



264,000 COVAX Vaccine doses here tomorrow

UNICEF has procured and will deliver the first shipment of 264,000 doses of the Astra-Zeneca vaccine on Sunday, as part of the first allocation of the 1.44 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines from the WHO COVAX Facility to the Ministry of Health, UNICEF said yesterday.

Led by UNICEF, the procurement and delivery of this supply of the vaccines through the COVAX Facility underpins the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan of the Ministry of Health (MOH) and will provide critical vaccination support for 20 per cent of the population. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Senior Journalist, Newspaper Editor and Diplomat Bandula Jayasekera passed away at the age of 60 yesterday. He was the Editor-in-Chief of the *Daily News* in 2006-2007.



He also served as Director General, President's Office Media Unit for some time during President Mahinda Rajapaksa's tenure and Director General (Public Communication) at the External Affairs Ministry. His last foray in media was at SirasaTV where he worked until recently as a talk show host, including for the popular 'Pathikada' programme. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Daily News

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'GAMA SAMAGA PILISANDARAK' TODAY

The 13th phase of the *Gama Samaga Pilisandarak* programme will be held in the village of Weragala in the Giribawa Divisional Secretariat in Kurunegala District

today, under the Auspices of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. The program will be commenced at Maduragama Playground at 10 am with the participation of

ministers, state ministers, public representatives, ministry secretaries and public officials. The *Gama Samaga Pilisandarak* programme which is a brainchild

of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa is designed to meet the people in the rural areas and understand their issues first hand in order to address them while considering

them in policy making. In the divisional secretariat area, there are 35 Gama Sevaka Niladhari divisions and out of them Weragala is considered to be the poorest and the

one with most difficulties. The Maduragama village is also in a similar state. The Weragala village has 147 families who mostly depend on agriculture.

ELECTRICITY FOR ALL HOUSEHOLDS BY YEAR-END

99.8 PERCENT PENETRATION ACHIEVED

WORK STARTS ON FIRST LNG POWER PLANT

MORE SOLAR, WIND POWER PLANTS

SANDASEN MARASINGHE

Electricity provision in the country will reach 100 percent by the end of this year, said Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa yesterday.

He said that so far the Government had provided electricity to 99.8 percent of households and

there are only 84,000 families left to be provided with electricity. He added measures have been taken to provide them with electricity.

He made this observation at the foundation stone laying ceremony at Kerawalapitiya for the construction of the first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) power plant

in Sri Lanka to add another 350 MW to the National Grid to cater the increasing demand for the electricity.

The estimated cost of the project is Rs.40 billion and its first phase would be completed within 21 months which would add 220 MW to the national grid

and the second phase would be completed within next 12 months which would add 130 MW to the national grid. Prime Minister Rajapaksa said this LNG power plant would be constructed with the latest technology and become a massive leap in the power sector in the country. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Two SLAF flying squadrons honoured with Presidential Colour

Two flying squadrons of the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) were honoured by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa with the award of the Presidential Colour in recognition of their exceptional service and contribution to the nation.

President Rajapaksa said that we should pay the nation's tribute to the members of the Air Force who made tremendous sacrifices, including the ultimate sacrifice, in ensuring peace in our nation. He said that maintaining the security of the nation is the primary responsibility of the Armed Forces, including the Air Force. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Inland Revenue Dept. to be summoned before COPA again

The Inland Revenue Department is to be summoned again before the Committee on Public Accounts (COPA) on March 10 to review the progress of tax and penalty collection.

The Committee on Public Accounts came to a decision during its meeting held on January 6 to publicize all the institutions which have failed to pay the due levy by submitting a list of such institutions to the Media and Chairman of the Committee Prof. Tissa Vitharana further instructed the Inland Revenue Department to submit to the Committee a list of institutions who have failed to pay the due levy within two months. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Indigenous medicine system second to none - Prof. G.L.

AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

The Indigenous medicine system of Sri Lanka is not second to any other advanced medical system in the world, Education Minister Professor G.L. Peiris yesterday (04) said.

Professor Peiris made this observation at the ceremony of re-establishing the Gampaha Wickramarachchi Indigenous Medical College as a University on March 04 under the patronage of the President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Female doctors and nurses are playing a major role in mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic here and abroad. As the world celebrates the International Women's Day on Monday under the theme "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world", our photographer captured this scene at the Blood Bank at Colombo National Hospital where Dr. Ajitha Gamage and her team of nurses are seen analysing the blood samples of patients. (Picture by Sulochana Gamage)

SL making progress in women's empowerment - UN

Sri Lanka is making progress towards an equal future with equal opportunities for women in leadership, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka, Hanaa Singer-Hamdy said yesterday, on the eve of the International Women's Day.

Hamdy said: "In 2020 alone, the country wrote a new chapter in its history with the appointment of Bimshani Jasin Arachchi as the first ever female Deputy Inspector General (DIG) in the Sri Lanka Police. Weeks later, Kasturi Chellaraja was appointed as the first female Group CEO of a major conglomerate in Sri Lanka. Amidst such achievements, the COVID-19 pandemic also highlighted the centrality of women's contributions in our collective response and in the journey towards recovery. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Power Minister urged to keep "lights on" at tourist hotels

IRANGIKA RANGE

Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga has appealed to the Power Minister Dullas Alahapperuma to intervene into several incidents in which the tourist hotel operators complained that their power supply had been disconnected despite the government's decision not to do so with the tourist hotels. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Iranathivu not suitable for burials - Douglas

NORTHERN PROVINCE SPECIAL CORR AND ANURADHAPURA ADDITIONAL DISTRICT GROUP CORR.

Minister Douglas Devananda has informed the Government that the Iranathivu area is not suitable to bury the bodies of Muslim Coronavirus victims.

Minister Devananda has pointed out to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa that



the recent decision of the Government to bury the bodies of the Muslims who die from Covid 19 in the Iranathivu Islands area has already caused some unrest and misunderstanding among the people of the Northern Province. The Minister said that the Iranathivu Island has been getting populated from recent times and the Navy sailors too have encamped in the locality. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Wannila Aththo's writ petition fixed for support

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The writ petition filed by Uruwarige Wannila Aththo, the leader of the indigenous population known as 'Veddahs', challenging the clearing of the lands at Pollebedda-Rambakan Oya was yesterday fixed for support on May 3 by Court of Appeal. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



School teacher attacked in Jaffna

NORTHERN PROVINCE SPECIAL CORR.

An unidentified gang wielding swords assaulted and wounded a male teacher in Jaffna on Thursday (4) evening.

The injured teacher was admitted to the Tellippalai hospital in Jaffna following the incident which occurred at Mallakam area about 9.30 pm.

The Police said that according to the evidence a group of five persons who arrived on motorcycles had slashed the teacher.

The reason for the assault is not known. He teaches Health and Physical Education at a school in Jaffna. The Tellippalai Police are investigating.

Two PCol reports handed over to Speaker

The final reports of the two Presidential Commissions of Inquiry were handed over to the Speaker of Parliament Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena at the Parliament Complex. The Cabinet of Ministers has granted its approval to table the final reports of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry.

The final reports of the Presidential Commissions of Inquiry were handed over to the Speaker by Director General of Legal Affairs of the Presidential Secretariat, Senior Attorney Harigupta Rohanadeera

and was also attended by the Secretary General of Parliament Dhammika Dasanayake.

One of the final reports submitted was the Presidential Commission of Inquiry in to Political victimization of Government Officials, staff members of State Corporations, members of the Security Forces and the members of the Police Department during the period of January 8, 2015 to November 16, 2019. The said Presidential Commission was appointed on January 20, 2020. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Saving Crudia tree will cost millions - Lansa

State Minister for Rural Roads and Other Infrastructure Nimal Lansa said that changing the Central Expressway plan to keep the controversial and endangered *Crudia Zeylanica* tree on the same site, will cost around Rs.8,000 million. The people should decide on the course of action to be taken as public funds are at stake.

Lansa expressed these views while participating in the inauguration of road development projects in the Anuradhapura District. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Import of 6,000 swords: Probe to continue CA directs IGP and Defence Secretary

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Court of Appeal yesterday directed the Attorney General to obtain instructions from the IGP and the Defence Secretary regarding the investigations pertaining to unrecovered swords and other weapons brought into the country during the Easter Sunday attacks.

Court of Appeal Justice (President) Arjuna Obeyesekere and Justice Mayadunne Corea made this direction pursuant to a writ petition filed by Colombo Archbishop Malcolm

Cardinal Ranjith. Senior State Counsel Awanthi Perera told the court that she is appearing for IGP and Defence Secretary in petition and sought further time to obtain instructions from the respondents.

Meanwhile, President's Sanjeeva Jayawardena appearing for the petitioner highlighted the importance of conducting an investigation into importation of 6000 swords prior to the Easter Sunday attacks. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

In special two-day operation

Navy arrests seven suspects with 2.712 tonnes of smuggled turmeric

Naval personnel arrested seven persons with 2.712 metric tonnes of smuggled turmeric in a special operation conducted in the Manalkulam area of Silawathura and the Pulachchanai area of Norochcholai between Thursday and Friday, the Navy stated in a communiqué yesterday.

The Northwestern Naval Command seized 24 sacks holding 826kg of smuggled turmeric from a house in Manalkulam on Thursday. Two persons were arrested in connection with it.

The following day, Naval personnel arrested five more suspects in Pulachchanai with 1.391 metric tonnes of smuggled turmeric on three

separate occasions, the statement read. The suspects had been transporting the contraband in a car, lorry, and motorcycle at the time. Their vehicles have also been seized.

Those apprehended have been identified as residents of Silawathura, Palaviya, and Watata. They are between the ages

of 31 and 52, the communiqué added. The Navy believes that the dried turmeric had been smuggled into the country from abroad via boats.

The suspects, along with the turmeric consignments and vehicles, have been handed over to the respective police stations for further action, the Navy stated.



The turmeric seized in the two-day operation.



Nearly 4,700 houses in Kurunegala lack electricity - Dullas

M.A.R.MANUKULASOORIYA

Power Minister Dullas Alahapperuma said that 4,672 houses in the Kurunegala District do not have electricity. He said that the Power Ministry plans to address the issue by the end of 2021.



The minister was speaking at a public gathering that was held following the inauguration of the Maho-Maeliya High-Tension Transmission Line Project in Kurunegala, recently.

Electricity supply in certain areas of the district has been limited due to the lack of proper roads, Minister Alahapperuma said. He added that reports about the government increasing electricity charges were false.

'National school student intake finalised'

S.M. WIJAYARATNE, Kurunegala Daily News Corr.

Education Ministry Secretary Prof. Kapila Perera urged the public not to admit their children to national schools, even if school

heads were persuading them to do so. He added that student intake for national schools was finalised on February 28. The Ministry Secretary said that they should not visit the ministry for the purpose either.

Transport Ministry plants 5,000 saplings

IRANGIKA RANGE

The Transport Ministry planted 5,000 saplings of different plant species to mark International Free Public Transport Day yesterday. The saplings were planted at Sri Lanka Transport Board bus depots, railway stations, and the Makumbura Multipurpose Transport Centre.

ADA KOTIPATHI - Saturday

Draw No.: 1214 Colour: Yellow

Date: 06.03.2021

Today's Jackpot

Rs. 114,458,290/-

Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 2
Tel: 2 333 546-47 Fax: 2 333 545 Website: www.dlb.lk
Hotline - 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778

Thursday Draw No.: 3542

Date: 04.03.2021 Colour: Red

Total Value of Prizes **Rs. 5,633,760/-**

Winning Numbers **16 | 34 | 50 | 63**

English Letter **A**

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 2
Tel: 2 333 546-47 Fax: 2 333 545 Website: www.dlb.lk
Hotline - 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

SUPER BALL

Draw Number: 1386 Colour: Green

Draw Date: 04.03.2021 Date: Thursday

Winning English Letter and Numbers **C 48 57 65 73**

Total Value of Prizes **Rs. 4,922,580/-**

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 2
Tel: 0112 333 546-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
SMS: DLB-space>LOT-space>SB & send to 999
For Results www.dlb.lk

Date: 04-03-2021 Draw Number: 3093 Colour: Brown

Super Jackpot has been won **Rs. 2,689,014/-**

Winning Numbers **21 24 29 58**

Gemini

Development Lotteries Board
No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 2
Tel: 0112 333 546/47 Hotline: 0114 824 824
Result Hotline: 0112 333 778
Interactive Voice Response Number: 011 4 825 825

TOTAL VALUE OF PRIZES
Rs.13,758,474/-

Date: 04-03-2021 Draw Number: 415 Colour: Blue

SUPER JACKPOT
Rs. 10,418,320/-

English Letter **B** Winning Numbers **52 59 61** Fate Number **8**

Total Value of Prizes **Rs. 3,183,300/-**

Next Super Jackpot **Rs. 10,573,276/-**

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

Development Lotteries Board
No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 2
Tel: 0112 333 546/47 Hotline: 0114 824 824
Result Hotline: 0112 333 778
Interactive Voice Response Number: 011 4 825 825

Thursday Draw No.: 1212

Date: 04.03.2021 Colour: Dark Blue

Total Value of Prizes **Rs. 4,926,100/-**

Winning Numbers **05 33 36 54**

English Letter **R**

Development Lotteries Board
No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 2
Tel: 0112 333 546-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
For Results www.dlb.lk

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

FUNERAL NOTICE

Chairperson of DASA Group of Companies, Dalugama, Kelaniya.

