretty

daughter for their

handsome fair son,

1988 born, 5'9" pro-

settled in Canada.

Responses from US/

fessional

Engineer

preferred.

particulars,

OG159063

parents

with

al. He is both academically and professionally qualified. Please respond with details. Email : mprp998@g mail.com OG159007

Sinhala Medical professional 60, 5'7" divorced, no encumbrances, seeks attractive lady less than 50 years with good Educated

panionship later mar-

1986, 5'5" eldest son having dual citizenship, IT degree and Master of Accounting and well established in Australia, parents (B/G) reputed familv from Western Province seeking an educated beautiful daughter from reputed business fam-Separated from ily. very short period of marriage. No encumbrances. Email: famil yproposal9@gmail.co

OG159328

1995 June, Christian, 6 ft tall, NS/TT dual citizen living in UK with parents graduated in 2017 and pursuing his masters degree. Inherits substantial assets both in the UK and in Sri Lanka including a reputed family business. He has grown up with Sinhala Buddhist values and we are looking for a kindhearted, well-mannered daughter living in UK for a relationship leading to a marriage. Please send us the horoscope and all the information to: m

utlook.com OG159175 94 Western, B/G, BCom MBA graduated son from respectable business family inherits wealth owns background for com- a vehicle mother seeks a well mannered fair

arriageproposal91@o

parents seek educated, pretty, slim, fair daughter preferably live in Canada from a similar background OG158994 for only son 27 yrs, resident 5'8", very handsome, dual citizen, graduated in reputed university in Canada, owns construction company and substantial assets in both

countries. Non malefic horoscope. He is non-smoker and not taking habitual drink. Please reply with copy of horoscope. Email: propsea20@yah

OG159316 oo.com

mannered daughter from a decent family for their planter son 41, 5'8", thin and fair in complexion with 30 acres of tea and a bungalow and also owns a two storeyed house in Colombo. Please reply with horoscope. OG159312

G/B parents residing in US seek a fair, educated daughter for their professionally qualified son Royalist, 36 years, 5'8" graduated from a reputed university in US and presently working as a Senior Engineer. Please reply with family details and all necessary information in the first email: uspro

height, fair. Parents

seeking profession

ally qualified bride

preferably slim & be-

low 28 years. Reach

us through email "m

elony707@hotmail.co

Jaffna,

Hindu

family

OG159010

Vellalar,

BRIDEGROOM

Moor connected family from Colombo, seek a compatible partner for their Son 28, height 6'1", educated in a leading School in Colombo. Academically and professionally qualified Chartered Accountant. B Bcom in Economic in Monash, Malaysia. He inherits substantial wealth in Colombo. Employed with PR in Canada. Seeking a tall (above 5' 3") slim, educated partner from a good moor family, willing to migrate. T. P. - 2 765 392 email - zrifaya@yahoo.com

as a Lead Engineer rector of a company in a reputed Software owned by family. He Company drawing an attractive salary. is quiet and conven-Inherits substantial tional. Owns assets. assets. Reply with dep8375l@yahoo.com tails and horoscope. v OG159361 ivahayojana123@gm OG159325 ail.com B/G parents from Co-

reply with

details and

OG158990

Catholic / Govi 26, lombo seek an edu-5'5", BSc, Pharmacated, well-mannered ceutical Consultant daughter from a reseeking pretty, qualispectable B/G family fied bride willing to their handsome migrate. 0115238783. OG159214 son, 1993 Dec. 5'8",

MBA, work-Christian Govi parents seek educated fair beautiful bride their fair son, for holding a PhD. in Engineering field and PR in UK, 33 yrs., 5'9". Please reply with full details. Email : mes tj2021@gmail.com OG158984

Christian parents (non-Roman Catholic) seek a suitable Christian partner for their son (34 years 5'7") holding high position in the teaching profession in a leading educational institution in the Country. OG159179 ail.com

OG159040 Gampaha, Biyagama, Employee in Ex-B/G, parents of reecutive Grade (150, spectable family seek 000) owns house, very pretty daughter vehicle and commerabove 5'3" height cial building, legally for their eldest son separated, looking for age 44 (12-4-1976), below 48 passionate six-footer, very handpartner. 0117831996. some, holding B.Com partnerlife356@gmai (Aus), MBA (SL) and OG159232 working as Assistant Father leading Bud-Director in a reputed

dhist Salagama Lawstate yer in Colombo seeks his qualified ACMA / CGMA and LLB hons (London) handsome smart son a teetotaller working 557@gmail.com Tel: presently as a Senior 2487500. OG159183 Manager 5'9", 35

years Kuja 4 drawing a six figure salary inherits substantial assets, including a house in Colombo studied at a leading school in Colombo, academically and professionally qualified charming fair complexioned daughter with means. Please do reply. mnsdv678@gm

l.com

for

#### BRIDEGROOM

#### Seeking female alliance for Sri Lankan Indian origin Tamil Divorcee (no children)

UK qualified, Entrepreneur and settled abroad, 37 years and 5'9" in height and coming from an affluent family. Looking for a well educated suitable Tamil Hindu girl, Divorcee/ unmarried (caste no bar). Only immediate family to contact mail ID :-

info87443@gmail.com

considered but more of a Tamil Hindu up bringing is much preferred. Please reply with chart and family details. Confidentiality will be maintained. Email: sons198588@ gmail.com OG159315

Kandy (B/G) parents seek well-mannered pretty daughter from a respectable family for their son 29 yr, 6 fts, religious, handteetotaller, some, studied at a leading college in Kandy. Obtained an Australian degree, for Business Management. Inher-OG159171 its a successful family estate, elder sister married and lives in

> Looking for a bride for a BG 38 year old groom, working as а a Doctor in Western Europe, 5ft 10 inch, handsome with sober habits, never married, from an upper middle class family in Colombo. Please reply to pr oposal01018@yahoo. OG159169

> > SUNDAY OBSERVER

Colombo. OG159109

parents. Caste differences are immaterial. Write with horoscope to email: sdcp7@yaho ail.com o.com OG159233

Pilot, 38 years, working in USA, caste, religion immaterial. 011 581 3871. Email: fligh tsusaflorida@gmail.c

OG159208 om ing students), who truly Professional parents appreciates Sinhalese seek marriage proposheritage and Buddhist als for their son (only values. Our caring child) born in 1992 and understanding (Sep), 5'8", NS/TT. son is a dual citizen of Studied overseas from SL & Australia, born middle school, he has December 1989, 5'7", completed his BSc / MSc (Mathematics/ NS/TT, Manager in Economics) and now IT field. Reply in Sincompleting his PhD. hala or English with (Economics) from horoscope and family prestigious Universidetails to email only s ties in the USA. We irivijaya1555@gmail. are a Buddhist (Govi)

com family living in a Colombo suburb with 1981/06, Bodu Govi, simple lifestyle. Avissawella, Our son prefers an tered educated and down-(ACA), to-earth girl as his own future partner. Send Firm, seeks partner. family details with Please reply with dethe horoscope (caste tails, HC in first reply. immaterial). Email: d Email - ellamulla@g ja6612@yahoo.com mail.com OG159066 OG159340

riage. Write or email & pretty truely kind personally, no third hearted daughter up party. kdmp017@gm with good qualities OG158979 under Buddhist val-Sydney based parents ues. Reply with horo-

looking for a smallscope & indetailed built, pretty, down-tofamily background. a earth daughter living rpropo94@gmail.com in Australia (includ-OG159327 international

> (Sinhala. Bodu. Govi) parents for their son Chartered hold-Accountant ing a good position in private sector, 34 years, 5'10", owning a land and property, partner preferably а from similar background. Email - daw nprop21@gmail.com OG159044 OG159065

> > WANTED Respectable MARRIAGE BROKER for a respectable Colombo Salagama. Buddhist family. mnsdv678@gmail.com

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# Missing fraud suspect's foot found on Australian beach

**SYDNEY, Feb. 27 (BBC)** - Australian police say they have found the partial remains of a fraud suspect who vanished from her Sydney home four months ago.

Businesswoman Melissa Caddick's disappearance has captivated public attention, amid allegations she stole millions of dollars from her clients.

Police had found no trace of her until last week when campers spotted a shoe containing a decomposed foot on a beach 400km south of Sydney.

DNA testing matched it to Ms Caddick. The financial adviser's "time and cause of death" would now be determined by a coroner, New South Wales Police assistant commissioner Mick Willing said on Friday.

"It remains a mystery as to when and how she came into the water," he told reporters.

"At this point we can't rule out anything. We have kept an open mind, however given the circumstances of her disappearance... we have always considered the possibility that she may have taken her own life."

He said ocean drift modelling done by the police had shown it was possible that Ms Caddick could have entered the water near her Sydney home.

Police were scouring a national park near Tathra on the state's south coast in the hope of finding more clues, he added.

Ms Caddick, 49, disappeared early on 12 November last year, a day after federal police raided her home in the wealthy Sydney suburb of Dover Heights.

She was reported missing by her son and husband, who said they believed she had gone for an earlymorning run. All of her personal belongings had been left behind.

Shortly after, allegations that she had committed financial fraud were reported by local media.

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (Asic) alleged Ms Caddick had stolen at least A\$13m (\$10.2; £7.3) in invested funds from over 60 clients, including many of her own family and friends.

Local media reported allegations she had been living a lavish lifestyle, including taking overseas holidays and buying expensive clothes and jewellery.

Separate investigations by authorities probed her disappearance and alleged financial misconduct.

Earlier this month, police reiterated their belief that Ms Caddick was still alive. But on Friday, Mr Willing said the discovery of her remains indicated that she was dead.

He said her family had been told of the discovery on Thursday and were "obviously distressed".Mr Willing said there had been no sightings of Ms Caddick near where her remains had been found.



Melissa Caddick went missing in November, a day after police agents raided her home

The attack destroyed "multiple facilities located at a border control point used by a number of Iranianbacked militant groups", it said. It was the first military action ordered by the Biden administra-

ordered by the Biden administration and came in response to attacks against US and coalition personnel in Iraq.

WASHINTON, Feb. 28 - The US

military has carried out an air strike

targeting Iran-backed militias in

Syria, the Pentagon says.

A civilian contractor was killed in a rocket attack on US targets this month. A US service member and five other contractors were also injured when the rockets hit sites in Irbil, including a base used by the US-led coalition, on 15 February.

Rockets have also struck US bases in Baghdad, including the Green tect Ar Zone, which houses the US embassy sonnel.

The Pentagon named Kataib Hezbollah and Kataib Sayyid al-Shuhada as two of the Iran-backed militias it targeted in Thursday's strike near the Iraqi border in eastern Syria. It called the action a "proportionate military response" that was taken "together with diplomatic measures", including consulting coalition partners.

The operation "sends an unambiguous message", the Pentagon statement said.

"President Biden will act to protect American and Coalition personnel. At the same time, we have acted in a deliberate manner that aims to de-escalate the overall situation in both eastern Syria and Iraq." The US did not confirm any casualties, but UK-based monitoring group, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said the US attack had killed at least 17 pro-Iranian fighters.

"The strikes destroyed three lorries carrying munitions," the observatory's Rami Abdul Rahman told AFP. "There were many casualties." Kataib Hezbollah has denied any role in the recent rocket attacks, but US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin told reporters he was "confident in the target that we went after".

"We know what we hit," he said. "We're confident that that target was being used by the same Shia militants that conducted the strikes" on 15 February. An unnamed US official told Reuters news agency that the attack was meant to send a signal that while the US wanted to punish the militias, it did not want it to escalate into a bigger conflict.

## Briton jailed for breaking strict quarantine

**SINGAPORE, Feb 27. (BBC)** - A Briton has been sentenced to two weeks in prison and a Singapore dollars 1000 fine (USD 753) for breaking



he arrived at the hotel by texting his fiancée at the time. The defence had

Russian diplomats leave by hand-pushed trolley

## Biden approves US air strike on Iran-backed militias in Syria



Singapore's quarantine rules by leaving his hotel room to visit his fiancée.

Nigel Skea, 52, walked up an emergency staircase to spend the night with Agatha Maghesh Eyamalai, 39, in September. The couple are now married.

Eyamalai was also given a week's prison sentence.

Singapore requires people to spend 14 days in a hotel upon arrival.

Earlier this month, Skea had pleaded guilty to one charge of contravening a control order and one of failing to wear a face mask.

Court documents said Skea had left his quarantine room at the Ritz Carlton Millenia Singapore Hotel three times to visit Eyamalai, who had a booked a room in the same hotel despite living in Singapore.

Eyamalai admitted a single charge of conspiring to contravene a control order.

The court heard Skea walked up 13 flights of stairs to spend the night with Eyamalai, who opened an emerBritish national Nigel Skea (R) and wife Agatha Maghesh Eyamalai arrive at the State Court in Singapore

gency exit door for him. They spent pris

Skea, from Southampton, had also been caught "loitering in the corridor" twice, according to the charges.

Nigel Skea didn't react when the judge read out his sentence. His wife, however, let out a gasp when she heard she would spend one week in

prison for abetting his crime.

The judge dismissed a number of previous cases that the defence cited, saying that Skea exposed hotel staff to risk with his actions. She said it didn't matter that he stayed on the hotel premises even in the breach, he intentionally chose to breach his quarantine order from the moment

were both overcome by emotions after not seeing each other for a very long time. The judge said this was not a mitigating factor - restrictions are necessary to prevent the spread of the pandemic and disruptions to relationships are an inevitable consequence.

argued that Skea had travelled to Singapore in order to propose and they

Their lawyer said the couple had mixed feelings about the sentence but that they were pleased it was less than what the prosecution sought. He added that Skea does not plan on appealing, that he wants to "finish the matter" and go back to the UK and his job as soon as possible.

Singapore has been one of the most successful countries in tackling the pandemic. Despite a big outbreak among low-income migrant workers, local infection rates have for months been low.

Last June, a group of British men living in Singapore were banned from working there again after breaking lockdown to go on a "bar crawl".They were also fined around SD 9,000 each (USD 6,800).

## **Ex-US Olympics coach found dead after sex assault charges**

**NEW YORK, Feb. 27 (BBC)** - A former US Olympics gymnastics coach has killed himself hours after he was charged with sexual assault and human trafficking, officials say.

Michigan's attorney general confirmed the death of John Geddert, hours after outlining 24 charges against him.

Geddert was head of the women's gymnastics team in 2012 and worked closely with team doctor Larry Nassar. Nassar was sentenced to up to 300 years in jail in 2018 for abusing more than 250 girls from his position.

