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PAGE 8 IMAGINING A 'HIDDEN EASTER ATTACK PERPETRATOR' MAY BE FUTILE



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DRAFT ON NEW CONSTITUTION

EXPERT COMMITTEE REPORT THIS MONTH

By Manjula Fernando

The Expert Committee led by President's Counsel Romesh de Silva, appointed to prepare a draft of the new Constitution is expected to present its initial report this month.

Justice Minister Ali Sabry in a recent interview with the *Sunday Observer* said the committee had

been meeting party leaders and religious leaders regularly and their interim report is expected in March. Co-Cabinet Spokesman and Minister Udaya Gammanpila told the *Sunday Observer* yesterday that the expert committee concluded collecting submissions by almost all the party leaders represented in Parliament including the ITAK by the end of last month.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa appointed a committee comprising nine experts, including several President's Counsel under the leadership of Romesh de Silva, PC, to draft a new Constitution, in October last year.

The committee is required to come up with a final report within a year.

Announcing the appoint-

ment of the expert committee, the Justice Minister told Parliament that the new Constitution will, "Embrace diversity among the people, give Buddhism its due place, respect each other's religious beliefs and cultural values and create a long-lasting Constitution which is inclusive, forward looking and serve as a catalyst for national unity, amity,

progress and accelerate economic growth."

When the report is out, it will be presented to the Cabinet for approval and later referred to the Legal Draftsman.

"This draft of a new Constitution will then be tabled in Parliament for action by the House which is a tedious process," Minister Gammanpila added.

TO MEET DEMAND DURING DRY SEASON

PUCSL to decide on power purchases

By Aanya Wipulasena

The Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) will decide on a supplementary power purchase to meet the demand during the dry season, a senior official said yesterday.

The decision on this will be taken at a Board meeting on Tuesday, PUCSL Chairman Janaka Ratnayake said.

He said they will discuss the purchase of the supplementary power, the cost and the necessity among other related issues at the meeting.

"We are heading for the dry season that is expected to prolong for two more months. During this time water levels in the hydro catchment areas will...

SEE PAGE 2

SIX-MEMBER COMMITTEE TO STUDY PCOI REPORT

Guidelines to formulate fresh laws

By Uditha Kumarasinghe

Chief Government Whip and Minister of Highways Johnston Fernando said the mandate of the six-member ministerial Committee appointed by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to study the final report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCOI) on the Easter Sunday attacks is to provide guidelines to the relevant ministries to formulate fresh laws and amend some of the existing laws.

The Minister said it is not the task of the Committee to punish the Easter Sunday culprits or provide instructions to the Attorney General.

The PCOI report has already been submitted to the Attorney General to initiate legal action

while further investigations are being conducted by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and the Terrorism Investigation Division (TID).

However, certain laws of some ministries need to be amended while fresh laws should be introduced.

Therefore, the mandate given to the six-member Committee headed by Minister Chamal Rajapaksa is to provide guidelines to effect changes in those areas, the Minister told the *Sunday Observer* yesterday.

Minister Fernando who is also a member of the six-member Committee said neither the President nor the Government will defend any culprits of the Easter Sunday carnage. We have a President,...

SEE PAGE 2



The *Deyata Eliya* program to provide electricity to rural households was launched under the patronage of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa yesterday to mark the *Gama Samaga Pilisandara* program held in the Weragala village, Giribawa. Electricity connections are provided free under the *Deyata Eliya* program to Samurdhi beneficiary families and other low-income families who are in the Samurdhi priority list. Concessionary credit facilities will be provided through Samurdhi Banks for house wiring. The Government hopes to provide electricity to all identified houses before the end of this year. Minister of Highways Johnston Fernando, Power Ministry Secretary Wasantha Perera, CEB Chairman Vijitha Herath and Samurdhi Director General Bandula Thilakasiri were also present. Pic: Suminda Keerthi (President's Media)

PURCHASE ORDER FOR 18 MILLION

Govt releases funds for 10m more doses of Covid-19 vaccines

By Aanya Wipulasena

The Government will purchase 18 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines, Deputy Director-General of Health Services Dr. Hemantha Herath said yesterday.

He said there are funds available to initially purchase 10 million doses and the rest will be secured when funds are ready. The State Pharmaceutical Corporation (SPC) has already placed an order for the 18 million doses that will be purchased from India, he said.

The first shipment of 264,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine will arrive in the country today, ...

SEE PAGE 2

California to open outdoor attractions next month

CALIFORNIA, March 6. (BBC) - Disneyland and other theme parks and stadiums in the US state of California can accept visitors next month under plans to relax some Covid restrictions.