Mrs. Sirimathie Gunadasa.

It's with profound sadness and grief that we inform the demise of our beloved chairperson.

Her remains lie at No 90, Jawatta Road, Colombo 05. for last respect.

Funeral will be held at the Borella General Cemetery on 06th Saturday at 5:00 pm.

She will be sadly missed by her children, sons and daughters in law, grandchildren and staff of the DASA Group.

DASA Group of Companies, Dalugama, Kelaniya.





Management and Staff

NEM CONSTRUCTION (PVT) LTD express our
HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES AND DEEPEST SYMPATHIES
on the demise of

Mrs. Nandawathie Weerasinha Nanayakkara

beloved mother of
our Chairman Mr.Raja Nanayakkara and Director Mr.Bandula Nanayakkara

mother in law of
Mrs. Himali Nanayakakara and Mrs. Ashoka Sandaseeli Nanayakkara

and

grandmother of
Mrs. Prithiva Dharmadasa, Mr.Ashwin Nanayakkara
Directors of the company.



NEM CONSTRUCTION (PVT) LTD

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SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2021

Towards global vaccine success

There was good news on the vaccine front on Thursday as the National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) of Sri Lanka approved the Emergency Use of the Russian 'Sputnik V' COVID-19 vaccine. It will now join the country's other vaccine already in use – the Oxford/AstraZeneca, which has been given to nearly 600,000 persons in just over one month.

Sputnik V is a COVID-19 vaccine developed by the Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology of Russia and was registered on August 11 last year by the Russian Health Ministry. It was the first vaccine to be registered anywhere in the world for clinical (non-trial) use.

There are several advantages of selecting the Sputnik V. It is an adenovirus viral vector vaccine, the same technology used by AstraZeneca. In other words, it uses a common cold-type virus, engineered to be harmless, as a carrier to deliver a small fragment of the coronavirus to the body. Safely exposing the body to part of the virus's genetic code in this way allows it to recognise the threat and learn to fight it off, without risking becoming seriously ill. Moreover, it can be stored at temperatures of between 2 and 8C degrees, making it easier to transport and store. Incidentally, these are the same transport and storage conditions for the AstraZeneca jab.

Since our vaccinators (doctors, nurses and health workers) are already familiar with the AstraZeneca vaccine, it will be a seamless transition when the Sputnik V arrives here in due course. However, with two vaccines in play, they will have to note which type of vaccine is being administered, as the second dose should also be from the same vaccine manufacturer. Those who receive the vaccine should also carefully note the manufacturer's name.

Sri Lanka is indeed fortunate to have come this far in the vaccination campaign in the context of many other developing countries still not being able to kick off theirs. The credit must go to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and the health authorities for their pro-active stance on procuring vaccines at the earliest possible opportunity.

If all goes well, Sri Lanka will be able to vaccinate 70-80 percent of the population by end of June (schoolchildren are currently not eligible for vaccination in any case). That is the threshold at which "herd immunity" is generally achieved, whereby the virus finds it difficult to infect any new hosts as almost everyone has gained immunity. It is also a creditable achievement when one considers another phenomenon – "vaccine nationalism". Rich countries have "locked in" much of the available vaccine supply – some countries have ordered doses far in excess of their populations. Just 10 countries have administered 70 percent of all available vaccines while more than 100 countries in the developing world have not even given a single dose. The good news is that COVAX, the World Health Organisation (WHO)-led initiative that will supply vaccines to 92 developing countries including Sri Lanka has just got off the ground with the first shipment going to Ghana. Sri Lanka will get its first COVAX consignment this week. Hoarding vaccines is, ultimately, self-defeating. Vaccinating the entire population of one country is not going to guarantee lasting protection if the virus is allowed to run rampant in other parts of the world, mutating into potentially vaccine-resistant variants. As the oft-repeated saying on COVID-19 goes "no one is safe until everyone is safe". This is why vaccines must be equally distributed around the world. Many developing countries with vaccine manufacturing facilities have urged manufacturers to waive off Intellectual Property (IP) Rights for their vaccines so that they could be manufactured at a lesser cost. However, there has been no positive response to this appeal yet.

The other side of the coin is "vaccine diplomacy" – countries donating vaccines to other countries. Sri Lanka received 500,000 doses of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine as a donation from India under its "Vaccine Maitri" programme on January 28. China and Russia have similar programmes to donate vaccines to developing countries, from which Sri Lanka too may benefit. However, instead of donating vaccines *per se*, some countries including the US have pledged to donate funds to the COVAX facility. It does not really matter how it is done, rich countries must do more to eradicate COVID from our midst. After all, one study recently disclosed that rich countries will lose as much as US\$ 5 trillion over the next few years even if the disease persists only in the developing nations.

In the meantime, research on COVID must be intensified, with a particular emphasis on vaccine efficacy. It is still not known how long immunity lasts after vaccination – some scientists think that we will have to get inoculated annually, with COVID becoming yet another persistent flu. It is also not known whether vaccinated individuals can still spread the disease. But studies in Israel, which leads the world in per capita vaccinations, suggest that the jabs can indeed cause a drastic drop in the number of COVID cases. This is indeed a positive sign that bodes well for the future.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Vaccines save lives; fear endangers them.
It's a simple message we need to keep hearing.
- Jeffrey Kluger

UNEMPLOYMENT: CAUSES AND REMEDIAL MEASURES



MANOJA ALWEERA

It is useful to examine the robustness of mismatch hypothesis for understanding the current trend in unemployment in Sri Lanka since some researchers and commentators are of the opinion that it is the most influential hypothesis in explaining the issue of high level of unemployment. Accordingly, the sign of mismatch can be still found in certain specific areas. For example, more than 40% of unemployed desires employment in professional, technical and clerical occupations although in the current employment profile these three categories comprise only around a 15% of all the employed in that broad area. When expectation for obtaining clerical jobs are particularly concerned, more than a 20% of the total unemployed persons expects clerical occupations whereas in the current employment profile only about less than 5% is engaged in clerical jobs.

Expectations to become skilled agricultural and fishery workers and craft and related workers are very low compared to the number of employees already engaged in these fields. As such, these facts suggest that the mismatch hypothesis is still relevant in certain employment areas. Further, as a whole, the analysis of the profile of expectation reveals that expectations for higher level jobs rise with increasing education. The persons with lower levels of education are prepared to be employed in elementary occupations. Also, long-term unemployment is most conspicuous among those who have obtained higher educational qualifications, and as such, there is a positive relationship between the duration of unemployment and the increased level of education of the job aspirants.

However, contrary to views of the advocates of the mismatch hypothesis, now evidence appears to believe that rigour of mismatch hypothesis has faded away. It is found that unemployment in all educational levels shows a considerable decline with nearly the same rates over the years. Also, unemployment in all ages has considerably reduced. When university education system is considered, it can be noticed that now the university education system has been geared to give more skills to graduates. For example, Dassanyake and Karunaratna (1996) proposed a number of steps to be introduced to enhance the quality of university education for Commerce and Management students. Some of the suggestions were; arranging staff development programmes for lecturers, adopting continuous evaluation methods with the introduction of course unit systems, providing opportunities for students to evaluate their lecturers, giving practical training and making collaborations with the industry.

Anecdotal evidence shows that within a period less than a decade from making these recommendations they have been successfully put into practice by almost all the faculties in the university system.

EMPLOYMENT DATA

Finally, as a whole, job creation by all the major sectors can be analyzed to determine whether or not sufficient employment generation over time has been made by each sector. Sri Lanka's status of employment data show how employment absorption has been taken place over the years.

Accordingly, if latest data available in the Annual Report of the Central Bank for the year 2018 are taken into account it shows that the public sector's employment share is 14.5%, private sector's share is 43.4%, Employers' share is 2.8%, self-employed share is 32.3% and unpaid family workers' share is 7.2%. Accordingly, formal economy's total labour absorption is 60.7% while that of informal economy's 39.3%. If these total percentages were compared with those in 1991, respective shares were 62% and 38% which shows a trend of reducing the formal sector economy's job genera-

Part 2



tion while increasing that of informal economy over time.

These data show that under neo-liberalized economic policies considering that the private sector is the engine of growth from 1977 economic reforms has failed to achieve a high level of economic growth and thereby generating sufficient amount of employment, particularly for the educated youths who are not prepared to shift to the informal economy for finding employment. Thus, the employment creation by the formal private sector has not sufficient to catch up job drop in the public sector after 1990, and absorb new job seekers considerably to the formal economy. On the other hand, even under export oriented industrial (EOI) policies the country's export structure has been still depending mainly on producing and exporting low value added products (mainly garments) abnormally for a long period, indicating that the private sector led economy has largely failed in graduation to generate higher skill jobs.

The study by Ratnayake and Nayanada (1998) confirms this view saying that Sri Lanka's manufacturing industries have a very low level of backward linkages to the economy. Nanayakara (2005) emphasizes that the Sri Lankan businesses have failed to continue to increase both efficiency and effectiveness. Embuldeniya (2004) points out that the country's manufacturing industry has been trapped by low level value-added production system

mainly because of poor technological innovations.

REMEDIAL MEASURES

Comparative status of employment data reported by the Annual Central Bank Reports over time show not only how each major sector of the economy has absorbed labour, but also analysis of those data suggests the way forward for mitigating this issue. Accordingly, in 2018 compared with 1991 data, the public sector's employment share has dropped by 8.4% from 22.9%, the private sector's share has increased only by 3.9% from 39.5%, the employer's share has increased only by 0.6% from 2.2%, self-employed share has increased by 6.9% from 25.4% and unpaid family support workers' share has decreased by 2.8% from 10.0% respectively. As such, reduction of employment in the public sector has not been captured by the inadequate increase in the formal private sector's employment generation.

The self-employed share has increased considerably indicating that there has been a substantial increase in the informal sector showing that the formal economy has not expanded for providing employment opportunities for absorbing the educated youths who is looking for employment in the formal economy. Also, this shows a situation of labour market deterioration although the Central Bank wrongly

thinks that it is a favourable trend. More importantly, all over the years, the employers' share of the status of employment remains between 2 to 3 percent of the workforce of the country, indicating that percentage of employers in the economy has been remaining at a very low level which shows that there is a lack of successful entrepreneurs in the economy, and as a result, job generation too has not increased over time. Therefore, what is mainly needed is increasing entrepreneurs in the economy, which can be possible by motivating persons to shift from other sectors of employment to become successful employers. For example, the formal private sector employees can be motivated to commence their own businesses as much as possible. Also, self-employed or on their own account employees can be supported to become more successful entrepreneurs, and finally, entrepreneurial education at the high school and the university levels can be promoted so that at least some of the educated youths can be motivated to come forward as entrepreneurs rather than totally depending on existing institutes for finding jobs.

However, more comprehensive employment plan paying attention to Human Resource Management (HRM) aspects should be developed and implemented for solving all major types of unemployment such as frictional, cyclical and structural unemployment.

The nature of frictional unemployment can be minimized by improving the flow of job information in the labour market, such as with an establishing computerized and some other job banks, improving public employment service, and organising job fairs where prospective job candidates can talk with representatives of different companies. Also, the relevant public policy can be formulated to reduce the level of frictional unemployment by eliminating undesirable causes of labour turnover. Further, public policy can be mainly used to reduce the extent of cyclical unemployment.