The widespread abuse revelations have caused intense scrutiny of USA Gymnastics and criticism of how it safeguards athletes.

Geddert, 63, had owned the training facility in Michigan where Nassar had served as the gym's doctor.

A number of gymnasts accused him of abusive behaviour when they testified during Nassar's trial. He was expected to turn himself in on Thursday afternoon but did not appear, the attorney general's office said.

"My office has been notified that the body of John Geddert was found late this afternoon after taking his own life," Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel later said in a statement. "This is a tragic end to a tragic story for everyone involved."

Earlier, Ms Nessel had announced 24 separate charges against Geddert that "focus around multiple acts of verbal, physical and sexual abuse perpetrated by the defendant against multiple young women".

Two of the counts involved the alleged sexual assault of a girl between the age of 13 and 16.

He also faced 14 human trafficking charges for allegedly subjecting "his athletes to forced labor or services under extreme conditions that contributed to them suffering injuries and harm". Geddert "neglected those injuries that were reported to him by the victims and used coercion, intimidation, threats and physical force to get them to perform to the standard he expected," the attorney general's statement said.

A lawyer for some of Geddert's alleged victims had earlier welcomed the interpretation of human trafficking laws in the case and said it marked "an important step in child protection" to potentially deter similar actions by others. Geddert was also accused of lying to investigators in 2016



John Geddert killed himself after he was charged with sexual assault and human trafficking;

during the probe into the allegations against Nassar. In January 2020, USA Gymnastics announced a plan to pay a USD 215m settlement to the group of athletes abused by Nassar.

USA Gymnastics president and chief executive Li Li Leung has said they "recognise how deeply we have broken the trust of our athletes and community, and are working hard to build that trust back". media caption-Simone Biles hopes sharing abuse sto-

ry will encourage others to speak out But some, including the US's most decorated gymnast, Simone Biles, believe the organisation "has not taken full accountability for its actions" over the scandal.Biles, 23, who was one of the gymnasts abused by Nassar, has called for an independent investigation. "We bring them medals. We do our part. You can't do your part in return?" she told CBS last week. "It's just, like, it's sickening."

#### MOSCOW, Feb. 27 (BBC) - A into Russia.

group of Russian diplomats and their families made an unusual exit out of North Korea on a handpushed rail trolley due to strict Covid measures.

The eight people travelled by train and bus before pushing themselves across the Russian border for about 1km (0.6miles) over train tracks.

North Korea has blocked most passenger transport to limit the virus' spread.

The country maintains it has not had any confirmed cases, but observers dispute this claim.

Since early last year, trains and wagons have been forbidden to enter or leave the country. Most international passenger flights have stopped as well.

The Russian diplomats were thus left with little choice.

"Since the borders have been closed for more than a year and passenger traffic has been stopped, it took a long and difficult journey to get home," Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a Facebook post.

Photos shared by the ministry showed the diplomats on the trolley with their suitcases amid a wintry landscape. They were also seen cheering in a video as they crossed media captionRussians cheer as they exit North Korea on handpushed trolley The main "engine" was the embassy's third secretary Vladislav Sorokin, who pushed the trolley across a rail bridge over the Tumen River into Russia, said the ministry.

This was after the group, which included Mr Sorokin's three-yearold daughter Varya, had travelled 32 hours by train and two hours by bus from Pyongyang to reach the Russian border.

Ministry officials greeted them at a station on the Russian side, and the group then travelled by bus to the Vladivostok airport.Pyongyang's strict anti-Covid measures have affected travel movements and access to amenities. Extra troops have been sent to border areas with orders to block any possible transmission of the virus. Over the past year, many foreign diplomats have left the country and Western embassies have closed. Most travellers have gone overland and crossed the border into China, although there was one flight in March last year to Vladivostok carrying diplomats from Germany, Russia, France, Switzerland, Poland, Romania, Mongolia and Egypt.



The group of Russian diplomats, which included children, pushed themselves for more than 1km over train tracks

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## How an Indian rape suspect was caught after 22 years

#### NEW DELHI, Feb. 27 (BBC) -

Police in the eastern Indian state of Orissa (also called Odisha) have arrested a man wanted in a notorious 1999 gang rape. The accused hid in plain sight for more than two decades - until a few days ago when his luck ran out.

When police approached Bibekananda Biswal's home last week in Pune district in the western state of Maharashtra, they say he tried to run away.

"He saw the team coming and tried to escape. When he was caught, he told them, 'Take me away from here, I'll tell you everything'," senior Orissa police official Sudhanshu Sarangi told the BBC.

Bibekananda Biswal was among three men accused in the brutal gang rape of a 29-year-old woman on the night of January 9, 1999. He denies the allegations against him.

The other two men - Pradeep Kumar Sahu and Dhirendra Mohanty were arrested, tried, convicted of rape and sentenced to life in jail. Sahu died in prison last year.

The woman was travelling from the state capital, Bhubaneswar, to its twin city Cuttack, with a journalist friend and her driver when their car was intercepted by three men travelling on a scooter.

The attackers forced them to drive at gunpoint to a secluded area where, according to court documents, she was assaulted multiple times over four hours. She and her friend were threat-

**BIBEKANANDA BISWAL WAS AMONG THREE MEN ACCUSED IN THE BRUTAL GANG RAPE OF A 29-YEAR-OLD WOMAN ON THE NIGHT OF JANUARY** 9, 1999. HE DENIES **THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST HIM** 

been caught. The next day, when I got back to my office, I recalled the case files," Mr Sarangi told me.

"When I read the details of the case, I felt he must be caught. It was a most heinous crime."

Mr Sarangi, who's the police commissioner for the state capital, Bhubaneswar, and its twin city Cuttack, reopened the case and gave it a code name - "Operation Silent Viper".

"A viper can blend in with its surroundings, not make any noises to avoid detection. So, I thought it was the perfect name for this operation since he hadn't been caught for 22

told The Times of India.

She also denied receiving any money from him, but refused to answer questions about who Jalandhar Swain was or why he had been sending money to her family, police say.

"India is a big country," says Mr Sarangi, and "Biswal had managed to find a job, he had a bank account, a PAN Card [a must for all tax-paying citizens] and an Aadhaar card [India's national identity card]."

Since 2007, he had been living in the workers' barracks at the Aamby Valley - a posh township in Pune district that's home to some of India's super rich - more than 1,740km (about 1,080 miles) from his home village.

"He was working there as a plumber and had taken on a whole new iden-tity," says Mr Sarangi. "He was among the 14,000 employees of Aamby Valley, merging with the setting, hiding in plain sight, raising no suspicions - just like a viper."

In his Aadhaar card, the suspect was named Jalandhar Swain and his father Purnananda Biswal had become P Swain - but his village was named correctly. A police investigation found no village resident by the name of Jalandhar Swain.

Mr Sarangi says Bibekananda Biswal has denied the allegations of rape, but not his true identity.

"He has also been identified by several sources, including his family members. We have now handed him over to the CBI for further investiga-

## **Can Asia help** Myanmar find a way out of coup crisis?

BANGKOK, Feb. 27 (BBC) - The arrival of the Myanmar junta-appointed foreign minister, Wunna Maung Lwin, in Bangkok last week for an unannounced meeting with his Thai and Indonesian counterparts marked the start of a daunting diplomatic undertaking for South East Asia.

No details were released of what was discussed. This first official contact with a senior member of the junta was so delicate that, when asked about it, Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha was unwilling to confirm that it had even happened.

In fact for every country with an interest in what happens in Myanmar, the crisis presents an unusually thorny challenge.

The responses of the world's military and economic superpowers have inevitably drawn most attention; the sanctions imposed by the Biden administration in the United States, and those being prepared by the European Union.

There was a predictably bland statement from China, merely urging all parties to settle their differences peacefully. But China did back a watered-

down UN Security Council statement, which, while it failed to condemn the coup, did call for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and a return to democratic norms, showing that China was not happy about the coup. But both the US and China have

limited options over how they deal with the Myanmar crisis.

The influence of the US is much diminished in this region, far lower than the last time it imposed wide-ranging economic sanctions in the 1990s.

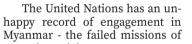
How did we get here? Yet even those sanctions, which helped cripple the Burmese economy, had little influence on the decisions made by the then-ruling junta.

The more limited, targeted sanctions imposed now are intended to hit only those directly involved in the coup and the military's businesses, but will likewise do little to change minds in Nay Pyi Taw.

The crisis has come very early in the Biden administration just as it was beginning to formulate a new approach to the Asia-Pacific region, one which is supposed to emphasise democratic values and



**THE CRISIS HAS COME VERY EARLY** IN THE BIDEN **ADMINISTRATION JUST AS IT WAS BEGINNING TO FORMULATE A NEW APPROACH TO THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION, ONE WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO EMPHASISE DEMOCRATIC VALUES** AND ALSO WORKING IN **CO-OPERATION WITH REGIONAL PARTNERS LIKE THE 10-MEMBER ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN** NATIONS (ASEAN)





**Min Aung Hlaing** 

nowned intractability helped her weather 15 years of house arrest, may be no more inclined to compromise than the man who deposed her.

The way the coup has poisoned the ground for any compromise was illustrated by the fate of Indonesia's efforts this week to start an Asean initiative on Myanmar.

With Myanmar as a member, and bound by its customary consensus-based decision making and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs, Asean has particular challenges in addressing this crisis.

But it must, as further confrontation and bloodshed in Myanmar would have serious repercussions for the stability and reputation of the association, and in particular for countries like Thailand which share long borders.

Thai authorities are already making preparations for the possibility of large numbers of people fleeing across the border.

Asean is not speaking with one voice on Myanmar.

Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and initially even the Philippines, once the most liberal member state on human rights and democracy, have all refused to criticise the coup, describing it as an internal matter.

Singapore, the biggest foreign investor in Myanmar, has been stronger in its statements, expressing "grave concern" and describing the use of lethal force against protesters as "inexcusable". It is Indonesia, Asean's largest country with a past history of taking the leading role in resolving issues

ened and beaten up and their money and valuables were snatched.

The crime made headlines and shook the state not only for the brutality of the attack but also because of the serious allegations the survivor made against some important people, including the then Orissa chief minister JB Patnaik.

She accused him of trying to shield an official against whom she had lodged a complaint of attempted rape 18 months earlier. She alleged that the two had "a role" in her gang rape to "scare me into withdrawing my charges against the official".

Mr Patnaik said her accusations were part of "a political conspiracy". A month later when the chief minister resigned, newspapers said the mishandling of the case was a major reason for his exit. A year later, the official was convicted of attempted rape and jailed for three years.

India's federal police - the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) - were called in to inquire into the gang rape case.

But Bibekananda Biswal - described in the court order as "the main accused, the mastermind" who had "raped and ravished the victim mercilessly" - had disappeared without a trace.

The case went cold, and the files lay gathering dust in a police station in Cuttack

In November, Mr Sarangi was visiting Choudwar jail in connection with another case where he had a "chance meeting" with Mohanty, one of the rapists.

"While talking to him, I discovered that one of his co-accused had never

years," he says.

A four-member police team was formed - they were the only people who knew about the case "to avoid any information leak".

"On 19 February, at 5:30pm, I was sure we had the right man. Just after 7pm, three of my officers were on a flight to Pune," Mr Sarangi says.

"A joint team of Orissa and Maharashtra police carried out the raid the next day and he was arrested."

It had taken police three months of information gathering and meticulous planning to find the man they were after.

"Once we started investigating, we heard that he'd been in touch with his family, his wife and two sons. He was caught when the family tried to sell a piece of land that was in his name," Mr Sarangi told the BBC.

The small plot is near their home in the village of Naranpur in Cuttack district - an area becoming rapidly urbanised - and Mr Sarangi says the family was expecting to make some decent money from the sale.

A breakthrough came when police took a closer look at the family's finances.

They discovered that even though their suspect's wife or sons didn't have a job or a steady source of income, there was a regular flow of money into their account - from someone called Jalandhar Swain in Pune.

Since Bibekananda Biswal's arrest, his wife Gitanjali had denied that the family had any contact with him in the past 22 years.

"He had absconded after the gang rape and he did not contact us over the phone or secretly visit our home," she

tion.

On Monday, crews from local TV channels scrambled to get a glimpse as the suspect was brought to court in Bhubaneswar.

Dressed in a blue t-shirt and grey trousers, he came barefoot, his face covered with a checked scarf as he was whisked away by policemen.

The only description of Bibekananda Biswal's appearance comes from Mr Sarangi: "He's nearly 50, mediumbuilt, bald, not very strong physically, he's pretty ordinary actually."

Mr Sarangi says there are a lot of questions that need answers - How did he escape? Where was he before 2007? How did he remain undetected for so long? How did he find a job? Did someone help him?

The questions are significant, he says, especially because of the serious allegations the survivor of the attack had made against some influential people.

Then, there are also a lot of challenges. To begin with, the survivor has to identify him, but it's been a long time since the crime was committed. Then a trial will begin, which may or may not lead to conviction.

"We want to make sure that the case ends in conviction," Mr Sarangi says. "I want him to spend the rest of his life in jail, his body should leave the prison only after his death."

The survivor thanked "Mr Sarangi and his team for delivering justice to me", saying she wants the death penalty for her attacker.

She told a local TV channel she had not expected him to be arrested and was "relieved and happy" now that he was finally caught.

also working in co-operation with regional partners like the 10-member Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean).

But, like China, Asean will not sign up to an approach based on sanctions and condemnation of the junta.

China looks like a winner from the coup, as the one superpower willing to engage with the new regime and keep supplying it with weapons and investment.

However, it is no secret that China was more comfortable dealing with the National League for Democracy (NLD) government, under which relations had been getting warmer, than with an unpredictable military regime which has a deep historical mistrust of its larger neighbour's influence, especially over some armed insurgent groups on their common border.

Yet the widespread belief in Myanmar that China is backing the junta is feeding growing anti-Chinese sentiment among the millions now protesting against the coup - so much so that Chinese officials have been forced to break their customary silence and come out to deny rumours that China is helping the military build an internet firewall, or bringing in special forces to help crush the protests.

The passionate opposition to the coup also raises the spectre of longer-term instability in Myanmar, which threatens China's substantial economic and strategic interests there. For all these reasons Beijing will want to tread very carefully.

several special envoys to promote a democratic opening in the two decades after the 1988 uprising, the largely fruitless efforts of successive human rights rapporteurs, and controversy over the silence of resident UN agencies over the repression of Rohingya leading up to the atrocities and mass exodus of 2017.