Outdoor sports and entertainment facilities will be permitted to reopen with limited attendance from April 1, health officials said on Friday.

Under the new rules, bookings will be restricted to local area residents and there will be a...

SEE PAGE 2

Pope Francis and Ali al-Sistani discuss plight of Iraq's Christians

BAGHDAD, March 6. (BBC) - Pope Francis has discussed the safety of Iraq's Christian minority with one of Shia Islam's most powerful figures, on his landmark trip to the country. Like many communities in Iraq, Christians have been hit by waves of violence over the years.

The office of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, spiritual leader of millions of Shia Muslims, said the talks had emphasised peace.

The Ayatollah received his guest at his home in the holy city of Najaf. The Pope is on his first international trip since the start of the pandemic - and the first ever Papal visit to Iraq. Covid-19



Pope Francis

and security fears have made this his riskiest trip yet. The 84-year-old leader of the Catholic Church earlier told reporters that he had felt "duty bound" to make the "embellished" journey, which will see

him visit several sites over four days in Iraq.

Iraq's Christian minority has experienced considerable violence since the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq.

Grand Ayatollah Sistani "affirmed his concern that Christian citizens should live like all Iraqis in peace and security and with their full constitutional rights". Pope Francis thanked the Ayatollah for having "raised his voice in defence of the weakest and most persecuted" during some of the most violent times in Iraq's recent history, the Associated Press reported. The Shia leader's message of peace, he said, affirmed, ...

SEE PAGE 2

OVER 220 PERSONS ABOVE 70 YEARS

Highest number of Covid-19 deaths in Colombo

By Nadira Gunatilleke

Around 223 persons out of 493 who died from Covid-19 in the country were above 70 and around 265 of them were from the Colombo district, official statistics revealed yesterday.

According to the statistics released by the Government Information Department, 120 persons between 61 and 70 died from the Covid-19 virus during the past several months. The second highest number of Covid-19 related deaths was recorded in the Kalutara dis-



trict which was around 52 followed by the Gampaha district with 44 deaths, statistics revealed.

One-hundred-and-thirty-four persons died at home prior to hospitalisation. Male patients made up the bulk of the number with 308 deaths and females 185.



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Spectacular air show

A spectacular air show was the highlight of a line up of events organised last week to mark the 70th anniversary of the Sri Lanka Air Force.

Among the SLAF aircraft that participated in the breathtaking air show were Bell 212 and 412 and MI17 helicopters, and Cessna 152, Beechcraft B200, MA60 and F7 jets.

A contingent of 14 aircraft from the Indian Air Force (IAF) also flew in formation at the airshow. The show, open to the public, was held over the Galle Face green airspace, for three consecutive days from March 3-5.

It showcased an aerobatic demonstration by the IAF's Surya Kiran jets and Sarang helicopter display teams along with the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft, to the delight of the spectators.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa inaugurated the air show on Wednesday. Air Force chiefs from several countries including Pakistan and Bangladesh and US - Pacific Air Fleet participated as invited guests.

The official anniversary parade was held on Tuesday at SLAF Base Katunayake under the auspices of the Commander of the Air Force, Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana.

(Pix Sulochana Gamage)



Easter Sunday terror attacks

President dismisses Opposition allegations

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa dismissing Opposition allegations that members of the current Government were behind the Easter Sunday terror attacks said not just the former President and the Prime Minister but the entire Government must be held responsible for the 2019 mayhem.

Speaking in Giribawa in the Kurunegala district, at the *Gama Samaga Pilisandarak* program yesterday, where he launched an elec-

tricity project for the villagers, the President said, "The inefficient Government was a major factor in the events on April 21, 2019."

Quoting the report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) which investigated the explosions, the President said the previous Government had not given priority to national security since 2015.

He pledged that the perpetrators of the terror attacks will be brought to book by his Government. - MF

PUCSL to decide on power...

From page 1

...drop and, therefore, power generation is also affected. If necessary, we will opt for supplementary power purchases," he said.

He assured there will be no power cuts during this period since the current water levels are sufficient to meet the demand.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said this week that the electricity supply throughout the country will reach 100 percent by the end of this year.

About 84,000 households are yet to be

provided with power supply.

Construction work on the country's first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) power plant in Kerawalapitiya commenced this week.

It is expected to cost Rs. 40 billion and will add another 350 MW to the national grid.

Premier Rajapaksa said the latest technology will be used to construct the environment-friendly power plant that will meet 13 percent of the demand.

Pope Francis and Ali al-Sistani...

From page 1

"The sacredness of human life and the importance of the unity of the Iraqi people".