The most direct approach is to adopt fiscal and monetary policies that ensure stable and healthy rates of economic growth. Once a recession does begin, timely intervention in the form of tax cuts or an easier monetary policy can limit the severity of the economic downturn and resulting unemployment. Also, as advocated by John Maynard Keynes carrying out alternative public work projects such as new irrigation work, highway constructions and urban renewals can be arranged to reduce the effect of recession. Finally, even the public policy can be employed to reduce the structural unemployment. One solution is government provision or subsidization of training programmes which give young people marketable skills. This can be promoted by giving tax incentives to companies that offer training to workers. Education system at each level including giving training can be reformed in order to inculcate the various job skills motivating school dropouts at O/L and A/L to follow technical causes.

Another possibility is to make the government the employer of last resort by directing some educated youths to team up for finding new job opportunities to create new and innovative businesses. Also, unemployed graduates for years can be recruited for public sector jobs under graduate employment schemes by following more organised and effective training programmes than what are done currently. Also, foreign employment can be promoted, and lastly, movement of unemployed workers can be encouraged out of depressed areas by providing reallocation allowances and other incentives.

priyangikamanoja@gmail.com
(The writer is a visiting lecturer and research consultant)

Concluded



The nature of frictional unemployment can be minimized by improving the flow of job information in the labour market, such as with an establishing computerized and some other job banks, improving public employment service, and organising job fairs where prospective job candidates can talk with representatives of different companies. Also, the relevant public policy can be formulated to reduce the level of frictional unemployment by eliminating undesirable causes of labour turnover. Further, public policy can be mainly used to reduce the extent of cyclical unemployment.





DISHAN JOSEPH

The cool climate and lush green tea plantations of the hill country is an alluring oasis of rest for all of us in the city. An invigorating cup of Ceylon Tea is the trademark of trusted quality, refined to blissful perfection over 150 years. Ceylon Tea is among the world's best brands, a brew that resonates with original flavour. As we prepare to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, some women will receive awards, flowers and opulent dinners as a gesture of appreciation which is nice. What about the thousands of hard-working resilient plantation workers who work in the mist-laden hills? These women are also wives and mothers. They have needs, emotions and aspirations like all other women.

Everybody knows these robust women are the backbone of the nation's tea industry which brings in millions of revenue in addition to enhancing tourism and creating a network of other plantation sector jobs. This labour force has worked with tremendous output for decades. Karl Marx once said, "Accumulation of wealth at one pole is at the same time accumulation of misery, agony of toil, slavery, ignorance, brutality, mental degradation, at the opposite pole." Perhaps his words resonate with a loud silence in these hills. The women workers on the tea estates are not fully appreciated for the very significant work they do. It is a physically demanding job to carry a heavy basket and work on slippery mountainsides, with the threat of leeches and snakes. There are many instances where these poor women have been fiercely stung by hornets, and where they had to wait for a vehicle to be rushed to the hospital.

They begin their day waking up by 4 am. They do not have hot water taps or homes with carpets. They have to make their frugal breakfast which is very often some rotti. Some take this rotti for their lunch. In addition, they have to attend to their schooling children, like any responsible mother. These children have to walk long distances to school. In the past, we have seen all sorts of claims that other methods to collect and carry the tender green tea leaves or 'kolundu' will be introduced. This is a terrible illusion.

There were other declarations that practical uniforms would be given to make these women more safe and comfortable in their work. Another illusion. Why is it that these voiceless women have been treated like this? For the record, there are a few tea companies that have initiated some good projects to enhance the welfare of these women workers which is commendable. But as a nation what have we done to empower these plantation workers?

Does the higher echelon of the tea industry subtly fear that if these women are duly empowered, especially with education, that they will lose this cheap labour force? Let's pause for a moment. There are thousands of women engaged in tapping rubber on massive rubber tree plantations. They face some difficulties, but their living standards are much better than the exploited estate women. The massive staff cadre employed in the garment industry work hard, but with uniforms, healthy meals and modern technology. The estate women languish, and have been left behind.

The Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore said, "We gain freedom when we have paid the full price". For more than 150 years, the women tea pluckers have paid their share by their dedicated labour. They certainly are not free in many spheres of life. To begin with, they never had a

A BITTER BREW: THE ISSUES OF ESTATE WOMEN WORKERS



chance of a good education, especially to learn English. The ability to learn the English language is still elusive in the hill country though there are many new schools built, which is commendable.

Having studied up to around Grade 8 or 9, many young girls drop out of school. This automatically stops them from learning any other trade skills. Just like their mothers, the 'tea basket' is put on their shoulders and the tradition continues. They often marry within their community.

Married life on these cold hills does not often glow with orange embers of love.

Apart from their hard work, these voiceless women have to endure verbal and physical abuse from their husbands. Most of these men are in fact the sons of estate women. They too have their own frustrations and broken dreams. This is another day's article. These women have to live in uncomfortable houses, manage the finances and teach their children. In my media assignments and

The ability to learn the English language is still elusive in the hill country though there are many new schools built, which is commendable.

Having studied up to around Grade 8 or 9, many young girls drop out of school. This automatically stops them from learning any other trade skills. Just like their mothers, the 'tea basket' is put on their shoulders and the tradition continues. They often marry within their community. Married life on these cold hills does not often glow with orange embers of love

refreshing holidays, I have spoken to many of these shy women. Most women who are now 55-65 years have not used a mobile phone. The younger women aged between 30-45 years use a basic phone, and cannot afford a smartphone.

These women hardly come to Colombo city unless for a medical need to the Colombo General Hospital. Some of the older women aged 70-80 years have not travelled to Colombo city at all. Those who passionately and genuinely advocate for women's rights must take note. One old woman told me they can only glance at the sky and look at a plane, but never travel in an aircraft.

Within this segment of women is a subdivision of women who have been working in big city homes as servants. In the present day, they have the refined title domestic aide, but are treated all the same. This is another day's deliberation.

Thousands of plantation women have little of zero entertainment or social activity. They work hard and retire with no savings. They only accumulate varicose veins by years of standing and spine-related pains by carrying the heavy baskets. To those beautiful city divas who enjoy high tea, have you thought about these estate women, who are also women like you? On the one hand, we must always buy Sri Lankan and endorse Ceylon Tea, while on the other hand we all must respect and appreciate the resilient women who produce this tea. They must taste success in life. I conclude with a quote from Martin Luther King "All labour that uplifts humanity, has dignity and importance."

A VOYAGE INTO SRI LANKA'S FORGOTTEN JUNGLE LANDS

The country's first houseboat offers an authentic experience away from tried-and-tested destinations

MIKE MACEACHERAN

Off the port side on a half-submerged branch, the keelback snake clings for dear life in the dark, muddy shallows. The serpent is wrestling with a warty frog and, as dusk approaches, it needs dinner. Flattening its head to strike, it contorts to attack its prey.

It would be a spoiler to reveal what happens next at our anchorage, but also unnecessary. Because the memorable nature of a two-day journey along the Bentara River lies in the ever-variegated encounters with Sri Lanka as it reveals itself, inch by inch, along the riverbank.

It is close to bedtime near Bentota on the south-west coast, but our day is beginning. We are cruising in the twilight on the lookout for fruit bats and owls, chugging at tugboat pace into Sri Lanka's forgotten jungle lands.

The silent mangroves morph into rainforest proper, Tarzan vines and all, and the outline of traditional fishing huts on the embankment hints at some idealised evocation of life deep in the jungle. There are no lights and an absence of electric wires, other boats or visitors. It feels a long way from the crowds of Colombo, 50 miles to the north. Which is exactly why we have come.

The Yathra Houseboat by Jetwing is the star attraction. It is a two-suite Kerala-style barge, the first houseboat in the country, with a shaded sundeck. Thatched with a wig of branches, it looks like a countrified canal boat. But that impression is betrayed by the bamboo and burnished jackwood interiors and warmth of the service. Three types

The Yathra Houseboat is the star attraction. It is a two-suite Kerala-style barge, the first houseboat in the country, with a shaded sundeck. Thatched with a wig of branches, it looks like a countrified canal boat. But that impression is betrayed by the bamboo and burnished jackwood interiors and warmth of the service. Three types of hotly spiced fish and veg curry, served on deck, with chilli and mango chutney, coconut sambol and a roof of moodily downlit stars? Yes, please

of hotly spiced fish and veg curry, served on deck, with chilli and mango chutney, coconut sambol and a roof of moodily downlit stars? Yes, please.

Sri Lanka has long been renowned for its hospitality, but there has been darkness to this lightness over the past few years. In

April 2019, the Easter Sunday suicide bombings in Colombo saw nearly 270 people killed. Tourism dried up overnight. COVID-19 saw the entire Indian Ocean region rendered out of bounds for international travellers.

But as restrictions continue to lift, and the outlook looks more

promising, it is time to plan a return to the land of tea, temples and jungle trails – before everyone else does.

According to Leel Koralage, Yathra Houseboat's captain, if I want to see the Sri Lanka that he grew up in, there is only one place to begin: next to him at the helm as we embark upriver from glassy-calm Dedduwa Lake.

"Look! In the shallows!" he cries, the river basking in a dusky glow. "A marsh crocodile, an adult male. For most of the year, you would be lucky to see him." He passes a pair of binoculars for a closer look, just before the broad-snouted bull slides into deeper water. During the rains, says Koralage, the crocs stick to the swamps, disappearing like ghosts into the undergrowth.

If we are already at the brink of overstimulation – it is hardly wild-life on demand, but still – we can turn to our cabin instead.

The boat is a study in the worth of holding on to the old ways and nightly entertainment is a good book or a board game. Alcohol is a bring your own affair and the excursions are limited to crab fish-



ing or morning and evening cruises through the river's ecosystem, Mother Nature providing all the steamy air-con you need. A little after 8 pm, the boat moors, and the sound of the jungle takes over.

There is the low hum of truck and tuk-tuk traffic from a faraway road, but also a chatter in the tree-tops. A crew of lost mynas gossiping? A family of whistling kingfishers? Whatever, after copious beers on board, it is a mellow soundtrack for a good night's rest on the river.

In the morning, anchored at an embankment on Dedduwa Lake, I am on my balcony staring out, listening to the songbirds.

The sailing today, a five-hour round-trip, takes us to Pahuru Kanda Temple and a replica of the Buddha's footprint where, says captain Koralage, we can contemplate hope and fate.

Given the wealth of religious relics, palaces and temple highlights elsewhere in Sri Lanka – the terracotta pagodas in Anuradhapura, the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic in Kandy, Lion Rock in Sigiriya – it is a disappointment. More eye-catching by far are the lone

fishermen who paddle past heroically in barely afloat outrigger canoes. Here, catfish and crabs outnumber the locals.

All too soon it is time to putter back towards the coast, and I join the captain beside the stern, neither of us saying a word.

We do not need to. A monitor lizard appears in a climactic rush, diving into the river with a plunging splash, as if to fill the silence between us. It is startling, and for the briefest moment there is a sense that it is times like this that keep him in the job.

Yathra, meaning "the journey", offers plenty of such moments away from tried-and-tested Sri Lanka. Afterwards, lying on a palm-fringed beach in Bentota, or following the crowds south to Galle Fort, you might yearn to be back afloat exploring the serene river lands, lost amid tropical rainforest.

As for the frog? It was swallowed, lock, stock and barrel, before the keelback vanished as if it had never been there at all.

(Mike MacEacheran travelled to Sri Lanka before the pandemic.)

(Daily Telegraph)



HOUSEHOLD FOOD WASTE CONTRIBUTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

SAMIRA SADEQUE

Twenty percent of all food bought by households, retailers, restaurants and other food services in 54 countries around the world was thrown away in 2019 — contributing to some 931 million tonnes of food waste and feeding climate change.

This is according to the Food Waste Index Report 2021 which was launched this week by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in collaboration with UK charity WRAP, which works in the areas of food waste prevention, plastics, sustainable textiles and clothing, resource efficiency and recycling.

Research was conducted across 54 countries and the methodology for measuring food waste included citing research done on the ground in each country.

According to the report, most of the global waste comes from households — which throw away about 11 percent of the food available for consumption.

The data for Kenya was more consistent than other countries between the two years the research was chosen from: 2010 and 2019. It found that higher-income households wasted significantly more food than middle and lower-income households.

In 2010, for every 78 kilograms per capita that was wasted in Kenya's low-income households, high-income households wasted 151 kilograms per capita. In 2019, the low-income group wasted 40 kilograms per capita whereas the high-income group wasted 125 kilograms per capita.

It shows that while low-income households recorded an almost 50 percent drop in food waste between 2010 and 2019, high-income households recorded a mere 17 percent drop.