The current special envoy, Swiss diplomat Christine Schraner Burgener, has the unenviable task of finding the ingredients for a compromise which might lead Myanmar out of the present dangerous confrontation between the military and the people.

She is seeking a meeting with representatives of the new government as a matter of urgency, but any such meeting would be conditional on her also being able to meet Aung San Suu Kyi, currently detained in an unknown location. and could not be seen to give any formal recognition to the junta.

She will also be coming with a mandate from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who has stated that the coup must be made to fail, which will make winning the trust of the generals difficult.

Few believe the coup leader, General Min Aung Hlaing, is ready to discuss giving up the power he has seized.

Some of his subordinates may disagree with the coup, and recognise the huge risks it poses to Myanmar, but the Tatmadaw rarelv allows differences of opinion within its ranks to show.

Aung San Suu Kyi, whose re-

like the Cambodian conflict in the 1980s, which has stepped up to try to find a path out of the crisis in Mvanmar.

Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, more than six years in the job, is among the most experienced in the region, and was active in seeking solutions to the Rohingya crisis four years ago.Indonesia is distant from Myanmar, sharing no borders nor holding any great economic or strategic stakes in what happens there.

And as another large, multiethnic, post-colonial state in which the armed forces played a central role in nation-building, Indonesia has sometimes been viewed by the generals in Myanmar as something of a model.

However, when Ms Marsudi began exploring the possibility of holding a special Asean meeting on Myanmar, details of the proposals being discussed with other member states were leaked - in particular the idea of holding the junta to its promise of a new election within a year, and insisting that Aung San Suu Kyi and other NLD politicians be released and allowed to contest.

As a compromise, that idea makes some sense.

But it enraged anti-military protesters in Myanmar, who argue that last November's election overwhelmingly won by the NLD must be honoured, and that backing a new election rewards the military for overturning the results of the last one and will only encourage them to mount further coups.

#### TRIBUTE

## Jaliya Medagama - A pleasing personality in Public Service

Jaliya Medagama who entered the Sri Lanka Administrative Service in 1970 and I who entered in 1967, were thick friends since the day we first met accidentally during our school days. Jaliya was from Dharmaraja, Kandy, and I was from Nugawela Central College.

We entered Peradeniya University in 1961. Though we were not residents in the same Hall of Residence in the University neither in the same Stream of Studies, we maintained a

solid and unfathomable friendship beyond description.

We joined the teaching profession upon leaving the campus. Thereafter, Jaliya entered the Sri Lanka Administrative Service where he got his first appointment as the Divisional Revenue Officer, Ududumbara. He held several positions, such as the Commissioner of Agrarian Services. Secretary of the Ministry of Indigenous Medicine and in 1994, he was appointed Secretary to

the Ministry of Irrigation, Mahaweli, Power and Energy, which had 18 institutions under its purview. He supervised the agencies without distinction as an able administrator. After retirement, he served as the Chairman of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation.

He had close relatives in the then Government, but he never compromised his independence in taking administrative decisions in view of those relationships. No allegation

of fraud or corruption was levelled against this honest officer who was free of all vices.

Jaliya was an honest and modest officer of rare breed who served all government officers, peoples' representatives and the public-at-large alike without any distinction of political affiliations or otherwise.

Jaliya was an active member of the Group of the Peradeniva '61 Batch where I was the President. Members of our Batch fondly remember how he supported the annual get-togethers organized by the Group

Jaliya's father was a Judge of the Rural Court. After the father's demise, Jaliya shouldered the role of the father to his brother and sisters. He lived a pleasant family life with Pathma, who met him on the first day of entering the University. Humbleness inherited from the rural culture of Poholiyadda, his native place and Dodanwala, where he was

brought up, was the lifeline reigned and scented his life all throughout. I am aware of the efforts by his son, Professor Arjuna Medagama of the Medical Faculty of Peradeniya University, to save Jaliya's life when he was critically ill in the past few years. However, Jaliya left all of us in grief on February 11 after exhausting the life span he was destined.

May Jaliya Medagama attain the Supreme Bliss of Nibbana!

**Tilak Ranaviraja** 

# SUNDAY OBSERVER TENDER AND OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS

## **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

### **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

## **DESIGN, FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF PROPRIETARY ALUMINIUM DOOR SYSTEMS AND FIXED GLAZING IN** PERIPHERAL WALL AT SIXTH FLOOR FOR BLOCK 04 OF **DEFENCE HEADOUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA**

#### **CONTRACT NO : DHQC/FIX GLAZ 6FL 4/2020**

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, Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Proprietary Aluminium Door Systems and Fixed Glazing in Peripheral Wall at Sixth Floor for Block 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda as described below and estimated to cost LKR 48 Million (excluding VAT).

The work consists of Design, Fabrication, Supply and Installation of structural glazing and glazed proprietary aluminium doors with associated accessories and components, granite architrave and threshold and all relevant Hardware and accessories. The Construction period is 105 Days.

- 2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- 3. To be eligible for the Contract award;
  - The proprietary aluminium system developer shall be an organization possessing ISO 9001 and 14001 certifications and inhouse product testing laboratory.
  - The bidder shall be either the;
    - i. The proprietary system developer of the offered proprietary aluminium doors and glazing system.
    - ii. Authorized agent of the system developer of the offered proprietary aluminium doors and glazing system, possessing ISO 9001 certification.
    - iii. A licensed installer of the system developer of the offered proprietary aluminium doors and glazing system possessing ISO 9001 certification.
  - Bidder shall not have been blacklisted.

Bidders shall establish their business status with the Bid by submitting the supportive documents. The Bidders shall possess Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) grading for aluminium and finishing works – SP2 or above (Mandatory).

- 4. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
  - Average annual turnover in the latest five (05) years including 2019-2020 shall be at least LKR 72 million.
  - Experience in successful completion of at least At least three (03) projects related to structural glazing and glazed proprietary aluminum doors, successfully completed within last five (05) years out of which at least one project shall be of value not less than LKR 6 million successfully 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 41 million.
- 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 01st March 2021 until 22nd March 2021 from 0900 hrs to1500 hrs 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, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla from 01st March 2021 until 22nd March 2021 from 0900hrs to 1500hrs during working days upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Twelve Thousand (LKR 12,000.00). The method of payment will be cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- 7. Pre bid meeting will be held at 1400 hrs on 12th 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.
- 8. 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 23rd March 2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be

## **CORRECTION NOTICE**

#### **TENDER NOTICE** DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA, MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES

**KAHATAGAHA GRAPHITE LANKA LIMITED** 







With reference to the newspaper advertisement that was published in Sunday Observer of 21st February 2021 on Page 65, in the table in column 2 under Products Item Nos. 3 and 4 should be corrected as follows.

	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)		LKR 376,000.00 Or USD 2035			
2.	92-95C% Graphite Chip (HS 25041090)	800 MT	LKR 335,000.00 Or USD 1815 1 MT FIBC Bags 06.04.2	06.04.2021		
3.	90-92C% Graphite Powder (HS 25041090)	800 1011	LKR 282,000.00 Or USD 1525	(Jumbo Bag)	at 1400 hrs	
4.	90-92C% Graphite Chip (HS 25041090)		LKR 260,000.00 Or USD 1405			

All other details in the Advertisement remain same

Ministry Tender Committee (Sales)

Ministry of Industries, P.O. Box 570, No. 73/1, Galle Road, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka.

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY

## **SRI LANKA POLICE - SPECIAL TASK FORCE**

## **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

## **Construction of Building**

1. The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee, Ministry of Public Security, 14th Floor, Suhurupaya, Battaramulla on behalf of the Secretary, Ministry of Public Security now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the building constructions of the Special Task Force as described below:-

Contract No.	Contract Name & Location	Estd. Cost (Excl. VAT) Rs.	CIDA Grade	Non Refundable Tender Fee	Amount of Bid Security (Rs.)
PS/03/PB/ CON/08/03/21	Repairing of Existing Quarters for Special Task Force at Biyanwila, Kadawatha	28.5 M	C5 or above	Rs. 5,000.00	450,000.00
PS/03/PB/ CON/08/04/21	Renovation works of Married Quarters at Katukurunda for Special Task Force	19 M	C6 or above	Rs. 3,500.00	285,000.00

#### **Scope of Works:**

#### Repairing of Existing Quarters for Special Task Force at Biyanwila, Kadawatha

Construction Period - 180 days

The work consists of demolition, concrete work, water proofing work in toilet areas, Aluminium door with windows, supply & fixing of sanitary fittings, floor and wall tiling in toilet areas and painting. Repair work in existing roof, plumbing system, sewerage and drainage system and electrical wiring

#### Renovation works of Married Quarters at Katukurunda for Special Task Force ii.

Construction Period - 180 days

The Works consist of removing of existing damaged door /window sashes, down pipes, gutters, floor tiling in toilet areas, Supply and fixing of new door/window sashes, sanitary installation, floor and wall tiling in toilet areas, water proofing work, painting to walls & ceiling, roof repair works, repair work of existing drainage system etc.

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the 3. following requirements:

opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

- 9. Bids shall be valid up to 22nd June 2021 (91 days after the date of Bid Opening)
- 10. All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security" of Sri Lankan Rupees Four Hundred Eighty Thousand Only (LKR 480,000.00) 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 20th July 2021 (119 days after the date of 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 been 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 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(es) referred to above is (are) :

The Chairman, **Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project,** Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.

0094-011-4209885 Tel: 0094-011-4209885 Fax : E-mail: pmudhqc@gmail.com



CIDA registration required: - As mentioned above

- Registered as a main construction contractor in the specialty of building works as mentioned above.
- Bidder shall register under Public Contracts Act No: 03 of 1987.
- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include: 4.

Contract No.	volume of construction	amount of Liquid Assets and/or credit	Value of Experience in construction of at least one contract in public sector within last 05 years, which is similar to the nature and complexity of the works shall be
PS/03/PB/CON/08/03/21	Rs. 90.0 M	Rs. 15 M	Rs. 20 M
PS/03/PB/CON/08/04/21	Rs. 57.0 M	Rs. 9.5 M	Rs. 10 M

- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Chief Accountant, Ministry of Public Security and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Procurement Branch of the Ministry of Public Security,14th Floor. Suhurupaya, Battaramulla, through Telephone No-011-2887697 and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Procurement Branch addressed above from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs on any working days (except on Public & Bank Holidays) from 01.03.2021 until 23.03.2021.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Chief Accountant of the Ministry of Public Security, 14th Floor. Suhurupaya, Battramulla on any working days from 01.03.2021 until 23.03. 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fees as mentioned above on behalf of Secretary. Ministry of Public Security. The method of payment will be in cash. Only a single set of bidding documents shall be issued for a bidder.
- 7. Sealed Bids in (Original & Duplicate) with PCA 3 Form shall be kept at the Tender Box placed at the Procurement Branch of Ministry of Public Security,14th Floor, Suhurupaya, Battaramulla. Alternatively. bids may be sent by registered post to reach the above address on or before 14.00 hrs on 24.03.2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing of bids in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend. The representatives who wish to attend should produce an authorized letter from the organization and the letter should be sent to reach Chief Accountant. of Ministry of Public Security, prior to the date of bid opening.
- Bids shall be valid for 91 days from the date of closing/opening of bids.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a bid security and it shall be: 9.
  - i. An unconditional on demand bank guarantee
  - Issued by any Commercial Bank operating in Sri Lanka and approved by the Central Bank of Sri ii. Lanka.
  - iii. In favour of Secretary / Ministry of Public Security.
  - iv. In the form included in Section 9 of the bidding documents.
  - v. At the amount mentioned above and shall be valid for 119 days i.e. from 24.03.2021 to 20.07.2021.
- Bidders are expected to attend the pre hid meeting which shall be held on 05.03.2021 at 14.00 hrs at the 10. Ministry of Public Security, 14th Floor, Suhurupaya, Battaramulla after the site visit.
- 11. For further clarifications, please contact,

**Chief Accountant Ministry of Public Security** 14th Floor, Suhurupaya, Battaramulla. Telephone - 011-2887697/ Fax - 011-2887784 E-mail - caminlofinance@gmail.com

**OIC Building -STF, STF Headquarters,** No. 223, Bauddahaloka Mawatha, Colombo-07. Tele: No. 011-2589784

Chairman **Ministry Procurement Committee** Ministry of Public Security.

## **INVITATION FOR BIDS**

## **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

## FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF HEAVY DUTY STEEL FIRE RATED DUCT DOORS FOR BLOCK 01 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

#### **CONTRACT NO : DHQC/FIRE RAT DUCT DOOR 1/2020**

 The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Heavy Duty Steel Fire Rated Duct Doors for Block 01 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda as described below and approximately estimated to cost LKR 15.3 Million (excluding VAT).

The Works consist of fabrication, supply and installation of Heavy-Duty Steel Fire Rated Duct Doors including Door Sashes, Frames, Door Hardware and Accessories with powder coated hot dipped galvanized steel frames and sashes. The Intended Completion Date of the Works shall be 119 Days from the Start Date.

2. 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 either the Manufacturer of the offered work or the authorized agent of the manufacturer of the offered work or a licensed installer of the manufacturer of the offered work. If the bidder is not the manufacturer of the offered work, then he shall be mandatorily required being an organization possessing ISO 9001 Certification.

- 3. 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 annual turnover value in last five (05) years shall be at least LKR 24 million.
  - Experience in fabrication, supply and/or installation of heavy- duty steel fire rated doors including at least one project of value not less than 05 million completed within last five (05) years.
  - 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.
- 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 01st March 2021 until 22nd March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days.
- 6. A complete set of Bidding Documents 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 01st March 2021 until 22nd March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Four Thousand Seven Hundred (LKR 4,700.00). The method of payment will be cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- 7. Pre bid meeting will be held at **1100 hrs on 12th 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 23rd 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 up to **08th June 2021** (77 Days after the date of Bid



The Lanka Hospitals Corporation PLC wishes to invite price proposal and/or price quotations from bidders who are interested to provide following requirements.