Audiences with the reclusive Ayatollah are rare but he received the Pope for around 50 minutes, talking without face masks.

Pope Francis later travelled to the ancient city of Ur, where the Prophet Abraham - central to Islam, Christianity and Judaism - is believed to have been born.

"From this place, where faith was born, from the land of our father Abraham, let

us affirm that God is merciful and that the greatest blasphemy is to profane his name by hating our brothers and sisters," the Pontiff said.

About 10,000 Iraqi Security Forces personnel are being deployed to protect the Pope during his visit, while round-the-clock curfews are also being imposed to limit the spread of the Coronavirus.

Some Shia militant groups have reportedly opposed the visit, suggesting that the tour amounts to Western interference in the country's affairs.

Govt releases funds...

From page 1

...March 7 under the COVAX Facility, a project launched by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

The project has allocated 1.44 million doses to Sri Lanka and will be procured by UNICEF in stages until May 2021.

The Ministry of Health said the first 264,000 doses from COVAX will be for the most vulnerable persons above 60 and in high-risk areas.

"UNICEF is working with the Health Ministry to support Sri Lanka's preparedness to receive vaccines and roll-out vaccination plans including supply and logistics, risk communication and demand generation."

"This involves technical support to ensure that the Immunisation Supply Chains Management (ISCM) system including the Cold Chain, is in place and ready to receive, store and roll-out the Covid-19 vaccine even to the most difficult-to-reach communities and the development and implementation of Covid-19 risk communication and community engagement strategies," the Health Ministry stated in a media release.

Sri Lanka approved the Russia's Covid-19 vaccine Sputnik V for emergency use last week. The Russian Embassy in Colombo said Sputnik V has been approved by health regulators in 45 countries.

Guidelines to formulate...

From page 1

... a Prime Minister and a responsible Government that will implement the law to the letter.

"Today, it is the very same people who appointed the PCoI that say it has ignored the masterminds behind the Easter Sunday attacks. Actually, that allegation should have been levelled by us. However, the allegation is being levelled by the politicians of the former Yahapalana Government who provided room to kill hundreds of innocent people in multiple terror attacks on Easter Sunday."

The Minister said it was the Archbishop of Colombo Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith and Christian MPs in the Government and Opposition of the former Parliament that called for the appointment of an independent Commission to probe the Easter Sunday attacks as they didn't have any trust in the Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC) appointed by the Yahapalana Government.

He said the former Government appointed some parliamentarians as members of the PSC who had even taken photographs with the terrorists and maintained direct links with them. That is why yet another PCoI was appointed to probe the Easter Sunday attacks.

The Minister said after President Gotabaya Rajapaksa assumed office, a large

number of those who had links to the Easter Sunday terror attacks have been arrested. Now they are under detention orders at the TID and CID.

However, legal action against them was not initiated until the final report of the PCoI was released.

He said the Sectorial Oversight on National Security appointed by the former Government has also made certain recommendations. The six-member Committee will take into consideration some of those vital recommendations as well.

Minister Fernando said some existing laws in the education sector have to be abolished while new laws need to be introduced.

The PCoI and even the Sectorial Oversight Committee on National Security have recommended that certain syllabus in the education sector has paved the way to teach and promote terrorism. We have to ban such things and introduce new laws to the education sector.

The Committee will also recommend introducing new legislation on defence and to regulate the functions of the NGOs as some of them fund terrorist organisations. Therefore, our Committee will provide all instructions to formulate fresh laws and amend certain existing laws.

California to open outdoor...

From page 1

... ban on indoor dining. California has seen a steady decline in coronavirus cases since mid-January. The state has so far recorded over 53,000 Covid-related deaths. The US has recorded almost twice as many deaths - 522,610 - as the next hardest-hit country, Brazil.

In a statement on Friday, California's Health Secretary Mark Ghaly said it was the right time to reopen the state's outdoor attractions.

"California can begin gradually and safely bringing back more activities, especially those that occur outdoors and where consistent masking is possible," he said.

The news was welcomed by Disneyland's president Ken Potrock, who said the theme park was looking forward to receiving guests. "With responsible Disney safety protocols already implemented around the world".

Along with Disneyland, other attractions permitted to admit visitors include Magic Mountain and Universal Studios. Other outdoor venues such as ballparks and stadiums could also accept a limited number of visitors.

Capacity will be limited to between 15% and 35%, depending on each county's tier system for restrictions, Health officials said.