South Africa appears to have the most comprehensive data over a period of six years, though it shows varying numbers.

A 2016 report shows nationwide waste of 134 kilograms per capita, whereas a 2017 report documenting only three regions shows 18 kilograms per capita.

South Africa has substantial domestic income inequality, which may contribute to varied results based on the socio-economic profile of participants included or excluded in each

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT



study," reads a part of the report. "The experience here encourages caution against putting too much weight on a single data point, as other countries may experience such variation with more studies conducted.

In China, a 2020 study showed throughout urban China there was a waste of 150 kilograms per capita. At the same time, a 2015 study shows nationwide waste was at 23 kilograms per

capita. The report points out a major limitation in the research methodology: the lack of accurate data points. While this is not the case only for China, the discrepancy between these two numbers: 23 kilograms to 150 kilograms is "striking," the report notes.

The major limitation with data was acknowledged in the report, and authors reiterated the importance of having access to more



data points in order to make a comprehensive conclusion in the future.

The report states that data on food waste from households, food service and retail sectors is much less available in low-income and, in some cases, lower middle-income countries. For these cases, the data was generated by garnering estimates from nearby countries where the data was available.

Dr. Richard Swannell, Director of WRAP, told the IPS this discrepancy exists because of resources and prioritising — or a lack thereof.

"Robust measurements of food waste require research funding, which may be more forthcoming in developed countries," he said. "In countries where waste collection systems are less formalised, and more waste is treated at home, by informal recycling systems etc. there may be additional barriers to accurate measurement."

The other concern is on what governments prioritise.

"It has often been assumed that in developing countries, food resources are being lost during the first half of the supply chain — such as at the farm level, processing and transportation," Swannell said.

He added that this aspect could fall under the category of food losses as part of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 12.3, which calls for halving food waste at retail and consumer levels as a means to achieve the SDGs. Thus, research may be prioritised in these areas, said

Swannell. "What the Food Waste Index shows is that the amount of household food waste per capita is broadly similar across high-income and middle-income countries," he added. "In nearly every country that has measured household food waste, it was substantial, regardless of the income level of that country. This suggests that consumer food waste has been previously underestimated, and as a result potentially under-prioritised."

Meanwhile, he expressed concern that while there was a drop in food waste during the pandemic in the UK, food waste figures could increase again.

"Being confined to our homes has resulted in an increase in behaviours such as batch cooking and meal planning, which help tackle food waste," he told the IPS, citing WRAP's research on the UK's eating patterns during the lockdown. "As a result, people are saying they waste a lot less food during lockdown."

There are also concerns about the impact of food waste on climate change.

Reduction of food waste directly serves the interest of climate protection, said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UNEP.

"Reducing food waste would cut greenhouse gas emissions, slow the destruction of nature through land conversion and pollution, enhance the availability of food and thus reduce hun-

"IT HAS OFTEN BEEN ASSUMED THAT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, FOOD RESOURCES ARE BEING LOST DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE SUPPLY CHAIN — SUCH AS AT THE FARM LEVEL, PROCESSING AND TRANSPORTATION"

"REDUCING FOOD WASTE WOULD CUT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, SLOW THE DESTRUCTION OF NATURE THROUGH LAND CONVERSION AND POLLUTION, ENHANCE THE AVAILABILITY OF FOOD AND THUS REDUCE HUNGER AND SAVE MONEY AT A TIME OF GLOBAL RECESSION"

cent of the population is concerned about the climate crisis, only a third of the people are aware of a clear link between climate change and food waste.

(IPS)

NOTICE



This is to bring to notice of the General Public, Our Customers and all Our Business Partners that Mr. SAMAN LAKSHMAN HEWAGE

(NIC: 713481971V),

has ceased to be an employee of Star Granite (Pvt) Ltd, with effect from 01st March 2021.

Therefore, we will not take any responsibility for any business transactions done after the aforesaid date

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04.03.2021 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 741,799

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS 31,438,080.00

Rs.2,000,000.00 PRIZES 02 Rs.1,000,000.00 PRIZES 01 Rs.1,00,000.00 PRIZES 31

MAHAJANA SAMPATHA OFFICIAL RESULTS DATE: 04-03-2021 WINNING LETTER V WINNING NUMBERS 3 6 8 2 9 4

SEVANA OFFICIAL RESULTS DATE: 04/03/2021 Draw Number 319 English Letter Z Winning Number 28 29 30 68

DHANA NIDHANAYA Official Results Date - 04/03/2021 Draw Number - 453 English Letter E Winning Number 31 57 63 74

Govisetha OFFICIAL RESULTS DRAW NUMBER 2711 DRAW DATE 04 / 03 / 2021 WINNING NUMBERS W 10 37 68 73

Mega POWER OFFICIAL RESULTS DRAW NUMBER : 781 DATE : 04.03.2021



DISHAN JOSEPH

The past two decades have seen an increase in radicalized extremism and terrorism in the global arena. This created a need for all police forces across the world to enhance and empower their rapid response to demanding situations. These alarming scenarios include taking hostages, raiding terrorist safe houses, arresting dangerous armed criminals and mitigating a violent shootout in a public space. We have seen such cases telecast on BBC and CNN in many countries, especially when psychotic 'lone wolf' shooters unleash their bloody carnage in public.

The Special Task Force (STF) of the Sri Lanka Police is considered one of the best counter-terrorism strike forces in Asia. Within its wide spectrum of operations, its formidable branch is SWAT - Special Weapons Action Team. This is the branch that brings out the best within the STF, and consists of carefully selected and intensely trained police commandos who are the pride of the Sri Lanka Police.

In the international security arena, the concept of SWAT can be traced to Los Angeles, USA. It is recorded that in 1965, a motor vehicle arrest of an African-American soon ran out of control resulting in a sudden and violent riot that left 34 persons dead in Los Angeles. The Watt Riot, as it later came to be known, unleashed sudden mob violence. It was this intense case scenario that provoked Inspector John Nelson (LAPD) to envisage the concept of using a special weapons action team to mitigate such threats. To this day, he is venerated as the 'Father of SWAT' in the global police fraternity. The primary mission of this concept is a ready and concentrated response by SWAT members in a scenario beyond the capability of the regular police force. With a history of more than 150 years, the Sri Lanka Police Service was burdened with an assortment of duties, which was beyond the parameters of routine law enforcement. For decades, the police had to deal with regular crime prevention and detection duties, but this landscape would face dangerous threats.

There was an incident at a factory in the Biyagama Free Trade Zone many years ago. An executive was taken hostage by some disgruntled staff that remained defiant. After a brief standoff with the local police, it was time to call in the Special Task Force. Responding to the call, a Quick Response Team (QRT) was sent to the location, and the issue settled without further aggression. Subsequently, in 2002, a few hardcore prisoners held inside the Tangalle Prison had overpowered the jailors and stolen their uniforms and attempted a daring escape. Once again, the Special Task Force QRT squad responded and brought the situation under control. It was such scenarios that dictated the need for the formation of a SWAT Team within the Sri Lanka Police.

Over the past few years, the SWAT teams have improved and streamlined their operational capability to deliver a fierce counter



Commandant of the Special Task Force
DIG Waruna Jayasundara

strike to dispel and decimate any dangerous threats. The teams are made up of tough men who display discernment and focus-driven determination. They train at the Special Task Force Academy located at Katukurunda, Kalutara. I was privileged to visit the SWAT teams along with the then Director Training, Superintendent of Police Athula Daulagala (presently SSP/ Deputy Commandant STF).

The STF training school expects a high standard of discipline and performance from all officers. SP Daulagala went on to explain about the diverse role of SWAT in hostage rescue, protection of VVIPs and secure transport of radioactive materials. According to the STF, there was an incident years ago where the Sri Lankan Parliament was subject to a sudden grenade attack. Since then, the SWAT teams have been deployed to respond to any threat. Emphasizing on one of the special duties they carry out, adhering to international rules of the International Atomic Energy Authority



SWAT

THE REALM OF ELITE POLICE COMMANDOS

(IAEA), the SWAT crews safely transport a radioactive capsule, primarily used in Sri Lanka for medical purposes.

I was able to witness the live training of the SWAT members along with Chief Inspector R.M. Wimalaratna (presently ASP). He spoke about the importance of training recruits in Close Quarters Battle (CQB), the dangerous scenario which is where the SWAT team may be called in to operate, during day and night, in an office, a floor of rooms in a hotel, a luxury passenger bus or even an airplane. The CQB strike must combine the elements of surprise, speed, violence of action and accuracy. I was able to observe the determined SWAT members display their prowess in clearing a room. The elite SWAT officers can execute missions in teams of two, four, six and eight, depending on the requirement and level of danger.

The SWAT officer never works alone. He is paired with another member, and they remain buddies throughout their service life. A four-man team approached the room with stealth and alert eyes, scanning potential danger. The door (entrance) to any room poses a risk.

THE SWAT OFFICER NEVER WORKS ALONE. HE IS PAIRED WITH ANOTHER MEMBER, AND THEY REMAIN BUDDIES THROUGHOUT THEIR SERVICE LIFE. A FOUR-MAN TEAM APPROACHED THE ROOM WITH STEALTH AND ALERT EYES, SCANNING POTENTIAL DANGER. THE DOOR (ENTRANCE) TO ANY ROOM POSES A RISK. THIS POINT OF ENTRY IS REFERRED TO AS THE 'FATAL FUNNEL,' WHERE THE POLICE COMMANDO IS MOST VULNERABLE. THE RAPIDLY UNWINDING SEQUENCE TOOK A FEW SECONDS. IT EFFECTIVELY FOLLOWS THE PROTOCOL OF - CLEAR THE BREACH POINT, ELIMINATE THREAT, CLEAR THE NEAR CORNER, RUN TO THE WALL, COLLAPSE, SET OFF FIRE AND COMMUNICATE

This point of entry is referred to as the 'fatal funnel', where the police commando is most vulnerable. The rapidly unwinding sequence took a few seconds. It effectively follows the protocol of - clear the breach point, eliminate threat, clear the near corner, run to the wall, collapse, set off fire and communicate. According to the STF, all raids are undertaken with verified ground intelligence that is available. An armed hostage taker can hide anywhere inside a room, therefore, the objective is to unleash all offensive action before the party being engaged has time to react. Physical and psychological momentum is very essential during a strike.

Teamwork and fortitude is the key to achieving success in SWAT missions.

The SWAT officers use the HK/MP5 submachine gun (its size ideally suited for use in restrictive space), Uzi (open bolt-blowback operated submachine gun), Glock17 and Browning high power pistol, 12 bore shotguns (used to burst open a locked door) and Sniper rifles when required. The Heckler and Koch MP5 is a dependable weapon made in Germany, with a capacity of 900 rounds per minute. The men who desire to serve in SWAT must already be serving members of the regular Special Task Force, with three years of unblemished service. They must endure 10 weeks of extensive training where they also augment their combat skills to become expert swimmers, drivers and motorcycle riders.

Aspiring police commandos must pass tests including a psychometric test that evaluates their personality characteristics and cognitive ability, scenarios that evaluate their reaction time, accurate firing skills, IQ test and a unique test that defines their ability to smell things in a cloistered environment. They are taught vehicle assault, raids, anti

ambush drills and urban operations. After the 10 weeks training period, the men who endure and pass must follow another four weeks of training that hones their skills. The SWAT can take pride in its airborne capability. The Special Task Force SWAT teams have trained and formed a SWAT team for the Maldives, on request.

The incumbent Commandant of the Special Task Force is Deputy Inspector General of Police Waruna Jayasundara. He explained, "I am aware of the value of our elite teams such as SWAT and Small Teams. The future threats will unwind in the urban terrain in a new dimension, unlike terrorism in the past which was fought on a different front. In the recent past, the STF has been deployed to curb organized crime and illegal weapons. Since I assumed office, our teams were able to detect 419 foreign and locally made weapons including 27 (T-56) automatic rifles. In 2010, we used SWAT for the first time in an operation to arrest a famous underworld character. Once again, the SWAT was deployed in 2017 in Minuwangoda to strike at an underworld gang. The Special Task Force SWAT teams have been effectively deployed to raid several illegal cannabis plantations in the Uva Province. Our teams were airborne in SLAF Bell 212 and MI-17 Helicopters and landed at daybreak with the element of surprise. We have proved our ability by raiding a hideout in Muthrajawella using a boat of the Navy SBS."