Bid Invitation No.	Title of the Bid Invitation	Non Refundable Fee	Bid Documents Issuing Date	Closing Date and Time of Bidding	Documents required
LH/20/001636/ GK/P052	Construction Work of Lift Core for Service Building	3500.00	From 01 <sup>st</sup> March 2021 to 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	17 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 11.00 am	Proof document for ICTAD Grading 07 or above in building construction
LH/20/000512/ GK/P052	<ul> <li>The Lanka Hospitals Corporation</li> <li>PLC wishes to invite offers /quotations for space requirements for two years and renewable period</li> <li>1. A New building for Hostels – Area should be in range of 3,500 -7,000 sq.ft.</li> <li>2. Preferably within 2 km radius from Lanka Hospital.</li> <li>3. Pipe borne Water &amp; Electricity facility</li> <li>4. Well secured area.</li> <li>5. Sanitary facilities.</li> </ul>	No any deposits required and no any additional document should be collected to quote		17 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 - 11.00 am	<ul> <li>Self-prepared offers/quotations with brief introduction of the offered space should include:</li> <li>1. Consent Letter from the owner(s) to lease the premises to the Lanka Hospital Corporation PLC</li> <li>2. Copies of NIC(s) of the owner(s)</li> <li>3. Building plan</li> <li>4. Copies of the Deeds, Survey Plans &amp; Extracts.</li> <li>5. Assessment Notices and its payment receipt for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021</li> <li>6. Last three months Water &amp; Electricity bills</li> <li>7. Area of the space (No. of sq.ft)</li> <li>8. Expected monthly Lease amount for two years</li> <li>9. Requested Advance payment (Advance Payment will be deducted in equal installments during the two years period)</li> <li>10. Expected lease out period after two years.</li> <li>11. If the premises is mortgaged, "No objection certificate" from the bank</li> <li>12. Certificate of Conformity and Fire insurance for the building</li> </ul>

#### **General Information :**

- 1. A complete set of bidding documents in English Language can be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written request (for each) to Manager Procurement, Procurement Department, No. 598, Administration Building, Lanka Hospitals PLC, Narahenpita, Colombo 05 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee per set in cash to the Finance Dept., on working days from above <u>mentioned</u> issuing date during 10.00 am to 3.00 pm.
- 2. Duly perfected bids marked **"The Tender No. & Title of the Tender"** on the top left hand corner of the envelope, sealed bids may either be deposited in the tender box located in Procurement Department, 04th Floor, Administration Building, No. 598, Lanka Hospitals PLC, Narahenpita, Colombo 05 or sent by registered post to the same address.
- 3. Bids will be opened soon after the deadline in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend.
- 4. Incomplete & late bids will be rejected & The Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject bids received or part thereof.
- 5. Pre bid meeting for Construction Work of Lift Core for Service Building will be held on 08.03.2021 at 11.00am in the 10th Floor (Auditorium) at Lanka Hospitals Corporation PLC.

For Further details, please contact Tel: 011-5438579, 0755 82 7777.

The Chairman - Procurement Committee, The Lanka Hospitals PLC PQ (180) No. 578, Elvitigala Mawatha, Narahenpita, Colombo 5.

## STATE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, COAST CONSERVATION, WASTE DISPOSAL AND COMMUNITY CLEANLINESS

# WINDER NOTICE

## Tender for Allocation of Commercial Units at Metro Homes, No.40, Java Lane, Slave Island, Colombo 02

- opening).
- 10. All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security" of **Sri Lankan Rupees One Hundred Fifty Four Thousand (LKR 154, 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 **06th July 2021** (*105 days after the date of 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 been 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 shall present the registration certificate under the Public Contract Act No.3 of 1987 before purchasing the bidding documents.
- 14. 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(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 : pmudhqc@gmail.com



1. Offers are invited by the Chairman, Revenue Tender Board (Minor), Urban Development Authority to allocate the following Commercial Units at Metro Homes, Slave Island, Colombo 02 on monthly lease basis for a period of 5 years.

Seri. No	Unit No.	Floor	Purpose	Floor Area (Sq. Ft)	Base Price (Rs.)	Monthly Rent (Rs.)	Bid Bond (Rs.)
01	40/19	Ground Floor	Commercial	581.2	1,130,000.00	9,450.00	34,000.00
02	40 1/5	First Floor	Office/ Commercial	1151.7	1,380,000.00	11,500.00	41,500.00
03	40 1/6	First Floor	Office	645.8	773,000.00	6,500.00	23,000.00
04	40 1/10	First Floor	Office / Commercial	635.1	950,000.00	8,000.00	28,500.00
05	40 1/17	First Floor	Commercial	333.7	250,000.00	2,000.00	7,500.00
06	40 1/30	First Floor	Office / Commercial	1959.0	2,930,000.00	24,500.00	88,000.00
07	40 2/8	Second Floor	Hotel / Office / Commercial	1689.9	2,275,000.00	19,000.00	68,000.00
08	40 2/10	Second Floor	Commercial	183.0	192,000.00	1,600.00	6,000.00
09	40 2/16	Second Floor	Commercial	53.8	50,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
10	40 2/27	Second Floor	Office / Commercial	645.8	773,000.00	6,500.00	23,000.00
11	40 2/38	Second Floor	Commercial	53.8	50,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00

2. These shops will be allocated for a period of 05 years on monthly lease basis. Selection of the allottee shall be made considering the highest base price offered by the prospective bidders.

- 3. Interested parties should make their offers, above the base values indicated in the table above for each shop unit. In addition to the base value offered and monthly lease, 8% VAT thereon should be paid. The base value paid by the successful bidder is non-refundable.
- 4. Interested parties may purchase the tender document from the Real Estate Mgt. & Dev. Division, Urban Development Authority, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage I, Battaramulla from 9.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. on working days from **01.03.2021 to 17.03.2021**, upon a payment of a non- refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Two Thousand & Five Hundred + 8% VAT thereon. (LKR 2,500.00 + 8% VAT). Further, Tender documents could be inspected free of charge within the said period.
- 5. A Bid Bond referred in above table relevant for the Shop for which a bid to be submitted, is paid in cash to the Finance Division, Urban Development Authority & the original of the receipt shall be submitted along with each Tender document.
- 6. Tenders will be closed at 2.00 p.m. on **19.03.2021** and will be opened immediately after the closing time at the Finance Division, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Urban Development Authority, Sethsiripaya-Stage I, Battaramulla. Tenderer or his/her authorized representative could be present at the time of opening.
- 7. Further details could be obtained from the Director, (Real Estate Development), Urban Development Authority, 8th Floor, Sethsiripaya, Stage- I, Battaramulla Telephone: 011-2875921 and 011-2875916-20 Extension 2960-2967 during office hours 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

#### Chairman

Revenue Tender Board (Minor) Urban Development Authority

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STATE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION. SUPPLY AND **REGULATION OF PHARMACEUTICALS** STATE PHARMACEUTICALS MANUFACTURING SPMC

## INVITATION FOR REGISTRATION OF NEW SUPPLIERS FOR SUPPLY OF Paracetamol Direct Compression 90 (DC 90)

#### REF. SPMC/REG/PARA-DC/2021 Closing on 15.03.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

- The State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation invites applications from eligible and qualified bidders to be registered for Supply of Paracetamol Direct Compression 90 (DC 90).
- Sealed duly completed original and duplicate documents should be sent separately by registered post addressing to the Chairman, Procurement Committee, State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation (SPMC), No. 1 l, 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.
- 3. Following criteria have to be complied when submitting an application from prospective suppliers
  - Minimum quantity of l0 kg of Paracetamol DC 90 raw material sample has to be supplied to the Corporation free of charge with COA, GMP Certificate of manufacturer
  - The Corporation will keep the final product prepared with the above supplied material for six months
  - Successful Manufacturer and supplier should enter into a contract with SPMC related to quality
  - Successful Manufacturer and supplier should submit additional information and documents requested
  - Successful Manufacturer should send sample of (Approx. 50 g) of Active pharmaceutical Ingredient (Paracetamol BP) used for each and every batch of Paracetamol DC 90, certified by the manufacturer
- Below documents should be submitted with the application.
  - i. Product formula with Certificate of Analysis from the Manufacturer
  - ii. Certificate of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) of API manufacturer
  - iii. Manufacturer's Certificate of Analysis of API of Paracetamol BP
  - iv Manufacturing Process validation report for DC Granules / Protocol
  - v. Manufacturer's Authorization letter and Supplier's Authorization letter
- Application must be delivered to the given address on or before 15th March 2021 at 10.00 a.m. and late applications will not be considered. "Registration for Supplying of Paracetamol DC 90" should be written on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.
- Interested and eligible bidders may obtain further information from Deputy General Manager Planning & Procurement, SPMC (Tel. 011-2623298) during office hours.
- 7. These Details can be viewed from the Website of SPMC. (www.spmclanka.lk)

Chairman	TEL :	(00) 94-11-2635353 /
Procurement Committee		(00) 94-11-2637574 /
State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing		(00) 94-11-2623298
Corporation	E-MAIL:	spmclanka@sltnet.lk
No. 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha,	Website :	www.spmclanka.lk
Kandawala Estate,	Fax :	(00) 94-11-2634771, 2626621
Ratmalana, Sri Lanka.		



- proprietary construction to suite the function such as normal, fire or acoustic.
- 2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- 3. To be eligible for the Contract award,

b)

of the relevant other contractors.

The successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least five (05) years

with access control system (where necessary). The contractor shall incorporate Delay Egress and Automatic Operated equipment to relevant doors as per the schedule suitably and co-ordinate with relevant provisions related to the systems. The contractor shall propose the suitable equipment in relation with other related items specified by others to incorporate on the door according to the

size of door jambs and panels. Those items can be surface mounted or concealed type that comply required function related to all other components of the door. Supply of Access Control Systems and AOD are not included in this scope, but the Contractor shall install the items under the supervision

The relevant door components shall be of engineered hardwood, manufactured according to

The bidder shall be the Manufacturer or Authorized supplier or Installer for the intended works. Manufacturer to be accredited and registered under ISO 9001. Supplier shall be a registered and authorized agent of the manufacturer. Installer shall be qualified and specialized in installation with a valid license and eligible to receive manufacturer's warranty for the works.

- 4. Oualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
  - Average annual turnover in last five (5) years shall be at least LKR 497 million.
  - Experience in successful completion of at least one project of supply and installation of engineered hardwood, heavy-duty door system of value not less than LKR 100 million within last five (05) years
  - 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 142 million.
- 5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from, The 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 01st March 2021 until 24th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during a working day.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission 6. of a written application to The Accountant (Procurement), Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, from 01st March 2021 until 24th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Forty Six Thousand (LKR 46,000.00). The method of payment will be in Cash to the shroff of **Ministry of Defence**.
- 7. Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed in the below address at or before 1000 hrs on 26th 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.
- 8. Bids shall be valid up to 23rd July 2021 (119 days after the date of Bid Opening).
- 9. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid-Security of Sri Lankan Rupees Three Million Three Hundred Ten Thousand (LKR 3,310,000.00) shall be 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 guarantee and shall be valid up to 20th August 2021 (147 days after the date of Bid Opening).
- 10. A pre bid meeting will be held at 1100 hrs on 10th March 2021 and a site visit will be held at 1130 hrs on same day at the Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- 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 been 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), along with the Bidding Document from Ministry of Defence.
- 14. Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to The Chief Financial Officer, Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, 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 (07) is :

The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC), Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03. 0094-11-2439381 / 0094-11-2390719 Tel :

0094-11-2390720 Fax :

E-mail: procurement@defence.lk

## **EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND**

# NOTICE

## STATEMENTS OF MEMBER ACCOUNTS SECOND HALF OF 2019

## For the special attention of all Employers and Members

The Statements of Accounts of the members for the Second Half of 2019 showing the closing **balance as at 31.12.2019** and contributions credited to the member accounts from July to December 2019 have been posted to the respective employers for distribution among the relevant members.

Accordingly, members of the Employees' Provident Fund are hereby requested to obtain these Statements of Accounts from their employers.

If any discrepancy/discrepancies are noted with respect to the details such as member names, National Identity Card Number and the contribution amounts in these Statements, please forward the documents applicable for correction of such details through your employers to the Superintendent, Employees' Provident Fund, immediately.

Telephone N	os. : EPF Help [	Desk 011-2206642
		011-2206690
		011-2206691
		011-2206692
		011-2206693
Fax No	:	011-2206694
Email	2	epfhelpdesk@cbsl.lk

A G U Thilakarathna Superintendent **Employees' Provident Fund Department** Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Level 12, Tower 5 No.30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo 01.



## **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF CEYLON**

## **PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

## Supply of Acrylonitrile Butadiene Rubber (NBR) for the manufacture of rubber compounds

Chairman, Procurement Committee, Industrial Development Board invites Tenders from manufacturers, accredited sole agents for the supply of Acrylonitrile Butadiene Rubber - 5000 kgs.

Tender No.	Quantity	Description
T/03/2021	5000 kg.	Acrylonitrile Butadiene Rubber – (N.B.R.) Medium Grade -34:55

Tender documents could be obtained from the Deputy Director (Supply), Supplies Division, Industrial Development Board of Ceylon, No. 615, Galle Road, Katubedda, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka on a non-refundable payment of Rs. 2000/ = .

Bidders should make a written request to the Deputy Director (Supply), Supplies Division, Industrial Development Board of Ceylon for the purchase of Tender Documents.

Tender Documents are issued from 01.03.2021 to 15.03.2021 on working days between 9.30 a.m. & 3.00 p.m.

Bidders should submit the tenders to the Deputy Director (Supply), Industrial Development Board, No. 615, Galle Road, Katubedda, Moratuwa on or before 16.03.2021 at 2.30 p.m.

Tender Opening Date & Time - 16.03.2021 at 2.30 p.m.

Chairman Procurement Committee Industrial Development Board of Ceylon No. 615, Galle Road Katubedda Moratuwa.

## **TENDER NOTICE**



## TENDER FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING AND MAINTENANCE OF REAL TIME GROSS SETTLEMENT SYSTEM

Tender Number	LK-CBSL-65728-GO-RFP
Tender Description	Tender for Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Real Time Gross Settlement System for the Central Bank of Sri Lanka
Non-refundable Fee	Sri Lankan Rupees Thirty Seven Thousand(LKR 37,000/-) or in United States Dollars Two Hundred (US\$ 200/-)
Pre-Bid Meeting	Date: 25 March 2021Time: 1400 HrsLocation: Head Office Building, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, No 30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo-01, Sri Lanka and/or MS Teams
Bid closing and opening	Date: 28 April 2021Time: 1400 Hrs.Location: Head Office Building, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, No 30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo-01, Sri Lanka
https:/	rther information please refer //www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/tenders +94 11 2477337 or +94 11 2398754
Project Tea	m, Financial Sector Modernization Project Central Bank of Sri Lanka.