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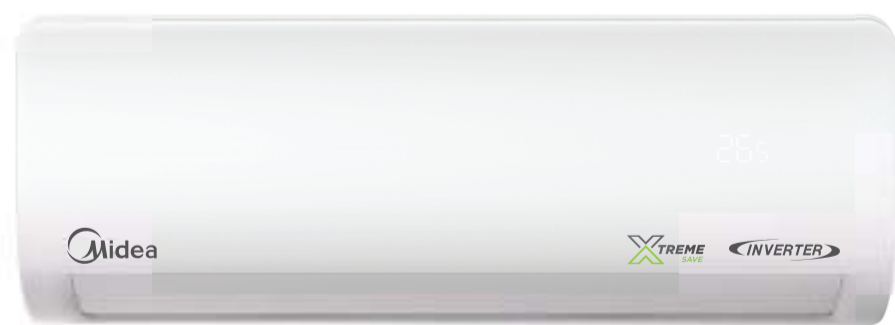


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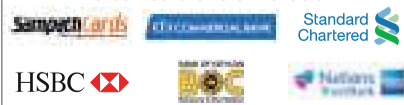
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Gory tale of headless body

BY LEON BERENGER

A woman has been murdered, the killer has committed suicide and a hunt is on for the victim's head.

It all began on Monday last week when an abandoned suitcase was found in Dam Street, Pettah with the body of a headless woman. The identification of the victim at the time was impossible since the suitcase did not have any personal belongings or an identification.

However, a day after the gruesome find in Pettah, a bag belonging to the woman was found at Hanwella. It contained an identity card from a youth camp which also contained an address in Kuruwita. It did not take much time for investigators to trace the address and relatives of the dead woman.

Her name as revealed was Thilini Yasodhara Jayasundera, 30, single, average wall artist and involved in social work. Her father had died years ago. She lived with her mother who is a

person with special needs, a brother, a local politician and an elderly female relative. In pictures captured by security cameras in the Hanwella town, she is seen accompanied by a man. That brought the police to a modest guest house close to the town.

It was later learnt that the woman along with her male companion had booked into the guest house on the evening of February 28, the day before her body was found in Pettah.

The images of the male dragging the suitcase at Dam Street, Pettah, matched the images of those captured by the Hanwella security cameras. The police entered the guest house.

Entries on the visitors' registration book gave details the investigators needed. Before long, a police team was heading for a location at Badalkumbura on the border of Moneragala.

It was the home of Police Sub Inspector S. M. Premasiri who was the man last seen with the victim according to the images from the security



The man and the woman who died in the incident

cameras. He was the main suspect and was at home when the police were closing in but escaped into a wooded area behind his home.

It was long into the night. The police did not risk going after the man and waited until day break. A search of the woods the following morning ended abruptly as the police found the semi-naked and lifeless body of the SI dangling from a tree.

They also found a vial of poison at the scene. It is still not known whether the suspect had swallowed any lethal



The suitcase containing the body

substance before deciding to hang himself. In a suicide note, he apologises to his wife and two children for the shame, all that has happened and urges them to be brave and face

the future despite whatever obstacles that would come their way. He tells the family to go ahead with the preparations that were underway for his mother's alms-giving.

The pair had maintained a deep intimate love affair for years. Apparently, the victim was not aware her lover of 52 years was married with two children aged 18 and 10. Investigators believe that the SI was driven to commit the crime as she may have pressurised him to marry her. If that was not the case, then the victim was not aware that her lover was married and a secret that he was able to protect to the end.

Some investigators said that the victim may have been smothered to death prior to being decapitated or even strangled since there were no signs of any blood stains at the scene of the crime which indicates that there was no struggle. It would have been a simple task for the suspect since he was a well-built man. Investigators also believe that the woman

was killed on the same night the pair had checked in to the guest house. The suspect had purchased the suitcase the previous morning along with a sharp instrument that had been used to sever the victim's head.

A woman employee at the guest house recalls seeing the man leave the premises alone along with a suitcase. She had assumed that the female companion would have left earlier.

The man is later spotted on security cameras loading the suitcase with the grisly cargo on to a parked Colombo-bound private passenger bus. The rest is now known. The tragic incident has provided a field day for spin doctors to come up with their own stories.

Some say that the victim was aware that the SI was married and had even visited his home and met with the family. There is another story that says the suspect had an older sister who also hanged herself close to the same spot where he took his life, following an illicit love affair.

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PCOI WAS APPOINTED BY YAHAPALANA REGIME

No use pointing fingers at Government

- Johnston Fernando

By
Uditha
Kumarasinghe

Chief Government Whip and Minister of Highways Johnston Fernando in an interview with the *Sunday Observer* commented on the wide-ranging mandate of the six-member ministerial Committee appointed by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to study the final report of Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) which probed the Easter Sunday attacks of April, 2019.