He added that plans were being made to enhance the capability of the SWAT teams by introducing new high tech equipment, weapons, uniforms and boots on par with global SWAT teams. The SWAT officers will be able to operate with enhanced night vision capacity for discreet operations. The indomitable police commandos of SWAT, imbued with courage remain primed and ready for swift action in defence of the Motherland.

US NEW DAILY COVID CASES AT FIVE-MONTH LOW



Pharmacist Antoun Houranieh unlocks a refrigerator and takes out a box of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Janssen Vaccine to be used for the day's at home vaccinations at the US Department of Veterans Affairs VA Boston Healthcare System's Jamaica Plain Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts on Thursday. - AFP

US: The United States recorded fewer than 40,000 new daily cases of COVID-19 for the first time in five months on Thursday, a piece of promising news as countries across the globe struggle to hold off another infection surge before inoculations become widespread.

With frustration over restrictions having long weighed on populations worldwide, leaders were seeking to balance demands for easing rules while not unleashing another explosion in cases.

In the United States, the world's hardest-hit country, the number of daily cases peaked at nearly 300,000 in early January following the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays.

With cases declining and vaccines rolling out, several US states have begun jettisoning mask-wearing rules - much to the chagrin of President Joe Biden, who

called the move "Nean-thinking." While his administration says its promise to vaccinate 100 million people in its first 100 days is ahead of schedule, Europe is facing heavy criticism over delays in its inoculation campaign.

The EU drug watchdog said Thursday it had started a "rolling review" of the Sputnik V shot, meaning Russian coronavirus vaccines could soon be doled out across Europe.

Moscow responded by saying it could supply doses for 50 million Europeans starting from June as the 27-nation bloc pledged to inoculate all those in need by the end of summer. The EU has already approved three vaccines, but some members have gone it alone, approving shots from Russia and China unilaterally after criticizing delays. - AFP

COVID-19 kills fewer African women than men - WHO study



Children run past a mural warning people about the dangers of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Kibera settlement in Nairobi, Kenya.

SOUTH AFRICA:

Women in Africa are less likely to die from COVID-19 than men, but more likely to succumb to maternal complications due to limited access to reproductive services since the pandemic started, the UN said Thursday citing reports.

A study of 28 African countries including Guinea, Mauritius and Uganda showed that on average women accounted for a slightly smaller proportion of coronavirus infections and deaths compared to men.

Overall around 41 percent of reported COVID-19 cases were women, although the figures

varied widely from 31 percent in Niger to more than 57 percent in South Africa.

"In most countries, women are somewhat less likely to die from Covid-19 than men," World Health Organization (WHO) regional director for Africa Matshidiso Moeti told an online news conference.

But the pandemic had exposed gaps in health services, with women suffering the brunt of disrupted access to care.

"There was a rise in maternal deaths in 10 countries," Moeti said, making reference to another study that collated data between February

and July 2020. The highest jumps were recorded in the Comoros, Mali, Senegal and South Africa.

Access to sexual and reproductive care was already poor on the continent before coronavirus hit.

But access was made worse by restrictions to stem the spread of COVID-19, pushing more women to seek risky informal abortions, Moeti explained.

Overstretched hospitals were often unable to see patients seeking non-coronavirus related services, she added.

More data is still needed to determine the full extent of the effect. - AFP

Cuban-developed vaccine enters Phase III trial

CUBA: A Cuban-developed coronavirus candidate vaccine entered into Phase III trials Thursday, the first shot developed by a Latin American country to get this far, the Government said.

The recruitment of 44,000 volunteers aged 19 to 80 to test the drug named Soberana 2 has already begun, said Cuba's Finlay vaccine institute.

The first trial shots should start being administered in Havana next week.

The trial volunteers will be divided into three groups: some will receive two doses of the vaccine 28 days apart, another group will get two doses plus a third immune booster, and the third a placebo.

This third phase of the trial will officially end three months after the last dose is injected, the institute's Yury Valdes told reporters.

But if the results are promising, authorisation for emergency use could be sought before then.

The Communist state, which has stated it wants to vaccinate all inhabitants this year, has been relatively unscathed by the COVID-19 pandemic, with just over 53,300 recorded cases and 336 deaths in a population of 11.2 million.

Under American sanctions, the island nation began developing its own vaccines in the 1980s, discovering the first immunization against the meningitis-causing Meningococcal B bacteria.

Nearly 80 percent of its vaccines are produced locally, and Cuba is working on four coronavirus candidate vaccines.

Soberana 2, like Novavax developed in America, is a recombinant protein vaccine.

They work by recreating the "spikes" on the surface of the coronavirus and introducing it to the body, training the immune system



Cuba's Finlay vaccine institute has announced that it will launch phase 3 trials of the Soberana 2 coronavirus vaccine.

to recognize such intruders and fight back in case of a real infection. Recombinant vaccines, unlike

some coronavirus shots already in use, do not need extreme refrigeration. - AFP

Ireland investigates stillbirths linked to COVID-19 pandemic

IRELAND: Irish health officials are investigating four stillbirths potentially linked to COVID-19, the Republic's Deputy Chief Medical Officer Ronan Glynn said on Thursday.

Glynn said officials have been "made aware of four preliminary reports of stillbirths potentially associated with a condition called COVID Placentitis".

Glynn told reporters in Dublin that coroners had reported the cases, in which pregnant women have tested positive for the coronavirus and subsequently suffered stillbirths.

The cause of the stillbirth in

such cases is infection of the placenta, he said.

Glynn cautioned that "further work needs to be done" before the findings can be confirmed.

"I can't give too much detail because there's not too much more details to give at this point," he said.

Ireland has suffered 4,396 deaths from the coronavirus pandemic according to latest official figures.

The nation is currently in the midst of its third lockdown after suffering the highest rate of infection per capita in the world in early January. - AFP



Ireland's Deputy Chief Medical Officer Ronan Glynn explains COVID-19.

Bolsonaro tells Brazilians: 'Stop whining' about COVID

BRAZIL: Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on Thursday urged Brazilians to "stop whining" about COVID-19 and renewed his attacks on stay-at-home measures to contain the pandemic, amid a surge of cases that is pushing hospitals to the brink.

The latest controversial comments from the far-right leader, who regularly flouts expert advice on fighting the new coronavirus despite having contracted it himself last year, came after Brazil registered its second daily record of COVID-19 deaths in as many days, leading some cities and states to go back on partial lockdown.

"Stop whining. How long are you going to keep crying about it?" Bolsonaro said at an inauguration ceremony for a new railroad line in the central state of Goias.

"How long are you going to stay home? How long are you going to keep everything closed? People can't take it anymore," he added.

"We regret the deaths... But where's Brazil going to end up if we just close everything?"

Nearly 260,000 people have died of COVID-19 in Brazil, the second-highest pandemic death toll in the world after the United States.

Bolsonaro's comments came as a growing list of cities and states announced new partial lockdown measures, including the city of Rio de Janeiro and state of Sao Paulo.

The hard-hit country of 212 million people is having its deadliest week of the pandemic, with an average of more than



Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro

1,300 deaths per day over the past seven days.

An explosion of cases blamed partly on a new variant of the virus that emerged in the Amazon rainforest has filled intensive care units almost to capacity in many areas.

Bolsonaro has stoked controversy throughout the pandemic by comparing the virus to a "little flu," railing against stay-at-home measures and face masks, joking that getting vaccinated could "turn you into an alligator," and pushing the medication hydroxychloroquine despite studies showing it is ineffective against COVID-19. - AFP

COUNTRIES TO FAST-TRACK ADAPTED COVID VACCINES

UK: Modified vaccines designed to protect against emerging coronavirus variants will get fast-track approval under a pact announced on Thursday by medicines regulators in Britain and four other countries.

The agreement will avert the need for lengthy clinical studies if authorised vaccines are adapted in future, as long as the manufacturers offer "robust evidence" of their potency and safety, according to the agreement by the ACCESS Consortium.

The consortium comprises Britain's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and counterparts from Australia, Canada, Singapore and Switzerland.

"Our priority is to get effective vaccines to the public in as short a time as possible, without compromising on safety,"

MHRA chief scientific officer Christian Schneider said in a statement.

"Should any modifications to authorised Covid-19 vaccines be necessary, this regulatory approach should help to do just that.

"The public should be confident that no vaccine would be approved unless the expected high standards of safety, quality and effectiveness are met."

The approach is based on the "tried and tested" regulatory process used for seasonal influenza vaccines, which need to be adapted every year to combat new strains, the MHRA said.

Britain began rolling out the world's first mass vaccination programme for the coronavirus in December. But health experts are concerned that new variants of the disease, including one from Brazil, could prove more resistant to the vaccines.

That would undermine plans by Britain and others to start unwinding lockdowns in the coming weeks, which hinge on the vaccines giving enough people protection and bringing down a winter surge in infections and deaths.

In England, the latest wide-scale survey of more than 165,000 volunteers tested for Covid-19 showed that prevalence fell by two-thirds last month from January, with one in every 204 people infected.

The survey overseen by London's Imperial College showed the "R" number in England came to 0.86. Anything under 1.0 signals the virus is no longer growing exponentially in the population.

But it also found that the rate of decrease was slowing, prompting Health Secretary Matt Hancock to urge continued caution as England prepares to reopen schools to in-



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen gestures as he receives the AstraZeneca vaccine during a vaccination campaign against the COVID-19 coronavirus at Calmette hospital in Phnom Penh on Thursday. - AFP

class teaching next Monday in the first phase of ending its lockdown.

"There is some cause for concern that our hard-won progress may be slowing down, and even reversing in some regions so it is

important we remain vigilant - this is on all of us," Hancock said.

More than 123,000 people have died of Covid-19 across the UK, in one of the world's worst outbreaks. - AFP

China sets growth target of 'ABOVE 6%' for 2021

CHINA: China's leaders on Friday set a growth target "above six percent" for 2021, putting it back above pre-pandemic levels, after the virus was largely brought under control at home thanks to strict lockdowns and mass testing.

The goal comes after the world's number two economy suffered its slowest rate of expansion in four decades because of the strict containment measures and as the disease wiped out global trade.

"In setting this target, we have taken into account the recovery of economic activity," said Premier Li Keqiang at the opening of the country's annual legislative session, adding that this dovetails with future goals such as "high-quality development", innovation and reform.

The freezing of the economy last year raised some doubts about the Communist Party's ability to deliver on its pledge of continued prosperity in return for unquestioned political power.

But with coronavirus brought under control domestically, analysts say it is set for a strong comeback, with forecasts putting growth at 8-9 percent at least this year, according to Tommy Xie, OCBC Bank's head of Greater China research.

Beijing usually sets annual economic growth targets that it regularly exceeds, though it did not set a target last year owing to the outbreak.

Leaders did not specify a growth target for its new five-year plan, as is its usual custom, only saying it would be "maintained within a reasonable range".

The draft of the five-year roadmap was also published Friday.

Authorities are also looking to create more than 11 million new urban jobs - an increase from last year - and keep urban unemployment around 5.5 percent.

Li added authorities will "maintain necessary



Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang delivers a speech during the opening session of China's National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday.

policy support" and "avoid sharp turns in policy".

But experts have warned that unemployment is likely to be higher than official figures, given the number of people involved in the informal workforce.

China also set its fiscal deficit target at "around 3.2 percent" of gross domestic product - below last year's figure but in line with expectations.

Many analysts had predicted global uncertainty would lead China to hold off on a GDP target for a second year, and said the target was deliberately cautious.

"The bar is set too low... (it's) as if there is no target," ING chief economist for Greater China Iris Pang told AFP.

This could be because Beijing does not want to slash its growth target next year, when distortions from the pandemic subsided, added Nomura chief China economist Lu Ting.

Meanwhile, "as the economy has already made a strong recovery, it will not be necessary to have another major fiscal boost this year", said UOB economist Ho Woei Chen.

She noted that lowering the fiscal deficit target points to a "normalisation", bringing it closer to pre-pandemic numbers. - AFP

Asteroid the size of the Golden Gate Bridge to zoom by Earth

US: An asteroid similar in size to the Golden Gate Bridge will whip past Earth later this month - the largest and fastest asteroid to pass close to our planet this year. But don't worry, it won't get too close.

The asteroid, officially known by NASA as 231937 (2001 FO32), is about 0.5 to 1 mile in diameter, making it larger than about 97% of asteroids but small compared to large asteroids, according to Space Reference. It has an orbit period of 810 days.