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## **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

## **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

## DESIGN, FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF PROPRIETARY DOORS, FRAMES AND HARDWARE FOR BLOCK 04 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

#### **CONTRACT NO : DHQC/TIM DOOR 4/2020**

 The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Design, Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Proprietary Doors, Frames and Hardware for Block 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda as described below and estimated to cost LKR 353 Million (excluding VAT).

The works shall be as follows and the Time for Completion for the whole of works shall be 196 Days.

- a) The works consist of Design, Manufacture, Supply and Installation of heavy-duty door system including Proprietary Door sashes, Frames, Architraves, Door Hardware and Accessories and coordination with access control system (where necessary). The contractor shall incorporate Delay Egress and Automatic Operated equipment to relevant doors as per the schedule suitably and co-ordinate with relevant provisions related to the systems. The contractor shall propose the suitable equipment in relation with other related items specified by others to incorporate on the door according to the size of door jambs and panels. Those items can be surface mounted or concealed type that comply required function related to all other components of the door. Supply of Access Control Systems and AOD are not included in this scope, but the Contractor shall install the items under the supervision of the relevant other contractors.
- b) The relevant door components shall be of engineered hardwood, manufactured according to proprietary construction to suit the function such as normal, fire or acoustic.
- 2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.

## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

## **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

## DESIGN, FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF PROPRIETARY DOORS, FRAMES AND HARDWARE FOR BLOCK 01 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

#### **CONTRACT NO : DHQC/TIM DOOR 1/2020**

- The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Design, Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Proprietary Doors, Frames and Hardware for Block 01 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda as described below and estimated to cost LKR 255 Million (excluding VAT).
  - The works shall be as follows and the Time for Completion for the whole of works shall be 175 Days.
  - a) The works consist of Design, Manufacture, Supply and Installation of heavy-duty door system including Proprietary Door sashes, Frames, Architraves, Door Hardware and Accessories and coordination with access control system (where necessary). The contractor shall incorporate Delay Egress and Automatic Operated equipment to relevant doors as per the schedule suitably and co-ordinate with relevant provisions related to the systems. The contractor shall propose the suitable equipment in relation with other related items specified by others to incorporate on the door according to the size of door jambs and panels. Those items can be surface mounted or concealed type that comply required function related to all other components of the door. Supply of Access Control Systems and AOD are not included in this scope, but the Contractor shall install the items under the supervision of the relevant other contractors.
  - b) The relevant door components shall be of engineered hardwood, manufactured according to proprietary construction to suit the function such as normal, fire or acoustic.
- 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.

The bidder shall be the Manufacturer or Authorized Supplier or Installer for the intended works. Manufacturer to be accredited and registered under ISO 9001. Supplier shall be a registered and authorized agent of the manufacturer. Installer shall be qualified and specialized in installation with a valid license and eligible to receive manufacturer's warranty for the works.

- 4. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
  - Average annual turnover in last five (5) years shall be at least LKR 530 million.
  - Experience in successful completion of at least one project of supply and installation of engineered hardwood, heavy-duty door system of value not less than LKR 100 million within last five (05) years.
  - 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 152 million.
- 5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from, **The 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 **01st March 2021 until 24th March 2021** from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during a working day.**
- 6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to The Accountant (Procurement), Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, from 01st March 2021 until 24th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Forty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty (LKR 47,750.00). The method of payment will be in Cash to the shroff of Ministry of Defence.
- 7. Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed at the below address on or before **1200 hrs on 26th 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.
- 8. Bids shall be valid up to 23rd July 2021 (119 days after the date of Bid Opening).
- 9. All bids accompanied by a **Bid-Security of Sri Lankan Rupees Three Million Five Hundred Thirty Thousand** (LKR 3,530,000.00) shall be 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 guarantee and shall be valid up to **20th August 2021** (147 days after the date of Bid Opening).
- 10. A pre bid meeting will be held at **1130 hrs on 10th March 2021** and a site visit will be held at **1200 hrs on same day** at the Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- 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 been 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), along with the Bidding Document from Ministry of Defence.
- 14. Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to The Chief Financial Officer, Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, 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 (7) is :

The Chairman, Project 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

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.

The bidder shall be the Manufacturer or Authorized Supplier or Installer for the intended works. Manufacturer to be accredited and registered under ISO 9001. Supplier shall be a registered and authorized agent of the manufacturer. Installer shall be qualified and specialized in installation with a valid license and eligible to receive manufacturer's warranty for the works.

- 4. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
  - Average annual turnover in last five (5) years shall be at least LKR 383 million.
  - Experience in successful completion of at least one project of supply and installation of engineered hardwood, heavy-duty door system of value not less than LKR 100 million within last five (05) years.
  - 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 123 million.
- 5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from, **The 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 **01st March 2021 until 24th March 2021** from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during a working day.**
- 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, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC), Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, from 01st March 2021 until 24th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Forty Thousand (LKR 40,000.00). The method of payment will be in Cash/Bank draft in favour of Ministry of Defence.
- 7. Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed at the below address on or before **1000 hrs on 25th 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.
- 8. Bids shall be valid upto **22nd July 2021** (119 days after the date of Bid Opening).
- 9. All bids accompanied by a Bid-Security of Sri Lankan Rupees Two Million Six Hundred Thousand (LKR 2,600,000.00) shall be 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 guarantee and shall be valid upto 19th August 2021 (147 days after the date of Bid Opening).
- 10. A pre bid meeting will be held at **1000 hrs on 10th March 2021** and a site visit will be held at **1030 hrs on same day** at the Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- 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 been 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), along with the Bidding Document from Ministry of Defence.
- 14. Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to The Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, 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 (7) is :

The Chairman, Project 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



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Casual Advertisemen published C/o the

## Daily Ach

should only b sent by ordinary post

Replies sent under registered cov will not be accepted.

**ETI Finance Limited Public Auction Sale Of Unredeemed Pawned Gold Articles** 

Articles pawned up to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019, 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 & 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 at the following branches of ETI Finance Ltd. Which were not redeemed or renewed on or before 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021, will be sold by Public Auction at Head Office. Auction will be commenced at 9.30 a.m in each day.

Pawned Date	Pawned Branches	Place & Date Of Auction
30-11-2019 31-12-2019 31-01-2020 Up to	Ampara, Ambalangoda, Badulla, Bandarawela, Eheliyagoda, Embilipitiya, Galle, Tissamaharama, Kegalle, Kurunegala, Matara, Monaragala, Welimada, Rathnapura, Avissawella, Bambalapitiya, Battaramulla, Dematagoda, Gampaha, Grandpass, Homagama, Horana, Kalutara, Kadawatha, Kaduwela, Kandana, Kiribathgoda, Kotahena, Kottawa, Piliyandala, Maharagama, Malay Street, Maradana-143, Maradana-435, Pettah, Moratuwa, Mt. Lavinia, Negombo, Nugegoda, Panadura, Ward Place (Col-07), Borella (D.S.S. Mw), Wellawatta-307, Wellawattha- 99, Sea Street, Mathugama, Dambulla	No-114, Ward Place, Colombo - 07 Borella Brancl 17-03-2021, 18-03-2021,
	rticipants should produce their National Ident pany reserves the right to cancel, amalgamate the Auction without any further notice.	2

No. 114, waru Flace, Coloindo U/ Telephone No: 0117534200, Fax No: 0112674435

## **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

## **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

## **DESIGN, FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF PROPRIETARY DOORS, FRAMES AND HARDWARE FOR BLOCK 02 OF** DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

### **CONTRACT NO : DHQC/TIM DOOR 2/2020**

1. The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Design, Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Proprietary Doors, Frames and Hardware for Block 02 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda as described below and estimated to cost LKR 233 Million (excluding VAT).

The works shall be as follows and the Time for Completion for the whole of works shall be 168 Days.

- The works consist of Design, Manufacture, Supply and Installation of heavy-duty door system including **a**) Proprietary Door sashes, Frames, Architraves, Door Hardware and Accessories and coordination with access control system (where necessary). The contractor shall incorporate Delay Egress and Automatic Operated equipment to relevant doors as per the schedule suitably and co-ordinate with relevant provisions related to the systems. The contractor shall propose the suitable equipment in relation with other related items specified by others to incorporate on the door according to the size of door jambs and panels. Those items can be surface mounted or concealed type that comply required function related to all other components of the door. Supply of Access Control Systems and AOD are not included in this scope, but the Contractor shall install the items under the supervision of the relevant other contractors.
- The relevant door components shall be of engineered hardwood, manufactured according to **b**) proprietary construction to suite the function such as normal, fire or acoustic.
- 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.

The bidder shall be a Manufacturer or an Authorized Supplier or an Installer for the intended works. Manufacturer to be accredited and registered under ISO 9001. Supplier shall be a registered and authorized agent of the manufacturer. Installer shall be qualified and specialized in installation with a valid license and eligible to receive manufacturer's warranty for the works.



## **TENDER NOTICE**

## STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

The State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, Colombo 01 invites quotations from registered and previous sources for following items for open market sales and tenders will be closed at 1.15 p.m. on the dates given below. (E.mail /Fax offers as well as FOB offers are not acceptable)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Tender No.</u>	C <u>losing on</u>
Item Code No : 270105C31 Calcium Lactate Tablets BP/USP 300mg In 1000 Tablets	36,000 Packs	RES/16/03/A/2021	16.03.2021
Item Code No: 120302C19 Telmisartan Tablets 40mg In 10 x 10 Tablets (Blister)	72,000 Packs	RES/16/03/B/2021	16.03.2021
Item Code No : 130103J99 Clotrimazole 1% w/w with Beclomethasone Dipropionate 0.025% w/w Cream in 15g tube packed in a box	24,000 Tubes	RES/16/03/C/2021	16.03.2021
Item Code No : 311397V99 Zinc Oxide Surgical Adhesive Tape BP <b>OR</b> Adhesive Tape USP (Zinc Oxide Coated) Width : 7.5cm Length 4.5m in 1 spool	9,000 Rolls	RES/16/03/D/2021	16.03.2021
Item Code No : 180801C03 Levothyroxine Tablets BP/Thyroxine Tablets BP 100mcg <b>OR</b> Levothyroxine Sodium Tablets USP 100mcg in 100 Tablets (Blister)	50,000 Packs	RES/16/03/E/2021	16.03.2021
Item Code No : 060501K26 Amoxicillin Oral Suspension BP 125mg/5ml <b>OR</b> Amoxicillin for Suspension USP 125mg/5ml in 100ml packed in a carton with a spoon.	76,800 Packs	RES/16/03/F/2021	16.03.2021

These tenders are administered by the provisions of the "Public Contracts 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 Contracts Act and produce such valid certificate of registration in the course of any transaction relating to the tender or Act at any stage in the duration of the tender.

Tenders will be closed at the office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at 1.15 p.m. on the dates indicated against each tender and will be opened immediately thereafter. Tenderers or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Tender.

#### The Chairman – Procurement Committee

State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka 75, Sir Baron Jayathilake Mawatha, Colombo 01

Phone: 0094-11-2320356 – 9

## **Invitation for Bids (IFB)**

## Ministry of Urban Development and Housing

**Strategic Cities Development Programme** 

French Agency for Development (AFD) funded **Anuradhapura Integrated Urban Development Project** 

(Credit Number : CLK 1009 01 R- AIUDP)

## **Construction and Re-Development of Vehicle Parks in the** Sacred Area in Anuradhapura

## IFB No : SCDP/AFD/WK/06

1. The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received a loan from the Agency for French Development towards the cost of Strategic Cities Development Programme and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the Contract for Construction and Re-Development of Vehicle Parks in the Sacred Area in Anuradhapura.

2. The Chairman Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development and Housing now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Construction and Re-Development of Car Parks in the Sacred Area in Anuradhapura as described below and estimated to cost Sri Lankan Rupees 282 Million.

NCB. No	Contract Title	CIDA Minimum Grade & Field of Specialisation	Non Refundable Bid fee per set of Bidding Document	Construction Period	Engineer's Estimate (excluding VAT)
SCDP/AFD/WK/06	Construction and Re-Development of Vehicle Parks in the Sacred Area in Anuradhapura	C3 or C2 only Under Building Works	LKR.35,000.00	12 months	LKR 282 Mn

- 4. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
  - Average annual turnover in last five (5) years shall be at least LKR 350 million.
  - Experience in successful completion of at least one project of supply and installation of engineered hardwood, heavy-duty door system of value not less than LKR 100 million within last five (05) vears.
  - 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 117 million.
- 5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from, The 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 01st March 2021 until 24th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during a working day.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission 6. of a written application to The Accountant (Procurement), Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, from 01st March 2021 until 24th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Thirty Eight Thousand (LKR 38,000.00). The method of payment will be in Cash to the Shroff of **Ministry of Defence**.
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed at the below address at or before 1200 hrs on 25th 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 24th July 2021 (91 days after the date of Bid Opening).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of Sri Lankan Rupees Two Million Three Hundred Thirty 9. Thousand (LKR 2,330,000.00) shall be 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 guarantee and shall be valid up to 22nd July 2021 (119 days after the date of Bid Opening).
- 10. A pre bid meeting will be held at 1030 hrs on 10th March 2021 and a site visit will be held at 1030 hrs on same day at the Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- 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 been 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), along with the Bidding Document from the Ministry of Defence.
- 14. Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to The Chief Financial Officer, Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, 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 (7) is :

The Chairman, **Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC)**, **Ministry of Defence**, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03. 0094-11-2439381 / 0094-11-2390719 Tel : 0094-11-2390720 Fax :

E-mail: procurement@defence.lk

The scope of the Work consists of

- Construction of Vehicle Park Sri Maha Bodhi South Gate Landscaping Work including gravel roads and hollow block paved parking areas, construction of 01nr Ticket counter and 01 nr wash room
- Construction of Vehicle Park Mirisavetiya Landscaping Work including gravel roads and hollow block paved parking areas, and construction of 01nr Ticket counter and 01 nr wash room.
- Construction of Vehicle Park Lankaramaya Landscaping Work including gravel roads and hollow block paved parking areas, and Construction of 14 nrs Vending Shops under one roof with Electrical Works, Plumbing Works and necessary services.
- 3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the Procurement Guidelines for Agency for French Development (AFD) financed Contracts in Foreign Countries (February 2017 edition) and is opened for all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines.
- 4. Eligible bidders must meet the following General Specific Criteria.