Minister Fernando who is also a part of the six-member Committee said there is no use in pointing fingers at the incumbent Government as the PCoI was appointed by the then President Maithripala Sirisena during the tenure of the former Yahapalana Government. He said the very same people who appointed the PCoI now say it has ignored the masterminds who were behind the Easter Sunday attacks. The Minister said: "However, we would not provide any room to sweep this incident under the carpet. All those who respect democracy want us to bring the culprits to book without further delay".

Excerpts:

Q: What led the President to appoint yet another six-member ministerial committee to study the final report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) on the Easter Sunday attacks?

A: The PCoI in its report has made recommendations to provide legal advice to take immediate measures on certain areas. In addition, there are some recommendations made by the Sectorial Oversight Committee on National Security which was appointed following the Easter Sunday carnage. These decisions have to be implemented by the respective ministries and amendments have to be brought into certain laws. Therefore, the six-member ministerial committee was appointed to fulfill these requirements.

The President and the Government will not defend any culprits of the Easter Sunday attacks. We have a President, Prime Minister and a Government who are committed to implement the law to the letter. The very same people who appointed the PCoI now say it has ignored the masterminds who were behind the Easter Sunday attacks.

Those days the Cardinal and both the Government and Opposition Chris-

tian MPs requested the setting up of an independent Commission to probe the Easter Sunday attacks as they didn't have any trust on the Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC) appointed by the Yahapalana Government. They appointed politicians as the members of the PSC who had taken photographs with the terrorists and retained them within their political organisations. That is why a PCoI was appointed to probe the Easter Sunday carnage. Even after we came to power, the PCoI continued its proceedings with the consent of all parties. However, instructions had been issued not to initiate legal action against the suspects until the PCoI report is released. Therefore, there is no use of pointing fingers at the incumbent Government as the PCoI probing the Easter Sunday carnage was appointed by the then President Maithripala Sirisena during the tenure of the Yahapalana Government.

Q: Archbishop of Colombo Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith addressing a recent media briefing said they cannot be satisfied with the final report of the PCoI on the Easter Sunday attacks and that they would continue to protest until justice is meted out to the victims. Would you like to comment on this?

A: We as a Government and Opposition Christian Parliamentarians of the previous Parliament made a request through the Cardinal to appoint a Presidential Commission to investigate the Easter Sunday carnage. At present, the final report of that Commission has been released.

The six-member committee appointed by the President will also be able to find out whether the PCoI has properly implemented the mandate entrusted upon it or gone beyond that. Otherwise, it is too early to make any judgement right now. The PCoI consists of a large number of pages so that we will have to go through all of them.

The people should also be educated about the content of it. However, I would like to state with responsibility that the Government under the leadership of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa would implement the law to the letter. Even after the President assumed office, a lot of suspects have been arrested while investigations are still going on into the Easter Sunday attacks. Therefore, I firmly believe that the law will be implemented to the letter against the culprits.

Q: Co-Cabinet Spokesman and Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella told the weekly Cabinet press briefing neither the President nor the Government will take responsibility for

the final report of the PCoI on Easter Sunday attacks. Could you explain?

A: This was a Commission appointed by the former Yahapalana Government. We didn't make any changes to it. If we attempted to change its composition, an allegation would have been levelled against us by the Opposition saying that the Government through the Commission attempted to take revenge from its political opponents. Somehow, a report has been submitted by the PCoI.

When the former Yahapalana Government even allowed some politicians, who helped terrorists to freely come and sit in Parliament, the PCoI was appointed following the request by the Cardinal and both the Government and Opposition Christian MPs. Therefore, this is a report submitted by a Presidential Commission appointed by the former Yahapalana Government.

Q: Certain sections have complained that the PCoI report has recommended criminal proceedings against former President Maithripala Sirisena and ex-senior Government officials but it has completely ignored the masterminds behind the attacks. Your comments?

A: All those who are held responsible for those Easter Sunday terror attacks should be punished based on the recommendations by the PCoI and the investigations conducted by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and the Terrorist Investigation Department (TID). Despite the PCoI conducting its hearings, our Government also arrested a large number of suspects who were allegedly connected to this incident and we are still continuing investigations to arrest certain suspects. Therefore, the law is being implemented to the letter under the present Government.

Actually, filing legal action against the suspects was delayed until the PCoI report was released. That is why we requested to submit the PCoI report as early as possible. We would not provide any room to sweep this incident under the carpet. However, we cannot allow the culprits to flee by resorting to arbitrary decisions. This should not be turned into a political or media show.