The asteroid is set to come within 1.25 million miles of Earth at 11:02 a.m. ET on March 21, just one day after the spring equinox. That's close enough for NASA to classify it as "potentially hazardous" in its database of near-Earth asteroids.

"This is the closest predicted approach in 2021 for any moderately large asteroid, where 'moderately large' means at least several hundred meters in size," Paul Chodas, the Director of the Center for Near-Earth Object Studies, told CBS News on Wednesday.

However, it poses no risk of impact, and scientists know its path very accurately.

It will zoom past at almost 77,000 miles per hour, or 21 miles per second - peaking scientists' interests as one of the fastest space rocks known to fly past Earth, according to EarthSky. Asteroids are designated as "potentially hazardous" when they come within about 4.65 million miles of Earth, and are larger



The largest asteroid in 2021 will cross Earth later this month.

than 500 feet in diameter. At its brightest, the space rock will still be "far too faint" to be seen with the naked eye, Chodas said.

"A fascinating aspect of asteroids is that observers using backyard telescopes can spot them as apparently slow-moving 'stars,'" EarthSky said. "It typically takes at least 5 to 10 minutes for backyard telescope users to detect a space rock's motion in front of its starfield. But asteroid 2001 FO32 will be sweeping past Earth at such a fast pace that, when it's closest, observers using 8-inch or larger telescopes might be able to detect its motion - its drift in front of the stars - in real-time."

Observers at lower northern latitudes and in the southern hemisphere will have the best chance to spot it at its brightest, Chodas said. Star charts will help locate it. Telescopes in New Mexico that are part of the Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research program detected the asteroid on March 23, 2001. The MIT Lincoln Laboratory program, funded by the U.S. Air Force and NASA, has been monitoring it since. - YAHOO NEWS



19-year-old Deng Jia Xi, wearing a t-shirt saying 'Everything will be ok' was reported to be among the protesters who died on Wednesday.

Teenagers killed as Myanmar Army opens FIRE ON PROTESTERS



Deng Jia Xi, a 19-year-old shot dead during protests in Myanmar. - Facebook

INDIA: A number of people have begun escaping the turmoil in Myanmar into India, some of them police refusing to take part in the violent crackdown on protests against a military coup there, officials and reports said.

Myanmar's junta ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi on February 1, triggering a mass uprising that the military has responded to with increasingly lethal force. The UN said at least 38 people were killed on Wednesday.

Indian police said nine people crossed the 1,600-kilometre (1,000-mile) border into Mizoram state on the same day, three of them police refusing to take part in putting down protests.

The Hindu daily said at least 20 people have crossed over since Wednesday, and quoted locals as saying there were at least 50 in the districts of Champhai and Serchhip.

"Their identities and reasons for fleeing Myanmar have been forwarded to the State's Home

Department," local police chief Kumar Abhishek said.

The Hindustan Times quoted officials in Mizoram saying that locals have been told to report immediately any further Myanmar nationals crossing the frontier.

Champai deputy commissioner Maria CT Zuali told the paper that "those persons have to be caught and the local authorities alerted." "We will try and find out if at all the lives of those entering India are threatened in Myanmar. We can decide on these people based on what the (central government) says," Zuali said. "If permission is not granted to take them in as refugees, they would be deported." Mizoram chief minister Zoramthanga said earlier that the state would welcome people fleeing the Myanmar military "with open arms, give them food and shelter." "We would even approach the central government to grant us permission in the event of a refugees' influx," he said. - AFP

MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION

MORAGAHAKANDA - KALUGANGA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

REMOVAL OF DAMAGED MATERIAL 2020-I

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR THE SALE OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL UNUSED AND REMOVED FROM USE

- Bids will be received for the sale of discarded damaged material belonging to Moragahakanda - Kaluganga Development Project. These goods could be inspected at the Wellwela Stores and Moragahakanda Stores of Moragahakanda - Kaluganga Development Project from 08.03.2021 to 29.03.2021 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 9.30 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.
- A bidder could forward bids for one item or several items or for all items through one form.
- Relevant application forms could be obtained from the Accountant on submission of the receipt obtained from the Cashier of Moragahakanda - Kaluganga Development Project for the payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1000/- from 9.00 a.m. on 08.03.2021 up to 3.00 p.m. on 09.03.2021.
- Details of items to be sold will be issued with each application form.
- Interested applicants should contact Telephone Nos 066-2057854 / 066-2053605 / 066-2053606 for further details, if required.
- Duly perfected applications should be submitted along with a refundable deposit of Rs. 10,000/-.
- Bids will be closed at 9.30 a.m. on 30.03.2021 and bids received late will be rejected.
- Bids will be opened at 10.00 a.m. on 30.03.2021 and bidders or one of their representatives could participate at the time.
- All matters related to the sale of discarded construction material will be carried out under Covid-19 health protection provisions and only the bidder or his representative should take part.

Eng. D.B. Wijayaratne
Project Director,
Moragahakanda-Kaluganga Development Project
Koongahawela.

Myanmar refugees trickle across INDIAN BORDER

MYANMAR: At least 38 people were killed in Myanmar on Wednesday in what the UN described as the "bloodiest day" since the coup took place a month ago.

In one photo, a 19-year-old young woman named Deng Jia Xi is seen crouching among fellow anti-coup protesters looking defiantly towards Myanmar's Security Forces, wearing a black T-shirt that says 'everything will be ok'.

Minutes later, she was dead - another young life suddenly snuffed out simply for demanding democracy.

A second photo of her lifeless body, stretched out on a gurney with blood oozing from her head, joined many other horrific images flooding out of Myanmar on Wednesday, documenting dozens more victims of violent military crackdowns on peaceful rallies across the Southeast Asian nation.

Christine Schraner Burgener, the United Nations special envoy on Myanmar, said 38 people had been killed, marking the bloodiest day of protests since a February coup.

Myanmar's Security Forces are increasingly turning to lethal force, and apparently shooting to kill with impunity, as they try to stem the relentless tide of protests against the Feb. 1 military takeover that ousted and detained the country's civilian leadership.

In Deng Jia Xi's final Facebook post on Sunday - when at least 18 died in the nation's bloodiest protests to date - she offered to donate blood to anyone who needed it.

The post gained 127,000 likes within hours as tributes poured in following news of her death in Mandalay, Myanmar's second biggest city. Many protesters are now resorting to writing their emergency contact numbers and blood types on their forearms in the event that they are killed or need urgent medical care.

- YAHOO NEWS

The Indo-Myanmar border bridge at the border town of Moreh in Manipur State.

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INVITATION OF BIDS (IFB)

Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Conservation Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project (ESCAMP)

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 55 NOS. OF MOTOR BICYCLES FOR BEAT OFFICES, ELEPHANT CONTROL UNITS AND GALOYA NATIONAL PARK OF DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Contract Nos: LK-ESCAMP-DWC-123593-GO-RFQ, LK-ESCAMP-DWC-123611-GO-RFQ,
LK-ESCAMP-DWC-163970-GO-RFQ

- The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Project Management Unit - ESCAMP, Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Conservation, No. 82, Rajamalwatta Road, Battaramulla, invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 55 NOS. OF MOTOR BICYCLES FOR BEAT OFFICES, ELEPHANT CONTROL UNITS AND GALOYA NATIONAL PARK OF DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION under National Competitive Bidding Procedure.

A brief summary of the requirement is given in Table below;

Item	Quantity/ Units
Brand New Motor Bicycle 2020 (120 - 130 CC)	55

- Bidders are required to bid for the total quantity of Motor Bicycles as listed above. Partial bids shall be treated as non-responsive and shall be rejected.
- 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 specified in the bidding documents.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Division, at Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project, (ESCAMP) "Sampathpaya", No.82, Rajamalwatta Road, Battaramulla during working hours from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. from 08th March 2021 until 29th March 2021. Bidding documents can be inspected free of charge at above address during normal working hours. Further a Sample Bidding Document could be found in the www.escamp.lk only for reference purposes. (Contact telephone numbers are: 011 2888426 / 011 2888427).
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Project Director, Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project (ESCAMP) "Sampathpaya", No.82, Rajamalwatta Road, Battaramulla from 08th March 2021 to 29th March 2021 from 9.00 am. to 3.00 pm. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs.5000.00 The method of payment will be in cash to the Project Accountant, Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project. (ESCAMP)
- Completed bids in duplicate inserted in separate envelopes marked as "Original" and "Copy" and sealed, should be enclosed in one envelope with the contract number and the Title of Procurement written on the top of envelope which should be sent to the address given below by registered post on or before 30th March 2021 at 10.00 a.m. Bids shall also be deposited in the **Tender Box kept at the Conference Room in Project Management Unit**, Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project, (ESCAMP) "Sampathpaya", No.82, Rajamalwatta Road, Battaramulla. Late Bids and Bids sent electronically will not be accepted and will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing of bids in the presence of the bidders representatives who choose to attend.
- All bids must be accompanied by a "Bid-Security" issued by a Commercial Bank operating in Sri Lanka, approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. The amounts of Bid Security shall be LKR. 200,000.00 (Excluding VAT) **The Bid Security shall be valid up to 31st July 2021.** Any bid not accompanied by a valid bid security and not according to the format given with the bidding document will be rejected.
- Bids shall be valid up to 30th June 2021.
- The Employer will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders' in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids Etc.
- Bidders must provide the PCA 3 form (Public Contract Act No. of 1987) along with their Bids. (<http://www.drc.gov.lk/>)
- The Project Procurement Committee reserves the full right in either accepting or rejecting any bid fully or partly received and the decision of the Project Procurement Committee in this regard shall be the final.

**The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Project Management Unit,
Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project (ESCAMP),
"Sampathpaya", No.82,
Rajamalwatta Road,
Battaramulla.**

Tel No. 011 2888426 / 011 2888427
www.escamp.lk

06th March 2021



INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB-2021/02)

DEPARTMENT OF IRRIGATION, NORTHERN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



- The Director, Department of Irrigation, Northern Province invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for civil works as described in the table below.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding, however, limited to the bidders who registered within the administrative boundary of the Northern Province.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the CIDA registration and qualification requirements listed below. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Deputy Director of Irrigation of respective ranges and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours.

Vavuniya & Mannar District	Kilinochchi District	Mullaitivu District
Deputy Director's Office, Vavuniya Range, Provincial Irrigation Department, Station Road, Vavuniya. T.P: 024 2222347 / 024 2222352	Deputy Director's Office, Kilinochchi Range, Provincial Irrigation Department, Wilson Road, Kilinochchi. T.P: 021 2285867	Deputy Director's Office, Mullaitivu Range, Provincial Irrigation Department, A9 Road, Mankulam. T.P: 024 3244122

- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language should be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the Director of Irrigation, Department of Irrigation, Northern Province, New Colony Lane, A9 Road, Mankulam from 10.03.2021 to 30.03.2021 from 09:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs.3, 500.00 for lot 12 and 2,000.00 for other documents. The method of payment will be by cash.
- Bids shall be delivered to the Chairman of the respective Procurement Committee as indicated in the table below at Department of Irrigation, Northern Province, New Colony Lane, A9 Road, Mankulam on or before 13:00 hrs on 31.03.2021. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid as indicated in the form of bid. (Section - 4).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a bid security in the form of Bid Security included in Section-9. The amount and validity of the bid security shall be as per details given in Section - 5.
- Pre-bid meeting will be held at Department of Irrigation, Northern Province, New Colony Lane, A9 Road, Mankulam commencing at 10.00 hrs on 23.03.2021.