Average Annual Construction Turnover for the last 5 years	Liquid assets	Specific Construction Experience of Similar nature within last 5 years	Amount of Bid Security
> 423Mn	71 Mn	Satisfactory completion of 01 Contract of Similar nature (LKR 200 Mn) within one year during last 5 years	LKR. 2,820,000.00

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from The Procurement/Contract Management Specialist,, Strategic Cities Development Programme, Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, 4th Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage 1, Battaramulla, Telephone No 0112887320/1 Fax No:-0112868188 Email:- scdp.pd2@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs.

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the 6. submission of a written application to The Project Director, Strategic Cities Development Programme, Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, 4th Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage 1, Battaramulla, from 3rd March 2021 until 26th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 35,000.00 LKR. The method of payment is given below.

#### Account Name : Strategic Cities Development Project - Anuradhapura Account Number: 7040466 Bank & Branch : BOC, Battaramulla

- 7. Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below on or before 31st 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.
- 8. Bids shall be valid up to 25th August 2021.
- 9. All Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of LKR, 2,820,000.00 as per the given format. The Bid Security shall be valid up to 22nd September 2021.
- 10. A pre-bid meeting will be held on 11th March 2021 at 11.00a.m at Project Implementation Unit (PIU), AIUDP - SCDP office, No 06/393 Wewa Road, Harischandra Mawatha, Stage I, Anuradhapura. A site visit will be conducted at 10.00 a.m. by the Employer before the Pre-Bid meeting.

#### Chairman

**Project Procurement Committee (PPC) Anuradhapura Integrated Urban Development Project** Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, 4th Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage 1, Battaramulla. Telephone No: 0112887320/1 Fax No : 0112868188 Email : scdp.pd2@gmail.com.

## FENDER NOTICE



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## 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.

## **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE** 

## FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF MAIN ENTRANCE DOOR WITH DECORATIVE GRANITE WALL PANELS OF BLOCK 02 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

## **CONTRACT NO : DHQC/ENTRANCE DOOR 2/2020**

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Main Entrance Door with Decorative Granite Wall Panels of Block 02 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda as described below and approximate estimated to cost LKR 14.4 million (excluding VAT).

### The Time for Completion for the whole of the Works shall be 63 Days.

The Works consist of Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Main Entrance Door with Decorative Granite Wall Panels.

- 2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- 3. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted.
- 4. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
  - Bidder shall have been registered as a business entity in Sri Lanka for at least five (5) years and shall currently engage in the business of architectural furnishings and decorative works.
  - Bidder shall be an organization registered under ISO 9001.
  - Bidder shall possess experience in successful completion of at least one prestigious project which comprises of exquisite architectural decorative works including ornamented doors and/or wood works of a value not less than LKR 2 Million within the 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 01st March 2021 until 22nd March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days.
- 6. 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, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla from 01st March 2021 until 22nd March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Five Thousand (LKR 5,000.00). The method of payment will be by Cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of Ministry of Defence.

## **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

## **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

## FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF MAIN ENTRANCE DOOR WITH DECORATIVE GRANITE WALL PANELS OF BLOCK 03 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

### CONTRACT NO : DHQC/ENTRANCE DOOR 3/2020

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Main Entrance Door with Decorative Granite Wall Panels of Block 03 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda as described below and approximate estimated to cost LKR 14.4 million (excluding VAT).

### The Time for Completion for the whole of the Works shall be 63 Days.

The Works consist of Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Main Entrance Door with Decorative Granite Wall Panels.

- 2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- 3. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted.
- 4. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
  - Bidder shall have been registered as a business entity in Sri Lanka for at least five (5) years and shall currently engage in the business of architectural furnishings and decorative works.
  - Bidder shall be an organization registered under ISO 9001.
  - Bidder shall possess experience in successful completion of at least one prestigious project which comprises of exquisite architectural decorative works including ornamented doors and/or wood works of a value not less than LKR 2 Million within the 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 01st March 2021 until 22nd March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days.
- 6. 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, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla from 01st March 2021 until 22nd March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Five Thousand (LKR 5,000.00). The method of payment will be by Cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of Ministry of Defence.
- 7. Pre bid meeting will be held at **1120 hrs on 10th 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.
- 8. Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below or shall be deposited in the Tender box placed at the address below at or before 1000 hrs on 23rd 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 up to **08th June 2021** (77 Days after the date of Bid opening).
- 10. All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid Security", of Sri Lankan Rupees One Hundred Forty Five Thousand(LKR 145,000.00) 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 06th July 2021 (105 days after the date of 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 10 of above, if any bidder has already been selected/is working as a Contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project, the bidder



- 7. Pre bid meeting will be held at **1100 hrs on 10th 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 at or before **1000 hrs on 23rd 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 up to **08th June 2021** (77 Days after the date of Bid opening).
- 10. All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid Security", of **Sri Lankan Rupees One Hundred Forty Five Thousand (LKR 145,000.00)** 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 **06th July 2021** (105 days after the date of 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 10 of above, if any bidder has already been 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 Project Procurement Committee (PPC).
- 14. 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(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 : pmudhqc@gmail.com

- 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 Project Procurement Committee (PPC).
- 14. 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(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 : pmudhqc@gmail.com





## **BE BETTER INFORMED!**

#### Sunday Observer February 28, 2021 79

## **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

## **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

### BID FOR DESIGN, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF FRAMELESS VANITY MIRRORS FOR WET AREAS OF BLOCK 03 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

#### **CONTRACT NO : DHQC/MIRROR 3/2020**

 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 03 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla as described below and estimated to cost LKR 7 Million (excluding VAT).

The Works consist of Design, Supply and Installation of Frameless Vanity Mirrors for Wet Areas of Block 03 of Proposed Defence Headquarters Complex (DHQC) at Akuregoda, Sri Lanka. The Intended Completion Date for the Works shall be 126 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 10 million.
- Experience in successful completion of supply and installation of vanity mirrors including at least one project of value not less than SLR 4 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 01st March 2021 until 22nd 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 01st March 2021 until 22nd March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Two Thousand Six Hundred Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR 2,600.00). The method of payment will be in Cash.
- Pre bid meeting will be held at **1140 hrs on 12th 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 23rd 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 **08th June 2021.** (77 Days after the date of Bid opening).
- 10. All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid Security of Sri Lankan Rupees Seventy Thousand (LKR 70,000.00)** 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 **06th July 2021** (105 Days after date of Bid opening).



## **MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

## **INVITATION FOR BIDS**

## GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS & MALARIA PROJECT (GFATM)

## Procurement of Computers & Hardware Items for National STD/AIDS Control Programme

The Chairperson, Regional Procurement Committee on behalf of National STD/AIDS Control Programme under GFATM project now invites sealed bids from eligible suppliers for the Procurement of Computers & Hardware Items.

Lot No:	Description	Qty	Bid Security (LKR)	Bid Validity Period in days
Lot - 01	Laptop Computers	55	96,250.00	
Lot - 02	No. Bar code Readers	45	5,400.00	
Lot - 03	Laser printer	20	12,000.00	90 days from
Lot - 04	Servers	11	22,000.00	bid closing
Lot - 05	High-end Server	1	2,500.00	date
Lot - 06	UPS	12	12,000.00	
Lot - 07	Smart Phones	50	12,500.00	

1. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB).

- 2. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be obtained by interested Bidders **at National STD/AIDS Control Programme, Ministry of Health, No 29, De Saram Place, Colombo 10.** From 01<sup>st</sup> March during 09.00 am to 3.00 pm on Mondays to Fridays inclusive of both days except on public holidays on the submission of a written request to the address given below and upon payment of a non- refundable fee of Rupees 2000/= for all set. Payment should be made by cash.
- 3. All bids in one original plus one copy, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered by registered post or deposited in the Tender Box kept at Administration Officer's room (A/O) of National STD/AIDS Control Programme, No. 29, De Saram Place Colombo -10, on or before the closing time of bids at 10.00 am on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021. The top of the left-hand Conner of envelopes should be marked "NSACP/GFATM/FR/2021/0014".
- 4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Procurement Officer GFATM-NSACP, Ministry of Health, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Medihouse Building, No 26, Sri Sangaraja Mawatha, Colombo 10 and inspect the Bidding Document during the office hours.
- 5. Bids will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the opening.

#### Chairperson, Regional Procurement Committee, National STD/AIDS Control Programme, No. 29, De Saram Place, Colombo -10.

Telephone: 0774540990/011 2667163



## State Mortgage & Investment Bank

## Wanted Office facilities in Galle, Vavuniya, Kurunegala, Matale

It is required to obtain on rent/lease office space with following facilities for Galle, Vavuniya, Kurunegala and Matale Branches of State Mortgage & Investment Bank.

Branches	Sq.ft
Galle	2500 - 3000
Vavuniya	1750 - 2500
Kurunegala	4000 - 5000
Matale	1750 - 2500

**Required Facilities:** 

- Should be a ground floor facing a main road
- Parking space for at least 4 vehicles
- Separate space for Generator Room with adequate ventilation
- Fire Insurance and Electrical Engineering Certificate.
- Separate entrance for disabled people
- Other basic requirements including water, telephone, three-phase electricity, generator and sanitation facilities.
- Emergency exits
- Tiled floor

Sealed applications with all details including expected monthly rental, number of square feet. Approved building plan COC a copy of a deed and other conditions could either be sent under registered cover or delivered to the following address before 3.00 p.m. on 17.03.2021. Tenders will be opened immediately after closing of tenders

Chairman (Procurement Committee) State Mortgage & Investment Bank, No. 269, Galle Road, Colombo 03.

For further details please contact Chief Manager (HR & Logistics) on Tel. Nos. 011-7722879/011-7722784.

General Manager State Mortgage & Investment Bank, No. 269, Galle Road, Colombo 03.





**Ministry of Technology** 

Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)** 



State Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness

- 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 been 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



## Assignment Title :Procurement of Consultant Firm for Managing the<br/>Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity Implementation ProjectAssignment No :ICTA/GOSL/CON/QCBS/2021/01

Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA) functioning under the purview of the Ministry of Technology is in the process of establishment of Unique Digital Identity Framework for Sri Lanka (SL-UDI)which has been defined as a foundational component with the overall Digital Government Architecture for Sri Lanka on priority basis.

By now, ICTA as the implementation / execution agency of the SL-UDI project is in the process of carrying out detailed planning related to possible regulatory changes, process re-engineering, and solution implementation. Considering the SL-UDI framework is a vital element in delivering the National Policy Framework of the Government, ICTA intends to expedite the implementation of the SL-UDI through an accelerated time period.

Accordingly, ICTA intends to engage a Consultant Firm to obtain Management Consultancy services for twelve (12) months for the implementation of SL-UDI.

Ministry Consultant Procurement Committee (CPCM) on behalf of the ICTA, now invites eligible Consultancy Firms to express their interest for the Request for Expressions of Interest (REoIs). Responses must include requested information as specified in the "EoI Information Form" along with documentary evidence in support of core business and years in business, Financial, Business and Administrative strength/standing, qualifications in the field of assignment, experience in carrying out assignments of a similar nature and complexity, technical and managerial organization of the firm, technical capabilities and appropriate skills of key staff of the organization and other relevant information.

The "Scope of Service" and "EoI Information Form" are now available at ICTA and interested firms may download these documents from the website https://www.icta.lk/procurement/

The Consultancy firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Government Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants following Quality and Cost Base Selection (QCBS) method. All interested parties are informed that all documentations shall be in English Language.

Interested consultants may obtain further information from Head of Procurement of ICTA by contacting via Phone: +94 11 2369099, Fax: +94 11 2369091 and email: procurement@icta.lk.

Expressions of Interest including all requested information must be delivered no later than **15.00 hrs on 12th March, 2021** either: (i) electronically to; procurement@icta.lk or (ii) hand delivered (with a softcopy of the EOI in a CD) or (iii) by post (with a softcopy of the EOI in a CD) to the address; Head of Procurement, ICTA, 2nd Floor, 160/24, Kirimandala Mawatha, Colombo 05, Sri Lanka.

Envelope containing the EoI and subject field of e-mail should be marked **"Procurement** of a Consultant Firm for Managing the Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity Implementation Project ICTA/GOSL/CON/QCBS/2021/01"

#### Chairman

Ministry Consultant Procurement Committee(CPCM) Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka 160/24, Kirimandala Mawatha, Colombo 5, Sri Lanka.

Phone: +94 11 2369099 www.icta.lk

28th February, 2021

## Condominium Management Authority (CMA) Obtaining Consultancy Services

Applications are hereby invited to obtain consultancy services, for the Condominium Management Authority (CMA), from a Chartered Town Planner and from an Attorney-at-Law with following qualifications and experience in carrying out such services of consultancies.

## 1. Qualifications to be fulfilled by a Chartered Town Planner

Should have completed minimum of 20 (twenty) years of experience in the services of the field of condominium property development and planning and of the regulations of planning of the Urban Development Authority (UDA), as a Chartered Town Planner in the private sector or of the Government Sector.

2. Qualifications to be fulfilled by an Attorney-at-Law

Should have LLB Degree (Bachelor of Laws), obtained from a Recognized University, with over ten (10) years experience as an Attorney-at-Law and out of which over 05 (five) years should be of service experience in the enactment of the activation of the Condominium Management Authority Act in addition to this, preference (special consideration) will be given to the applicants having service experience in the fields of housing and property management.

Interested consultants should have to send an application with complete bio-data (CV), inclusive of all the information, stating that they are having required qualifications, to carry out the above mentioned services.

Short-listed, qualified applicants / candidates, based on the above given qualifications and experience will be called for an interview:

Selected successful candidates will have to be responsible to report to the Chairman, of the Condominium Management Authority (CMA), and shall have to work for a full-time assignment of service (Twenty Four hours, per week).

Professionals, having required qualifications, should send an application, with their complete bid-data (CV), including their educational, academic and professional qualifications and experience and marked with caption to the effect **"Obtaining Consultancy Services for the Condominium Management Authority (CMA)**" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing applications to the following address by registered post, to receive on or before **15.03.2021**.

#### Chairman,

Condominium Management Authority (CMA) 1st Floor, National Housing Department (NHD) Building, Sir Chittampalam A. Gardiner Mawatha, Colombo 02.



## STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

## **INVITATION FOR BIDS**

## Obtaining a Land Space on Rent Basis in Narahenpita close to Labour Department for Vehicle Parking

## TENDER NO : AD/TR/LVP/33/2021 CLOSING ON : 15th March, 2021 AT 11.00 A.M.

State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka invites sealed bids to obtain a land space on rent basis with respect to the Vehicle parking.

It is expected that the land area of 3,000 square feet which must be situated around the Narahenpita Labour Department.