The former Yahapalana Government paved the way for those terror attacks. They deactivated the intelligence services and couldn't ensure the security of the people. They allowed the innocent people to be killed and even laughed when they were brutally killed. We are not such an irresponsible Government. Like the previous Government, we never conduct media shows. However, we will imple-

FACT-FILE

Johnston Fernando

- ▶ **1964:** Born in Kurunegala. Johnston Xavier Fernando had his education at St. Anne's College, Kurunegala.
- ▶ **1991:** Elected to the Kurunegala Municipal Council.
- ▶ **1993:** Minister of Health and Indigenous Medicine in the North Western Provincial Council.
- ▶ **1999:** Re-elected to North Western Provincial Council.
- ▶ **2000:** Elected Member of Parliament for Kurunegala district from the United National Party (UNP).
- ▶ **2001:** Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs.
- ▶ **2004:** Contested the General Election under United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) and elected to Parliament from the Kurunegala district.
- ▶ **2010:** Minister of Co-operative and Internal Trade in the UPFA government.
- ▶ **2018:** Minister of Trade, Consumer Affairs, Co-operative Development and Christian Affairs.
- ▶ **2019:** Minister of Roads and Highways, Ports and Shipping.
- ▶ **2020:** Re-elected to Parliament from Kurunegala district having contested under the *Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna* (SLPP) securing 199,203 preferential votes.
- ▶ **August 2020:** Minister of Highways in the Cabinet of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Source: Internet, Graphic: Mahil Wijesinghe

ment the law to the letter. That is what the people expect from us. At present, some sections are attempting to create various opinions regarding the Easter Sunday carnage. Some Ministers of the Yahapalana Government who didn't go to church on Easter Sunday on the advice of their parents are also slinging mud at this PCoI report. We can also respond to them by resorting to mudslinging campaigns. However, we should not resort to such things. What the Cardinal and the people expect from us is to meet justice to the victims of Easter Sunday carnage. All those who respect democracy want us to bring the culprits to book without any further delay. Sometimes, it may seem like some sort of shortcoming on our part as we don't conduct media shows like the previous Government to take undue political advantages.

Q: As reported by the media, will the six-member committee appointed to study the PCoI report submit its recommendations to the President on March 15?

A: We have already held several discussions. At each discussion, we mainly focus on various laws and other rules and regulations that are mentioned in the PCoI report. We have to bring amendments to so many existing

laws as mentioned in the report relating to education, defence and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). Responsibility has been vested upon so many ministries to bring amendments and introduce fresh laws. Therefore, the six-member committee will formulate its report by recommending necessary guidelines required for this purpose. The mandate of our committee is not to frame charges or arrest the people. In addition to the PCoI report, so many suspects have been arrested following the investigations conducted by the TID and CID. However, we are not in a position to divulge all that information as it would hamper the ongoing investigations.

Q: The Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), the main coalition partner of the Government has decided to reject the PCoI report and it is of the view that the is incomplete and not compatible with the Commission's mandate. Your views?

A: Actually, they should be ashamed as those Easter Sunday terror attacks took place during their tenure in office. The PCoI was also appointed by their own President and we didn't nominate anybody to that Commission. All those committee members were appointed by their President and

they should also be held responsible. The people had to face that tragedy when the SLFP was also in the Yahapalana Government. Therefore, they can't just evade responsibility by rejecting the PCoI report. They should be ashamed of themselves for rejecting the report even without fully reading it.

Q: Already a PCoI, Parliamentary Select Committee and a Sectorial Oversight Committee on National Security have investigated the Easter Sunday attacks and submitted their reports. Have the findings in these three Committee reports not adequate enough to bring some sort of justice to the aggrieved parties?

A: It has to be decided after the end of the court proceedings. Otherwise, the President and the Prime Minister are not in the position to take action against the culprits. We all have to act according to the accepted legal framework in the country. We cannot practise the same 'jungle law' of the former Yahapalana Government. We can't go beyond the limits of the country's law. As some people expect, we can't take arbitrary decisions against the culprits. We all have pledged to act in accordance with the existing law in the country.

Q: Chief Opposition Whip Lakshman Kiriella has told the media that four documents of the PCoI on the Easter Sunday attacks have not been given to the Parliamentarians. The main Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) has demanded that the documents be provided to all MPs before the parliamentary debate on the PCoI report. Is there any truth in this?

A: There are some issues regarding national security. We can remember the 'Millennium City' incident, which was yet another betrayal of the United National Party (UNP). The UNP doesn't have any interest in the country's national security. It was Lakshman Kiriella who said "any idiot can wage the war". That is why they imprisoned top intelligence officials and deactivated the intelligence service and paved the way for the terrorists to launch those multiple terror attacks on Easter Sunday. Now they are seeking to expose the evidence given to the PCoI regarding national security and destroy the country's national security.