The Table referred to above is:

Lot No	Title of Contract & Contract Identification Number	PC	Proposed contract Price (Rs.Mn)	Bid Security Amount (Rs)	Construction Period	Required CIDA Grade
Mullaitivu District						
1	Rehabilitation to Downstream Works of Maruthamadu Tank PSDG/MUL/MIK/2021/02	Div. PC	4.630	90,000.00	180 Days	C7 & C8 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
2	Renovation of Udaiyarkaddu RB Canal Road PSDG/MUL/MIK/2021/03	Div. PC	4.630	90,000.00	180 Days	C7 & C8 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
3	Improvement to Iyankankulam Bund & Graveling of Tank Bund Rec/Mul/VVK/2021/01	Div. PC	0.930	18,000.00	90 Days	C8 & C9 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
4	Improvements to Head Works & Access Road at Muthuiyankaddu Tank Rec/Mul/MIK/2021/01	Div. PC	2.310	45,000.00	180 Days	C7 & C8 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
5	Improvements to the Head Works at Udayarkaddu Tank Rec/Mul/MIK/2021/03	Div. PC	0.930	18,000.00	90 Days	C8 & C9 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
Kilinochchi District						
6	Rehabilitation of Kudamuruddy Irrigation Scheme PSDG/KOC/KIW/2021/03	Div. PC	6.369	125,000.00	140 Days	C6 & C7 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
7	Rehabilitation of Kariyalainagapaduwan Irrigation Scheme PSDG/KOC/KIW/2021/04	Div. PC	6.364	125,000.00	140 Days	C6 & C7 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
8	Improvement of Conference Hall, Cycle park, Store & Quarters REC(Building)/KOC/KIE/2021/01	Div. PC	2.266	45,000.00	75 Days	C9 Building
Jaffna District						
9	Improvements of Vadarachchi Lagoon & Upparu lagoon REC/KOC/JAF/2021/02	Div. PC	1.840	35,000.00	60 Days	C8 & C9 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
Vavuniya District						
10	Rehabilitation of pampaimadu Tank head works & Downstream developments PSDG/VAV/VAV/2021/01	Div. PC	4.629	90,000.00	90 Days	C7 & C8 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
11	Rehabilitation of Mamaduwa Tank head works & Downstream developments PSDG/VAV/CHE/2021/04	Div. PC	2.777	50,000.00	90 Days	C7 & C8 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
Mannar District						
12	Rehabilitation of Koorai Tank Head Works and Downstream developments PSDG/VAV/MAN/2021/01	RPC	13.888	270,000.00	90 Days	C5 & C6 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
13	Rehabilitation of Welimaruthamadu Tank Head Works & Downstream developments PSDG/VAV/MAN/2021/02	Div. PC	9.259	180,000.00	90 Days	C6 & C7 Irrigation & Drainage Canals

PC: Procurement Committee,
Div. PC: Divisional Procurement Committee

RPC: Regional Procurement Committee
DPC: Department Procurement Committee

**Director of Irrigation,
Irrigation Department,
Northern Province.**

Date: 06.03.2021

T.P: 021 2285472, 021 2285652

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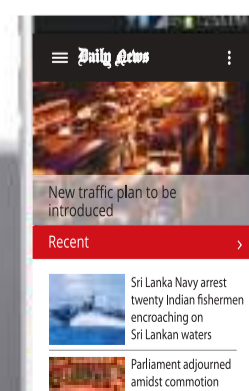
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LAKE HOUSE

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Provincial Department of Health Services Eastern Province

- The **Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee** invites sealed Bids for the works mentioned in the table from eligible Bidders who possess Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) Registration for the Grade mentioned in the table below.
- Bidding will be conducted through **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)**, regional Preference and CIDA Grade preference shall apply as stipulated in Public Finance Circular No. 03/2020.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful Bidder should not have been blacklisted and shall be registered in the field of Building Construction under Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) in the Grade as mentioned in the table.
- Bidding documents may be purchased during office hours up to **03.00 p.m. on 26.03.2021** at the **Procurement Unit, Provincial Department of Health Services, Eastern Province, Trincomalee** on submission of receipts for the proof of payment for non-refundable fee mentioned below, made at the office of the **Finance Unit, Provincial Department of Health Services, Eastern Province, Trincomalee**.
- A Bidder is entitled to obtain the Bidding Documents in duplicate. Interested Bidders may inspect the Bidding Documents free of charge, prior to collection, if desired and obtain further information from the **Engineer, Provincial Department of Health Services, Eastern Province, Trincomalee**.
- Bids accompanied by a Bid Security for the amount mentioned below shall reach the **Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Provincial Department of Health Services, No. 120, Court Road, Trincomalee on or before 3.00 p.m. on 29.03.2021**. Bids will be opened at **Provincial Department of Health Services, No. 120, Court Road, Trincomalee (Conference Hall)** soon after closing in the presence of the Bidders/Representatives who choose to attend. Late Bids will be rejected.
- A Pre Bid Meeting will be conducted on **22.03.2021 at 10.00 a.m.** at the Office of the Conference Hall, Provincial Department of Health Services, No. 120, Court Road, Trincomalee.
- The Bid Security is acceptable by any commercial bank or any Insurance Agency approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and Construction Guarantee Fund.

TABLE

Name of Work	CIDA Grade Building	TEC (Rs. in Mn)	Contract Period	Non refundable Fee (Rs.)	Bid Validity Period	Bid Security								
						Amount (Rs.)	Validity Date							
Renovation of Life Modification Centre PHT	C6 & C5	25.0 Mn	180 Days	6000.00	77 Days	250,000.00	105 Days							
i. Renovation and refurbishment of ward ii. Refurbishment of Drug Store iii. Construction of waste collection points	DH Navaikadu	4.8 Mn	90 Days	3000.00	63 Days	48,000.00	91 Days							
i. Renovation and refurbishment of OPD Building ii. Refurbishment of Drug Store iii. Construction of waste collection points								DH Palameenmadu	4.4 Mn	90 Days	3000.00	63 Days	44,000.00	91 Days
i. Renovation and necessary expansion of OPD Building ii. Refurbishment of Drug Store iii. Construction of waste collection points														
i. Renovation and necessary expansion of OPD Building ii. Refurbishment of Drug Store iii. Construction of waste collection points	DH Mavavivembu	10.8 Mn	120 Days	3500.00	77 Days	108,000.00	105 Days							
i. Renovation and necessary expansion of OPD Building ii. Refurbishment of Drug Store iii. Construction of waste collection points								DH Mandapathady	7.4 Mn	120 Days	3500.00	77 Days	74,000.00	105 Days
i. Construction of Health Staff Chummary Quarters ii. Renovation of Oncall room & Toilets	DH Padavisripura	10.2 Mn	120 Days	3500.00	77 Days	102,000.00	105 Days							
Construction of MO Quarters DH Seruwila								C7 & C6	8.0 Mn	120 Days	3500.00	77 Days	80,000.00	105 Days

Dr A. Lathaharan
Chairman
Departmental Procurement Committee
Provincial Director of Health Services
Eastern Province

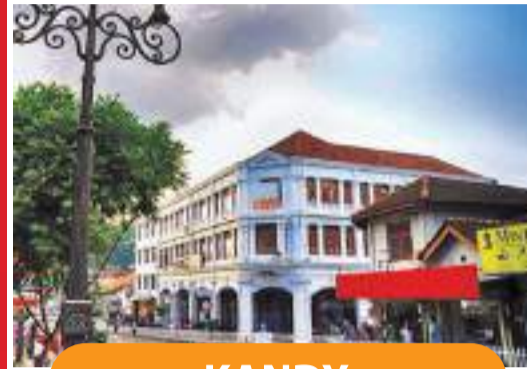
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Anuradhapura Branch



ANURADHAPURA

No.310/1/2,
Harischandra Mawatha, Bank Town
025 222 2370

Matara Branch



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Nugegoda Branch



NUGEGODA

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High Levele Road
011 282 8114

Jaffna Branch



JAFFNA

No.06, Sirampirady,
Off Stanley Road
077 616 4901

Maradana k/v Branch



MARADANA

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Colombo10
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**Postgraduate Institute of Medicine
University of Colombo
Procurement Notice**

PROVISION OF CLEANING AND JANITORIAL SERVICES

Bid No. 01. Cleaning & Janitorial Service for PGIM Main Premises (PGIM/GA/CS/2021/01)
Bid No. 02. Cleaning & Janitorial Service for PGIM Academic Center (PGIM/GA/CS/2021/02)

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo invites sealed bids for **Provision of Cleaning and Janitorial Services** up to **2.30 p.m. on 30.03.2021**. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Senior Assistant Registrar/General Administration of the PGIM, via telephone or e-mail (Mobile No. 0704702867/ E-mail : saradmin@pgim.cmb.ac.lk) from 9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. from 08.03.2021.

A complete set of bidding documents in English (PDF) may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application with a scanned copy of the payment receipt to the Senior Assistant Registrar/General Administration, Postgraduate Institute of Medicine via e-mail (saradmin@pgim.cmb.ac.lk) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rupees 2,500/- separately to each bid to PGIM Account, Bank of Ceylon, Borella, Super Grade Branch, AC No. 193413.

All bids should be accompanied by a Bid Security of the value Rs.60,000/- for Bid No.01 and Rs. 90,000/- for Bid No 02. Bid Security must be deposited to the PGIM Account No. 193413, Bank of Ceylon, Super Grade Branch Borella and attached to the bidding document.

Duly filled sealed bids in duplicate marked as "Provision of Cleaning & Janitorial Service for PGIM Main Premises Bid No. 01 (PGIM/GA/CS/2021/01)" or "Cleaning & Janitorial Service for PGIM Academic Center Bid No. 02 (PGIM/GA/CS/2021/02)" at the top left hand corner of the envelope must be put into the tender box kept at the General Administration Branch, Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, No. 160, Prof. Nandadasa Kodagoda Mawatha, Colombo 7 from 9.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. on 30.03.2021 (If there is any change in the final date of submission of bids due to COVID - 19 situation in the country, will be notified in the PGIM web site. (<https://pgim.cmb.ac.lk>)).

Bids will be opened at 2.30 p.m. on 30.03.2021 at the Boardroom 3 of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend the bid opening. Late & incomplete bids will be rejected.

**Chairman
Department Procurement Committee
Postgraduate Institute of Medicine
University of Colombo
No. 160, Prof. Nandadasa Kodagoda Mawatha,
Colombo-07.
06.03.2021**

NOTICE

GALLE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

INVITATION FOR QUOTATIONS FOR SERVICING OF VEHICLES

Sealed quotations are hereby invited for servicing the undermentioned Vehicles and Machinery belonging to the Galle Municipal Council for the year 2021. Vehicle Service Institutions in the Galle District could apply for this purpose.

Serial No.	Vehicle Category and Quantity	Serial No.	Vehicle Category and Quantity	Serial No.	Vehicle Category and Quantity	
1	Jeep	1	10	Tipper Trucks	6	
2	Van	1	11	Dump Trucks	2	
3	Bus	1	12	Small Lorries	2	
4	Motor Vehicles	2	13	Water Bowser	1	
5	Double Cabs	5	14	Gully Bowsers	2	
6	Crew Cabs	6	15	Fire Brigade Vehicles	6	
7	Three-Wheeler	1	16	Compactor Vehicles	12	
8	Motor Cycles	5	17	Tractors	17	
9	Ambulances	4	18	Tractor Trailers	24	
				19	Compactor Trailer	1
				20	Water Bowser Trailer	1
				21	Hand Tractors	2
				22	Backhoe Loaders	2
				23	Excavator Machines	4
				24	Skid Steer Rollers	3
				25	Vibration Roller	1
				26	Wheel Dumper	1
				27	Road Roller	1

Last Date and Time for Issuing Applications - 31.03.2021 at 3.00 p.m.
Last Date and Time for Accepting Quotations - 01.04.2021 at 10.00 a.m.
Opening Date and Time of Quotations - 01.04.2021 at 10.30 a.m.

- Further details could be obtained during office hours on working days of the week from the Municipal Engineers (Mechanical) Department of the Galle Municipal Council. Telephone Nos. 0915703530 / 0912222009.
- The prices quoted by you should be valid for a period of one year ahead from the date of opening of quotations.
- Relevant documents and specimen forms for submitting quotations could be obtained after depositing a non-refundable sum of Rs. 1000/= at the Galle Municipal Council. (Cash could be handed over every working day of the week between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.)
- Quotations will be accepted up to 10.00 a.m. on 01.04.2021 and quotations received thereafter will be rejected.
- Sealed Bids should be sent to the Municipal Commissioner, Municipal Council, Galle by registered post to be received at or before 10.00 a.m. on 01.04.2021 or could be inserted in the Tender Box kept in the Municipal Commissioner's Office of the Galle Municipal Council. The words "Servicing of Vehicles for the year 2021" should be clearly marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing the Quotation.
- Quotations will be opened at 10.30 a.m. on 01.04.2021 and owners of institutions or their authorized representatives could participate on this occasion.
- Incomplete quotations will be rejected and the decision of the Tender Board is deemed final. Further, the right to accept or reject quotations lies with the Tender Board of the Galle Municipal Council.