Sealed quotations with all the details including expected monthly rental, number of square feet, Land plan, a copy of the deed, location and any of the special conditions should be sent to **The Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee, State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, No. 75, Sir Baron Jayathilake Mawatha, Colombo 01** either by registered post or be deposited in a box kept at the Internal Audit Department of this building at or before **11.00 a.m. on 15th March, 2021.** 

### Offers should be submitted by the land owner directly.

Tenderers should strictly adhere to the following conditions :

- 1. Offers should be submitted duplicate clearly & separately marked as "Original" & "Duplicate" are to be inserted in properly sealed two separate envelopes.
- **2.** "Tender No, Time & Date of closing" should be indicated on the top of left corner of the envelope.
- **3.** Alternative Bids will not be accepted.

Late bids will not be entertained. Tenders will be opened immediately after the closing of the tender. Tenderers or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening the tender.

The Chairman - Departmental Procurement Committee, State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, No.75, Sir Baron Jayathilake Mawatha, Colombo 01.

Tel: 2 320356 - 9

## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

## **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

### MATERIALS REQUIREMENT FOR FABRICATION OF ALUMINIUM WET AREA FOR BLOCK NO. 03 & 04 AT DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AKUREGODA

#### **CONTRACT NO : DHQC/PROC/2021/H/62**

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Tenderers for **Supply of undermentioned Items for the Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.** 

## **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

## **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

MATERIALS REQUIREMENT FOR FABRICATION OF ALUMINIUM PARTITION DOORS FOR BLOCK NO. 03 & 04 AT DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AKUREGODA

### **CONTRACT NO : DHQC/PROC/2021/H/59**

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Tenderers for **Supply of undermentioned Items for the Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.** 

## **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

## **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

## FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF MAIN ENTRANCE DOOR WITH DECORATIVE GRANITE WALL PANELS OF BLOCK 04 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

### **CONTRACT NO : DHQC/ENTRANCE DOOR 4/2020**

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Main Entrance Door with Decorative Granite Wall Panels of Block 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda as described below and approximate estimated to cost LKR 14.4 million (excluding VAT).

The Time for Completion for the whole of the Works shall be 63 Days.

The Works consist of Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Main Entrance Door with Decorative Granite Wall Panels.

- 2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- 3. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted.
- 4. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
  - Bidder shall have been registered as a business entity in Sri Lanka for at least five (5) years and shall currently engage in the business of architectural furnishings and decorative works.
  - Bidder shall be an organization registered under ISO 9001.
  - Bidder shall possess experience in successful completion of at least one prestigious project which comprises of exquisite architectural decorative works including ornamented doors and/or wood works of a value not less than LKR 2 Million within the 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 01st March 2021 until 22nd March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days.
- 6. 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, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla from 01st March 2021 until 22nd March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Five Thousand (LKR 5,000.00). The method of payment will be Cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of Ministry of Defence.
- 7. Pre bid meeting will be held at **1140 hrs on 10th 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.
- 8. Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below or shall be deposited in the Tender box placed at the address below at or before **1000 hrs on 23rd 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 up to **08th June 2021** (77 Days after the date of Bid opening).
- 10. All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid Security", of **Sri Lankan Rupees One Hundred Forty Five Thousand(LKR 145,000.00)** 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 **06th July 2021** (105 days after the date of 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 10 of above, if any bidder has already been selected/is working as a Contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project, the bidder



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**Description of Item -** Material Requirement for Fabrication of Aluminium Wet Area

- 2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- 3. To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful Tenderers shall not have been blacklisted and shall possess a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least 05 years. Documentary evidence shall be established with the Bids.
- 4. Bidders are strongly advised to present Registration Certificate issued by the Registrar of Companies as per the 8th Paragraph of Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987 for every Bid which exceeds tenderable amount of Rs. 5.0 million, and copy of certificate to be presented when purchasing the bidding document.
- 5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language can be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rupees Twenty Thousand (LKR. 20,000.00)** (The method of payment shall be by cash) by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address below, from **0900 hrs to 1600 hrs during 01st March 2021 to 1000 hrs on 22nd March 2021.**
- 6. All Tenders shall be accompanied by a Tender Security, to the value of Nine Hundred Ninety Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Sri Lanka Rupees (LKR. 990,920.00) obtained from any commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Tender Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand guarantee and shall be valid from 22nd March 2021 to 19th July 2021 (120 days including Both Days).
- 7. Validity of Bids Bids shall be valid for 90 days from the date of Bid Opening (From 22nd March 2021 to 19th June 2021).
- 8. Duly completed Bids shall be delivered to: **The Chairman**, **Project Procurement Committee**, **Defence Headquarters Complex Project**, **Akuregoda Road**, **Pelawatta**, **Battaramulla at or before 1000 hrs on 22nd 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**.

The address referred in Para 6 & 9 is as follows :

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,

dhqcproc2015@gmail.com

- **Description of Item -** Material Requirement for Fabrication of Aluminium Partition Doors
- 2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- 3. To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful Tenderers shall not have been blacklisted and shall Possess a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least 05 years. Documentary evidence shall be established with the Bids.
- 4. Bidders are strongly advised to present Registration Certificate issued by the Registrar of Companies as per the 8th paragraph of Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987 for every Bid which exceeds tenderable amount of Rs. 5.0 million, and copy of certificate to be presented when purchasing the bidding document.
- 5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language can be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rupees Seventeen Thousand (LKR.17,000.00)** (The method of payment shall be in cash) by interested bidder on submission of a written application to the address below, from **0900 hrs to 1600 hrs during 01st March 2021 to 1000 hrs on 22nd March 2021.**
- 6. All Tenders shall be accompanied by a Tender Security, to the value of Nine Hundred Thirty Two Thousand One Hundred Forty <u>Sri Lanka Rupees (LKR. 932,140.00)</u> obtained from any commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Tender Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand guarantee and shall be <u>valid from 22nd March</u> 2021 to 19th July 2021 (120 days including Both Days).
- 7. Validity of Bids Bids shall be valid for 90 days from the date of Bids Opening (From 22nd March 2021 to 19th June 2021).
- 8. Duly completed Bids shall be delivered to: **The Chairman**, **Project Procurement Committee**, **Defence Headquarters Complex Project**, **Akuregoda Road**, **Pelawatta**, **Battaramulla at or before 1000 hrs on 22nd 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**.

The address referred in Para 6 & 9 is as follows :

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,

dhqcproc2015@gmail.com

- 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 Project Procurement Committee (PPC).
- 14. 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(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 : pmudhqc@gmail.com





Sealed Bids may be sent by post under registered cover or may be personally deposited in the box available for this purpose at Internal Audit Department in the Mezzanine Floor of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka.

Bidders or their authorised representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

#### LAB ITEMS

TENDER NO/ BID REFERENCE	CLOSING DATE	CLOSING TIME	ITEM	QUANTITY
			03/40300401-Formaldehyde solution 40% in amber colour glass bottles Packing : 2500m1	3,400,000 m
DHS/RL/85SR/20	15.03.2021	02.30 p.m.	06/40300602-Xylene substitute : non - toxic substitutes of alcoholic degree and xylol (mixture of alcohol and linear hydrocarbons) Packing : 2500m1	1,500,000 m
			40484801-Monoclonal mouse antibody Dystrophin (C-terminus) 2.5ml	4
			40484901-Monoclonal mouse antibody Dystrophin (N-terminus) 2.5ml	4
			40485001-Monoclonal mouse antibody Utrophin(N- terminus) 2.5ml	3
			40485201-Monoclonal mouse antibody Dysferin 1ml	4
			40485301-Monoclonal mouse antibody Merosin Laminin Alpha 2 Chain 1ml	4
			40485401-Monoclonal mouse antibody nNOS (Nitric Oxidase Synthase) 1ml	4
			40485501-Monoclonal mouse antibody Emerin 1ml	4
			40485601-Monoclonal mouse antibody Gamma-Sarcoglycan 1ml	4
DHS/RL/13SM/21	15.03.2021	02.30 p.m.	40485701-Monoclonal mouse antibody Beta - Sarcoglycan 1ml	4
			40485901- Monoclonal mouse antibody Alpha-Sarcoglycan 1ml	4
			40486001-Monoclonal mouse antibody Delta-Sarcoad 1ml	4
			40486101-Monoclonal mouse antibody Beta - Dystroglycan 1ml	4
	Alpha- Dystroglycan 1ml 40486301-Monoclonal mou Calpain 2.5m1		40486201-Monoclonal mouse antibody Alpha- Dystroglycan 1ml	4
		40486301-Monoclonal mouse antibody Calpain 2.5m1	4	
			40486401-Monoclonal mouse/rabbit antibody Caveolin-3 1ml	4
			40486501-Monoclonal mouse antibody perlecan 0.2m1	4
			40486601-Monoclonal mouse antibody Myotilin 1ml	4

State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, No.75, Sir Baron Javatillake Mawatha. Colombo 1.

FOR SALE

Replies to Diesel Engine Welding Generator Set (Denyo) DLW 300ES / Three Classifieds phase / 10kVA with Locally Fabricated Trailer is available for Sale. Inspection can be made at the following address. & Chrissworld (Pvt) Ltd Casual No. 523/1, Gonawala, Advertisements Kelaniya. published Contact: 077-1004734 C/o the Inspection between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. from 02.03.2021 Daily Aews to 05.03.2021. Tender forms could be obtained upon payment of a refundable deposit should only be of Rs. 25,000/- and a non-refundable fee Rs. 500/- from 02.03.2021 sent by to 12.03.2021 between 9.00 a.m. & 3.00 p.m. (on working days) ordinary post. from Manager (HR & Admin) at the below listed address.

#### **Property Development PLC** Floor 19, BOC Headquarters Building, Colombo 01. Tel: 2544328, 2544332

Tenders will be closed on 12.03.2021 at 3.00 p.m.

## **INVITATION FOR BIDS**

## **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

## **BID FOR DESIGN, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM (ICTS) FOR BLOCK 03 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA**

#### **CONTRACT NO : DHQC/ICT/03/2020**

- 1. The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC) of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for Design, Supply and Installation of Information Communication Technology System (ICTS) For Block 03 of Proposed Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla and as described below and estimated to cost LKR 490 Million.
- The work consists of supply, installation, configuration and maintenance of all the works in Local Area Network Switches System (LANS), Network Operating Center (NOC), Closed Circuit Television IP Surveillance System (CCTV/IPSS) and Door Access Control System (DACS) of Block 03 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda, Sri Lanka.
- 2. The Construction period is 270 Days.

under

- 3. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- 4. To be eligible for the contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted. Bidders shall have Construction Industry Development authority Grading EM1 in the Specialty of Electrical and Mechanical Services (EM1) Under sub specialist area on Telecommunication and Information Technology Systems, Security Systems and Pipe Music Systems (ELV).
- 5. Other minimum Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award shall be,

Qualifications	Minimum Qualifications Requirements
	LKR 490 million per year. ( <i>Certified audited financial reports of 2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013, 2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020, shall be provided with the Bid</i> )
	At least 3 nr. Information Communication Technology Systems successfully completed within last 10 years. Minimum value of one

<ul> <li>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.</li> <li>CHAIRMAN - PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE</li> <li>STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA</li> </ul>	(1) Number of such system shall not be less than LKR 75 million. Information Communication Technology Systems. <i>Evidence should be provided.</i>
75, SIR BARON JAYATILLAKE MAWATHA COLOMBO 1 SRI LANKA.	(iii) The minimum amount of liquid assets and Not less than LKR160 million. <i>Evidence should</i> /or credit facilities (after setting apart for other be provided.
FAX : 00 94-11- 2335008/2344082 TELEPHONE : 00 94-11- 2335008/2326227/2335374 E-MAIL : domsurgical@spc.lk / pharma.manager@spc.lk	contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract
E-MAIL : dgmsurgical@spc.lk / pharma.manager@spc.lk	<ul> <li>6. Interested bidders may obtain further information from The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC), Ministry of Defence, No 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka or email to procurement@defence.lk and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the above address from 01/03/ 2021 until 23/03/ 2021 From 09.00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs. during a working day.</li> <li>7. A complete set of Bidding Documents (except Section I and III of Volume 1A) in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to The Chairman,</li> </ul>
<b>SUNDAY OBSERVER</b>	<ul> <li>Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC), Ministry of Defence, No 15/5, Baladaksha</li> <li>Mawatha, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka from 01/03/ 2021 until 23/03/ 2021 from 09.00 hrs. to</li> <li>15.00 hrs. during a working day upon payment of a non-refundable fee of LKR 40,000.00 (Sri</li> <li>Lanka Rupees Forty Thousand). The method of payment will be by Cash or Bank draft drawn in</li> <li>favour of Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC), Chief Accountant, Chief Accountant's</li> <li>Office (Ground Floor), Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, BaladakshaMawatha, Colombo 03.</li> </ul>
Mandago Proposal	<ul> <li>8. A pre bid meeting will be held at 10.00 hrs. on 08/03/2021 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.</li> <li>9. Bida shall be delivered to the address below or shall be dependent in the Bid her placed at the</li> </ul>
	9. Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the Bid box placed at the address below at or before <b>11.00 hrs. on 24/03/ 2021</b> , late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
Advertisement in	10. Bids shall be valid up to <b>20/07/2021</b> (119 Days after the date of opening of Bids, including bid opening date).
Silumina Paper too for just	<ul> <li>11. All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security", of Sri Lankan Rupees Four Million Nine Hundred Thousand (LKR 4,900,000.00) obtained from a bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, in the form of an unconditional and on demand bond and shall be valid up to 17/08/2021 (147 Days from the date of opening Bids, including bid opening date). Beneficiary of the Bid Security shall be Secretary, Ministry of Defence.</li> </ul>
	12. Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 (when relevant), with the Bidding Document.
Rs. 200/-	13. Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the Chief Accountant Ministry of Defence, the Name and the NIC/Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the Bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.
E-mail your advertisement to,	The address referred to above 9 is : The Chairman,
classified@lakehouse.lk	Project Procurement Committee (MPC), Ministry of Defence,
Piyumi - 011 2 429 383	No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka.
Ramani - 011 2 429 347 Gayani - 011 2 429 342 / 343	Tel :0094-077-3766601Fax :0094-011-2390720

## **INVITATION FOR BIDS**

## **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

## FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF HEAVY DUTY STEEL FIRE RATED DUCT DOORS FOR BLOCK 04 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

#### **CONTRACT NO : DHQC/FIRE RAT DUCT DOOR 4/2020**

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Heavy Duty Steel Fire Rated Duct Doors for Block 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda as described below and approximately estimated to cost LKR 33 Million (excluding VAT).