This is the contract undertaken by them. The present Opposition never acts in a responsible manner. We don't want to hide any report but the Government should act in a very responsible manner with regard to the issues pertaining to national security.

Continued on page 5

Can we afford to celebrate International Women's Day?

By
Dr. Thilan U.
Hewage

"Women will only have true equality when men share with them the responsibility of bringing up the next generation." Ruth Bader Ginsburg

March 8 has been designated International Women's Day (IWD) since the year 1914. The tradition of observing a women's day was introduced in the early 1900s by the Socialist Party of America with the recognition of one day as the National Women's Day.

These were the times when the world population was growing fast experiencing the turbulence of industrialisation. Women around the world, especially, in the United States, were beginning to see the types of unequal treatments and the oppression they were forced to undergo by the male dominated governing bodies of the industry as well as of the country. Thousands of women marched through New York City in 1908, demanding shorter working hours, better pay and voting rights at local and national elections.

Women in other countries were also facing similar conditions and therefore, the idea of recognising one day of the year as Women's Day was agreed upon in the year 1910 at the International Conference of Working Women held in Copenhagen. Women all over the world

have been using the attention they were getting, especially on this particular day, to express their grievances and fight for their rights to vote, equal pay and working hours as compared to their male counterparts. They have organised activities under different themes such as 'Women at the peace table', 'A world free of violence against women', 'Celebrating the past, planning for the future', 'Stop the war' and 'Women and human rights' over the years. This year the world will celebrate IWD under the theme 'Choose to Challenge' with the expectation of propagating the message 'a challenged world is an alert world and from challenge comes change'.

Women were denied the right to own property, to study or to participate in public life until the 16th century. In France women were compelled to cover their heads in public and in some parts of Germany the husband had the right to sell the wife until the beginning of the 20th century.

Feminist movements

Even as late as early 20th century, there were countries where women were prevented from conducting business without a male representative, be it father, brother, husband, legal agent, or even son. Married women could not exercise control over their own children without the permission of their husbands. Moreover, women had little or no access to education and were barred from most professions. Sri Lankans can

easily attest to the fact that such restrictions on women continue even today just by citing the recent case of the female Police officer's promotion to the rank of a DIG. Even though came into being in mid to late 1800s and won so many rights (which they didn't have to fight for in a just society), including the right to vote and to conduct business on their own, we still have not been able to remove the glass ceiling in the professional world. Sri Lanka, perhaps, is seen as even more progressive than the US and most of the European countries since we are fortunate to have the opportunity to boast about producing the first female Prime Minister in the world.

But, one may wonder how progressive we would have been if not for the unfortunate incident of her husband's assassination. Similarly, one can por-

= International =



tray Sri Lanka as a country where women have equal rights as men, by highlighting the fact that the country, at one time elected a female as the President. Then again one may wonder whether that would have been possible if that female was not the daughter of two former Prime Ministers.

Oppression

Sri Lanka doesn't seem to have made any significant progress in reducing oppression and crime against women either. Recent incidents such as gruesome murders of an 18 year old schoolgirl in Jaffna and a 30 year old woman from Kuruwita, whose headless body was found in a travelling bag, clearly indicate that there is no improvement in the area of violence against women

in Sri Lanka. No female, irrespective of age, will be able to walk by herself on the streets of Sri Lanka without getting harassed by men. Unfortunately, this is not unique to Sri Lanka. One may find similar situations in other countries too. According to the WHO and UN reports about 35 percent of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. About 38 percent of murders of women globally are committed by male intimate partners. Globally, it is estimated that of the 87,000 women who were intentionally killed in 2017, around 50,000 were by intimate partners or family members. Also, about 140 women are killed by a member of their own family every day.

These numbers may even be higher now since the restricted movement and

social isolation during the pandemic have increased women's vulnerability to violence in their own homes. About 72 percent of the victims of human trafficking are females. Even though the global rate of child marriages have declined during the last decade it still fluctuates between 18 and 20 percent.

Violence

Child marriages often result in early pregnancy, social isolation, interruption of education and domestic violence. School related gender based violence is a major obstacle to universal schooling and the right to education for girls. One in ten women have experienced cyber-harassment since the age of 15.

Globally, 82 percent of women parliamentarians reported having experienced some form of harassment primarily by their male colleagues. Nearly half of them reported receiving death, rape, assault or abduction threats to them or their families.