**At the Office of the
Galle Municipal Council**
on 04.03.2021

**Ranil Wickramasekera
Municipal Commissioner,
Galle Municipal Council**



SRI LANKA PORTS AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

TENDER FOR DRY DOCKING OF DREDGER HANSAKAWA FOR DOCKING, SPECIAL AND SCREW SHAFT SURVEYS, HULL CLEANING, PAINTING AND REPLACEMENT OF SHAFT SEALS

Tender No. : EW/04/PT/2020/MA/13 - 4

- The Chairman, Department Procurement committee on behalf of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority invites sealed bids from interested parties for **Dry docking of dredger Hansakawa (IMO No. 9240500) for docking, special and screw shaft surveys, hull cleaning, painting and replacement of shaft seals** at a shipyard where necessary facilities are available for dry docking more than 70 m length, 13 m width and 1500 GRT vessels.
- Bidders are hereby informed that the provisions of the public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 are applicable for tender exceeding Rs. 05 million. Accordingly all parties involved in each tender are required to strictly abide by the said act throughout the duration of contract and submit the duly completed registration certificate along with his bid documents.
- Bidders should have been in the business of similar service at least during the last Five years where should have proven experience in dry docking of vessels or dredger not less than 1500 GRT.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Chief Engineer (Marine), Marine Engineering Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01 and may inspect the bidding documents at the address given below during office hours.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders from Engineering Works Branch, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01, on submission of a written application addressed to the Chief Engineer (Marine) to the address given below, **from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs on working days from 08.03.2021 to 24.03.2021 upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rs. 10,500.00 (Inclusive of 8% VAT) by cash.**
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of Rs. 442,025.00 and "Dry docking of Dredger Hansakawa for docking, special and screw shaft surveys, hull cleaning, painting and replacement of shaft seals - EW/04/PT/2020/MA/13-4" should be clearly indicated on top of the left corner of the envelope of the sealed Bid .
- Sealed Bids may either be sent by the registered post addressed to Chief Engineer (Marine), Marine Engineering Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01 or deposited in the Bid Box kept in same address **at or before 14.00 hrs. on 25.03.2021**. Late bids shall not be accepted.
- Bids will be opened at the same address immediately after the closing of bids and the bidders or their authorized representatives may be present at the time of bid opening.

**Chief Engineer (Marine)
Marine Engineering Division,
Sri Lanka Ports Authority,
No. 45, Leyden Bastian Road,
Colombo 01.
Telephone:- 011-2482330, 011-2342537
Fax No: 011-2342537**



CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

SRI LANKA CRICKET

TERRESTRIAL TV BROADCASTING RIGHTS - Bangladesh Tour of Sri Lanka 2021



Television Broadcasting Rights

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), being the Governing Body of Cricket in Sri Lanka hereby invites and seeks "Expressions of Interest" from reputed Local Broadcasters who are interested in acquiring Terrestrial TV Broadcasting Rights of Sri Lanka Cricket for the Bangladesh Tour of Sri Lanka scheduled to be held on 21st of April 2021 which consist of Two Test Matches.

Details of the Rights:

A document detailing the Rights for which SLC will be floating an Invitation to Tender indicating SLC's Requirements and Guidelines in relation to the submission of Bids will be notified to the firms / organizations that show interest.

EOI Submission Procedure:

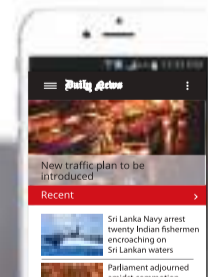
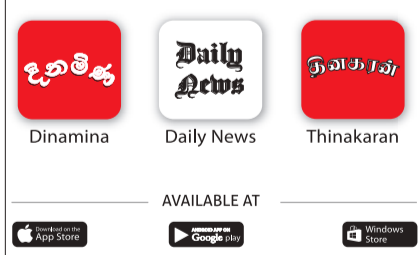
Interested firms/organizations are called upon to submit their letters of Expression of Interest [EOI] together with a summary of credentials, and Corporate profile of the firm/Organization via e-mail to SLC on sponsorship@srilankacricket.lk , to reach on or before 1:00 p.m. [Sri Lankan Time] on 11th March 2021. If further information is required in relation to this EOI, please contact Manager Sales - SLC via 0764 127 253.

SLC reserves the right to cancel, amend or vary this EOI at any time at its sole discretion, without assigning any reason whatsoever.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - SRI LANKA CRICKET

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Matara - TEL : 041 22 35 412 FAX : 041 22 29 728 / Nugegoda - TEL : 011 2 828 114 FAX : 011 4 300 860 / Jaffna - TEL : 021 2225361 FAX : 021 22 25 361

Invitation for Bid (2021/01)

PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES NORTHERN PROVINCE

- The **Chairman, Department Procurement Committee**, on behalf of the Provincial Department of Health Services, invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Construction work described in the table below.
- Bidding will be conducted through **National Competitive Bidding procedure (NCB)**.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have been registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) in the field of building construction for grade mentioned in the table below.
- Qualification requirements are indicated in Section 4 of the Bidding document. Additional details are provided in the **Bidding Data and Contract Data** (Section 5).
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from **address given below in 6**, and inspect the bidding documents at the same place on any working day from 9.00 A.M to 4.00 P.M.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the -
Provincial Department of Health Services, Northern Province, Health Village, Pannai, Jaffna. (T.P: 021-222 0819, Fax: 021-222 0818)
From 08.03.2021 until 28.03.2021 from 9.00 A.M to 3.00 P.M upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs.10,000.00. The method of payment should be by cash.
- Bids (Original, Duplicate) shall be delivered or sent by registered post to the **Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Provincial Department of Health Services, Northern Province, Health Village, Pannai, Jaffna** at or before **10.30 A.M on 29.03.2021**. Bid number must be written on the left-hand upper corner of the envelope. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Pre-Bid Conference will be held at **Provincial Department of Health Services, Northern Province, Health Village, Pannai, Jaffna** commencing at **2.30 P.M on 16.03.2021**.
- Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid security as per the information given in the Table.

Bid No.	Description of Work	Estimated Cost / (Rs in Millions)	Contract Period	Required Grade	Required Bid Security	
					Security Amount	Valid Period
NP/B/KI/02/2021	Construction of Staff Quarters at DH Pallai	30.3	217 Days	C5 or C4 (Buildings)	303,000.00	Till 25.07.2021
NP/B/KI/03/2021	Medical Officers Chummary Quarters at BH Mulankavil, Kilinochchi.	30.4	217 Days	C5 or C4 (Buildings)	304,000.00	Till 25.07.2021
NP/B/KI/04/2021	Construction of OPD Block at DH Veravil, Kilinochchil	39.6	224 Days	C5 or C4 (Buildings)	396,000.00	Till 25.07.2021
NP/B/MU/01/2021	Construction Medical Officers Quarters with 10 Rooms (2 storey) at Base Hospital, Mallavi.	42.8	231 Days	C5 or C4 (Buildings)	428,000.00	Till 25.07.2021

"Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB). Since the Estimated Value of Work to be performed under this procurement (excluding VAT and other taxes) is below Rs. 50 Mn., regional preference and CIDA grade preference shall apply as stipulated in Public Finance Circular No. 04/2016 (iii)" and Public Finance Circulars No 03/2020 and 03/2020 (i) dated 09.10.2020 and 11.01.2021 respectively will also be adopted.

**Chairman
Department Procurement Committee
Provincial Department of Health Services
Northern Province**

MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION MORAGAHAKANDA - KALUGANGA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

REMOVAL OF DAMAGED MATERIAL 2020-II

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR THE SALE OF DAMAGED MATERIAL

- Bids will be received for the sale of discarded damaged material belonging to Moragahakanda - Kaluganga Development Project. These goods could be inspected at the Wellewela Stores and Moragahakanda Stores of Moragahakanda - Kaluganga Development Project from 08.03.2021 to 29.03.2021 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 9.30 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.
- A bidder could forward bids for one item or several items or for all items through one form.
- Relevant application forms could be obtained from the Accountant on submission of the receipt obtained from the Cashier of Moragahakanda - Kaluganga Development Project for the payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1000/- from 9.00 a.m. on 08.03.2021 up to 3.00 p.m. on 09.03.2021.
- Details of items to be sold will be issued with each application form.
- Interested applicants should contact Telephone Nos 066-2057854 / 066-2053605 / 066-2053606 for further details, if required.
- Duly perfected applications should be submitted along with a refundable deposit of Rs. 10,000/-.
- Bids will be closed at 9.30 a.m. on 30.03.2021 and bids received late will be rejected.
- Bids will be opened at 10.00 a.m. on 30.03.2021 and bidders or one of their representatives could participate at the time.
- All matters related to the sale of discarded damaged material will be carried out under Covid-19 health protection provisions and only the bidder or his representative should take part.

**Eng. D.B. Wijayaratne
Project Director,
Moragahakanda-Kaluganga Development Project
Koongahawela.**

The Housewives' companion Classifieds on Daily News

Invitation for Bids (IFB) BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA (BOI)

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the following works.

- Clearing jungle of phase -1 of proposed pharmaceutical zone at Arabokka - Hambantota (Contract No. BOI/TS/Pharma/Ham/2021/03/09.014)
- Supplying and laying of internal water distribution network at Bingiriya Export Processing Zone (Contract No. BOI/TS/BgEPZ/2020/08/02.002)

Details of the works are as follows

Contract No/ Project Description / Location	Construction Period (days)	Eligibility/ Qualification	Bid Security (Rs) Valid upto	Issuing Bidding Document Non refundable Fee (Rs.)	Pre Bid Meeting / Date / Time / Venue	Date & Time of Submission of Bid (Closing Bid)
BOI/TS/Pharma/ Ham/2021/03/09.014 Clearing jungle of phase - 1 of proposed pharmaceutical zone Arabokka	45	CIDA Registration Grade - C5, C6, C7, C8 & C9 Specialty - Highway Construction / Irrigation & Drainage Canals.	50,000/= 27.07.2021	from 08.03.2021 to 29.03.2021 2,500/= + VAT	Date - 19.03.2021 Time - 11.00 hrs. Venue - Technical Services Dep., Colombo 01 (Site visit can be organized)	30.03.2021 at 14.00 hrs.
BOI/TS/BgE- PZ/2020/08/02.002 Supplying and laying of internal water distribution network Export Processing Zone Bingiriya.	75	CIDA Registration Grade - C4 & C5 Specialty - Water Supply & Sewerage	500,000/= 27.07.2021	from 08.03.2021 to 29.03.2021 5,000/= + VAT	Date - 18.03.2021 Time - 10.00 hrs. Venue - Zone Office, Bingiriya.	30.03.2021 at 11.00 hrs.

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- The successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted.
- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
Experience as a main Contractor for at least one work of a similar nature and complexity equivalent to the proposed works over the period of last 5 years.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Director (Technical Services), Technical Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Level 5, West Tower, World Trade Centre, Echelon Square, Colombo 01 on Tel. 0112432549 or fax. 0112441826 and inspect the bidding documents from the same address between 0900 hrs and 1600 hrs during weekdays.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application on a business letter head to the Director (Technical Services), Technical Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Level 5, West Tower, World Trade Centre, Echelon Square, Colombo 01 between 0900 hrs and 1500 hrs upon payment of a non refundable fee. The method of payment will be by cash.
- Sealed Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the "The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, C/o Director (Technical Services), Technical Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Level 5, West Tower, World Trade Centre, Echelon Square, Colombo 01. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

**Chairman
Board of Investment of Sri Lanka**

Right to Information Commission Information Technology Assistant

Applications are hereby invited from the citizens of Sri Lanka for the following post, described hereunder.

Qualifications:

Should have obtained Information Technology Competency certificate, not less than level five (05) of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) obtained from an institution recognized by the Tertiary and Vocational Commission.

Age : Not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years of age.

Salary Scale : MA 2-1 Rs. (30,310 - 10 x 300 - 7 x 350 - 4 x 495 - 20 x 660 - 50,940)

General Conditions:

- Those candidates who are already employed in the public/Govt. sector or in the state corporations/statutory boards etc. should channel their applications through the heads of the institutions they serve for.
- Selected applicants should adhere and subject to the rules and regulations enacted under the Public State Language Policies, of No. 22 of 1956.
- Selected candidates should have to contribute to the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), from the date of the appointment.
- The Government approved allowances are entitled to all the posts relevant.

Applications, together with the complete CV (Bio-Data) prepared by the applicants themselves should be sent by registered post to the following address to be received on or before 19.03.2021 and the envelopes enclosing applications, should be clearly marked with the post applied for on the top-left hand corner of the said envelope.

**Director General
Right to Information Commission
Room No. 203-204
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