The Works consist of fabrication, supply and installation of Heavy-Duty Steel Fire Rated Duct Doors including Door Sashes, Frames, Door Hardware and Accessories with powder coated hot dipped galvanized steel frames and sashes. The Intended Completion Date of the Works shall be 126 Days from the Start Date.

2. 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 either the Manufacturer of the offered work or the authorized agent of the manufacturer of the offered work or a licensed installer of the manufacturer of the offered work. If the bidder is not the manufacturer of the offered work, then he shall be mandatorily required being an organization possessing ISO 9001 Certification.

- 3. 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 annual turnover value in last five (05) years shall be at least LKR 49 million.
  - Experience in fabrication, supply and/or installation of heavy- duty steel fire rated doors including at least one project of value not less than 07 million completed within last five (05) years.
- 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 24 million.
- 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 01st March 2021 until **22nd March 2021** from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days**.
- 6. A complete set of Bidding Documents 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 01st March 2021 until 22nd March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Eight Thousand Five Hundred (LKR 8,500.00). The method of payment will be cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- 7. Pre bid meeting will be held at **1100 hrs on 12th 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 23rd 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 up to **22nd June 2021** (91 Days after the date of Bid opening).
- 10. All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security" of **Sri Lankan Rupees Three Hundred Thirty Thousand (LKR 330,000.00)** 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 **20th July 2021** (*119 days after the date of 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

## **INVITATION FOR BIDS**

## **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

## FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF HEAVY DUTY STEEL FIRE RATED DUCT DOORS FOR BLOCK 03 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

#### CONTRACT NO : DHQC/FIRE RATE DUCT DOOR 3/2020

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Heavy Duty Steel Fire Rated Duct Doors for Block 03 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda as described below and approximately estimated to cost LKR 32.4 Million (excluding VAT).

The Works consist of fabrication, supply and installation of Heavy-Duty Steel Fire Rated Duct Doors including Door Sashes, Frames, Door Hardware and Accessories with powder coated hot dipped galvanized steel frames and sashes. The Intended Completion Date of the Works shall be 154 Days from the Start Date.

- 2. 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 either the Manufacturer of the offered work or the authorized agent of the manufacturer of the offered work or a licensed installer of the manufacturer of the offered work. If the bidder is not the manufacturer of the offered work, then he shall be mandatorily required being an organization possessing ISO 9001 Certification.
- 3. 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 annual turnover value in last five (05) years shall be at least LKR 49 million.
  - Experience in fabrication, supply and/or installation of heavy- duty steel fire rated doors including at least one project of value not less than 10 million completed within last five (05) years.
  - 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 16 million.
- 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 01st March 2021 until 22nd March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days.
- 6. A complete set of Bidding Documents 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 01st March 2021 until 22nd March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Eight Thousand Five Hundred (LKR 8,500.00). The method of payment will be cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- 7. Pre bid meeting will be held at **1100 hrs on 12th 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.
- 8. 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 23rd 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 up to **08th March 2021** (77 Days after the date of Bid opening).
- 10. All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security" of **Sri Lankan Rupees Three Hundred Thirty Thousand (LKR 330,000.00)** 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 **06th July 2021** (105 days after the date of 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



The Chairman,Project Procurement Committee (PPC),Defence Headquarters Complex Project,Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,Battaramulla.Tel : 0094-011-4209885	The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla. Tel : 0094-011-4209885
The address(es) referred to above is (are) :	The address(es) referred to above is (are) :
14. 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.	14. 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.
13. Bidders shall present the registration certificate under the Public Contract Act No.3 of 1987 before purchasing the bidding documents.	<ol> <li>Bidders shall present the registration certificate under the Public Contract Act No.3 of 1987 before purchasing the bidding documents.</li> </ol>
12. In addition to Item 11 of above, if any bidder has already been 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.	12. In addition to Item 11 of above, if any bidder has already been 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.
criteria required under each contract separately, if not the bidder will not be qualified for the award of more than one bid.	criteria required under each contract separately, if not the bidder will not be qualified for the award of more than one bid.



## **VEHICLES FOR SALE**

Vehicle Sales Point, Commercial Leasing & Finance PLC,

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	CARS	
KR-XXXX	HONDA INSIGHT DAA-ZE2 - 1330cc	2009
KU-XXXX	HONDA INSIGHT DAA-ZE2 – 1330cc	2010
GR-XXXX	NISSAN BLUE BIRD -Auto Gears – 1760cc	1999
18-XXXX	FORD LASER – 1300cc	1994
	VANS	
EPHD-XXXX	TOYOTA TOWNACE, CR51 - 1970cc	1998
HS-XXXX	TOYOTA HIACE – LH162, AUTO GEARS, 5L	1998
253-XXXX	NISSAN HOMY-VRE24, TD25 – 2960cc	1995
56-XXXX	TOYOTA HIACE – LH102 – 2440cc	1992
54-XXXX	TOYOTA CM36 – 1970cc	1989
	3 WHEELERS	
YH-XXXX	BAJAJ RE205 – 198.75cc	2010
NCQO-XXXX	BAJAJ AUTO AR4S – 173.5cc	2008
	BAJAJ RE205 THREE WHEELER – 198.75cc	2012
YV-XXXX	BAJAJ RE 205 – 198.75cc	2011
CPYJ-XXXX		2010
ABA-XXXX	PIAGGIO APE	2015
	MOTOR COACHES	
HB-XXXX	LANKA ASHOK LEYLAND VIKING 41Seats – 6540cc	2003
60-XXXX	TATA 909 – 30 Seats	1990
	TRACTORS	
RF-XXXX	KUBOTA L4508 - 4W with ROTAVATOR - 2197cc	2018
RE-XXXX	KUBOTA L4508 – 2197cc	2016
RF-XXXX	MASSEY FERGUSON MF1552 – 2955cc	2017
NCRF-XXXX	TAFE 45DI -4WD - WITH ROTAVATOR - 2500cc	2017
RE-XXXX	TAFE 45DI, Square Light – 2500cc	2015
RE-XXXX	TAFE 45DI – 2500cc	2015
RE-XXXX	TAFE 45DI	2015
RB-XXXX	MAHINDRA 575DI	2009
	JOHN DEERE 3036E - 4WD With ROTAVATOR - 2642cc	
NCRC-XXXX	JOHN DEERE PY 5203 – 2900cc	2011
	MOTOR LORRIES	
NPLI-XXXX	LAL – TUSKER SUPER, CONT. BODY – 6540cc	2008
PS-XXXX	TATA ACE – 702cc	2011
NCDAC-XXXX	MAHINDRA JEETO X7-16 – 625cc	2015
	TIPPER	
LC-XXXX	TATA LPK 1615 – 5883cc	2006
ai M	HARVESTER	
1522Z-XXXX	BROWN BC 4000-CROP MASTER - 88hp	2015
1	EQUIPMENTS	
14M-XXXX	HITACHI EX200-5 EXCAVATOR - 6BG1 - 6494cc	2000
JG-XXXX	SITE MASTER -3CX – 3240cc	1997
ZA-XXXX	JCB 2125 – 3990cc	2012
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## **INVITATION FOR BIDS**

## **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

## FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF HEAVY DUTY STEEL FIRE RATED DUCT DOORS FOR BLOCK 02 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

#### **CONTRACT NO : DHQC/FIRE RAT DUCT DOOR 2/2020**

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Heavy Duty Steel Fire Rated Duct Doors for Block 02 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda as described below and approximately estimated to cost LKR 29.1 Million (excluding VAT).

The Works consist of fabrication, supply and installation of Heavy-Duty Steel Fire Rated Duct Doors including Door Sashes, Frames, Door Hardware and Accessories with powder coated hot dipped galvanized steel frames and sashes. The Intended Completion Date of the Works shall be 154 Days from the Start Date.

2. 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 either the Manufacturer of the offered work or the authorized agent of the manufacturer of the offered work or a licensed installer of the manufacturer of the offered work. If the bidder is not the manufacturer of the offered work, then he shall be mandatorily required being an organization possessing ISO 9001 Certification.

## 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 annual turnover value in last five (05) years shall be at least LKR 44 million.
  - Experience in fabrication, supply and/or installation of heavy- duty steel fire rated doors including at least one project of value not less than 9 million completed within last five (05) years.
  - 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 18 million.
- 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 01st March 2021 until **22nd March 2021** from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days.
- 6. A complete set of Bidding Documents 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 01st March 2021 until 22nd March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Seven Thousand Eight Hundred (LKR 7,800.00). The method of payment will be cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- 7. Pre bid meeting will be held at **1100 hrs on 12th 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.
- 8. 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 23rd 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 up to **08th June 2021** (77 Days after the date of Bid opening).
- 10. All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security" of **Sri Lankan Rupees Two Hundred Ninety Thousand (LKR 290,000.00)** 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 **06th July 2021** (*105 days after the date of 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

## **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

## **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

## BID FOR DESIGN, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF FRAMELESS VANITY MIRRORS FOR WET AREAS OF BLOCK 04 OF

## DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

### **CONTRACT NO : DHQC/MIRROR 4/2020**

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 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** as described below and estimated to cost **LKR 6** Million (excluding VAT).

The Works consists of Design, Supply and Installation of Frameless Vanity Mirrors for Wet Areas of Block 04 of Proposed Defence Headquarters Complex (DHQC) at Akuregoda, Sri Lanka.

The Intended Completion Date for the Works shall be 126 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 24 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 01st March 2021 until 22nd 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 01st March 2021 until 22nd March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Two Thousand Three Hundred Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR 2,300.00). The method of payment will be in Cash.
- 7. Pre bid meeting will be held at **1140 hrs on 12th 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 1000 hrs on 23rd 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 **08th June 2021.** (77 Days after the date of Bid opening).
- 10. All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid Security of Sri Lankan Rupees Sixty Thousand (LKR 60,000.00)** 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 **06th July 2021** (105 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 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.

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for the award of more than one bid.

- 12. In addition to Item 11 of above, if any bidder has already been 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 shall present the registration certificate under the Public Contract Act No.3 of 1987 before purchasing the bidding documents.
- 14. 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(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 : pmudhqc@gmail.com

- 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

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## **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

## **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

## BID FOR DESIGN, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF FRAMELESS VANITY MIRRORS FOR WET AREAS OF BLOCK 02 OF

## DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

#### **CONTRACT NO : DHQC/MIRROR 2/2020**

 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 02 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 02 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 01st March 2021 until 22nd 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 01st March 2021 until 22nd March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees One Thousand Five Hundred (LKR 1,500.00). The method of payment will be in Cash.
- 7. Pre bid meeting will be held at **1140 hrs on 12th 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 1000 hrs on 23rd 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 **25th May 2021.** (63 Days after the date of Bid opening).
- 10. All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid Security of Sri Lankan Rupees Thirty Four Thousand (LKR 34,000.00)** 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 **22nd 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.





Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka

## Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Procurement of Supply, Delivery and Installation of Computer Hardware & Accessories for implementing Eighteen (18) Digital Public Libraries

## (ICTA/GOSL/GOODS/NCB/2021/01)

- 1. Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) in close collaboration with National Library and Documentation Services Board, implement Digital Libraries Project in selected 18 public libraries across the country.
- 2. Department Procurement Committee (DPC), on behalf of ICTA, now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for Procurement of Supply, Delivery and Installation of Computer Hardware & Accessories for implementing Eighteen (18) Digital Public Libraries under Digital Libraries Project.

A brief summary of the requirement is given in Table below :

Lot No.	Item No.	Description of Goods	Quantity / Units
	1	All in one Desktop Computers	144
Lot 01	2	Line Interactive UPS	144
	3	Laptop computers	18
L =+ 02	4	Sticker Printers	36
Lot 02	Lot 02 5 Barcode Readers		72
Lot 03	3 6 Multifunctional Photocopy machine		18
Lot 04	7	Tablet PCs with Stylus pen	108
	8	Card Printers	18
	9	Empty Plastic Cards	36,000
Lot 05	10	Full Color with overlay (CMYKO*) Ribbon (1000 cards should be printed from each ribbon)	36
	11	Cleaning Kits	18

Bidders at their option are allowed to bid for any single lot or any combination of Lots or for all Lots. Each Lot shall be evaluated separately. Bidders are required to quote for all the items in a lot and total quantity of each item. Partial bids shall be treated as non-responsive and rejected. Detailed description of the Requirements and Specifications is given in the bidding document.

- 3. Bidding will be conducted using the **National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure that shall be governed by the procurement guidelines of Government of Sri Lanka** and is open to all eligible bidders that meet the eligibility and qualification requirements given in the bidding documents.
- 4. Interested bidders may **inspect the bidding documents** free of charge during office hours on working days commencing from 01st March 2021 at Procurement Division of ICTA, 160/24, 2nd Floor, Kirimandala Mawatha, Colombo 05. Telephone: 0112369099, email: procurement@icta.lk. Bidding documents are also available on ICTA Website (https://www.icta.lk/procurement/) only for inspection purposes.
- 5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Four Thousand **(LKR 4000.00)** effective from 01st March 2021during office hours on working days from the office of the ICTA at 160/24, 2nd Floor, Kirimandala Mawatha, Colombo 05. The method of payment will be by cash.
- 6. A Pre-bid meeting which potential bidders may attend will be held at **10.00 hrs on 08th March 2021** at the office of ICTA at the above address. Bidders are advised to attend this meeting.
- 7. Bids must be delivered to Procurement Division,Information and Communication



## OBSERVER JOBS

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- 12. In addition to Item 11 of above, if any bidder has already been 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

- Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA), **160/24, 2nd Floor, Kirimandala** *Mawatha, Colombo 05* at or before **1500 hrs (3.00 p.m) on 22 March 2021.** Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of the bidders' representatives, who choose to attend. Late Bids and Bids sent electronically will not be accepted and will be rejected.
- 8. All Bids must be accompanied by Bid Securities in the form of a Bank Guarantee in the following amounts in Sri Lankan Rupee using the format given with the bidding documents. Bidders shall submit separate Bid Guarantee for each Lot.

Lot No.	Amount of Bid Guarantee LKR
1	212,000
2	26,000
3	30,000
4	86,000
5	50,000

- 9. Bids shall be valid up to 21st June 2021.
- 10. ICTA will not be responsible for any costs or any expenses incurred by the Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.

#### Chairman

Department Procurement Committee Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA), 160/24, 2nd Floor, Kirimandala Mawatha, Colombo 05.

28th February 2021

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