May be we should carefully think about these numbers and try to understand the purpose of having an International Women's Day. Is it just to pacify the victims, survivors and their loved ones at least once a year so that the male dominated world can continue business as usual?

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

Children pay the price for family ills

Killinochchi: Many children have been forced to pay the ultimate price for the ill doings of their parents the recent most tragic case being reported from Killinochchi. Three children were drowned after their mother alleged dumped them in a deep irrigation well at Killinochchi before attempting suicide herself. The children were aged two, five and eight years and their limp bodies were rescued from the water by Navy divers who had been pressed into the rescue effort.

The mother was however, rescued and is currently undergoing treatment at the Killinochchi Hospital, the officials added.

Initial investigations have revealed that the woman was believed to have tried to suicide owing to a festering family dispute.

In the North a 25-year woman was caught on video camera caning her toddler of seven months while another female relative looks on.

The woman had returned after serving a stint in Kuwait and was apparently suffering from depression owing to a prolonged family dispute.

Ironically, the incident was recorded by the woman's brother.

It was only late last month that a mother fed poison to her unsuspecting two children before swallowing the same substance in a botched triple suicide bid at Dambulla.

The mother and the two children survived only after they were spotted by villagers and admitted to a nearby hospital where they were successfully treated.

The mother was subsequently arrested and jailed.

Chain snatchers on the prowl

POLICE HQ: Chain snatching is on the rise and the public was yesterday cautioned to be extra-vigilant while moving in public places.

Some 130 such cases have already been registered by police since the start of this year.

Police believe that the majority of the thieves are drug addicts desperately in need of money to maintain their expensive habit.

The bulk of the suspects use motorcycles for their quick getaway after an incident.

Not only that a large number of petty thieves were recently released from remand prisons and jails throughout the country to ease the congestion in holding facilities.

No use pointing...

Continued from page 4

Q: The Government lawmakers and various other sectors have raised serious concern on the latest report of the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet and say it has completely ignored all the positive developments taken place in Sri Lanka. Would you like to comment on this?

A: I personally see the UNHRC is doing what the Opposition wants. They are resorting to the same thing they did since 2015. When the entire world attempts to rescue the people from the threat of the Covid-19 pandemic, the UNHRC has become the cat's paw of the Opposition. Actually, we have witnessed similar allegations levelled against us by the UNHRC even before 2015.

Q: So far 21 countries have already expressed their opposition to the UN Human Rights Commissioners report while 15 countries are supporting it. Do you think more countries would extend their support to Sri Lanka at the upcoming UNHRC sessions?

A: Actually, 21 countries extending their support to Sri Lanka at the first round of the UNHRC sessions is a big victory achieved by us. It is a clear reflection that they have reposed their confidence as to how we govern the country and maintain our international relations. However, we have to face these challenges.

We are well aware that the present Opposition is working closely with the international community and the diaspora. Today we don't have a vibrant Opposition which loves its motherland.

When they were in power, they danced according to the whims and fancies of the international community. Even today, they are doing the same thing. However, the people have a very good understanding about their conduct. As a Government, we should face this challenge while maintaining cordial discussions with our friendly countries, otherwise we can't evade this challenge.

We regret the manner the Opposition conducts its affairs. It is very obvious, the present Opposition is the architect of these international conspiracies against the Government.

Q: Some question as to why the UNHRC overlooks the facts about grave human rights violations committed by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)?

A: The UNHRC doesn't concern itself with the atrocities committed by the LTTE. It is very clear they only want to act against the democratically elected Government. It is a very pathetic situation. Even the UNHRC has turned into the position of appearing on behalf of terrorists.

The recent report submitted by the UN Human Rights Commissioner clearly shows their nakedness. They are there not to eradicate terrorism but to appear on behalf of terrorists.

At a time when the entire world has become helpless due to the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic situation, we vehemently condemn the attempt by the UNHRC to level baseless allegations against Sri Lanka. They should be ashamed of what they are doing.

POLICE Log

BY LEON BERENGER

Among those released were a sizeable number of drug addicts, officials said.

Police Sergeant, Labour official grounded for graft

MAHARAGAMA: A Police Sergeant was nabbed while allegedly demanding a Rs. 20,000 bribe from a Canadian national to

drop a traffic offence.

The Canadian was stopped by the suspect Sergeant for a traffic offence at Maharagama and he was later told that he would have to pay Rs. 20,000 to avoid a court proceeding where he would face a larger fine.

The matter was later brought to the notice of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery and Corruption (CIABOC) and the suspect was picked up in a sting

operation. A Labour official was caught red-handed as he accepted a bribe of Rs. 10,000 at a location in Kaduganawa.

The suspect was attached to the Kandy District Labour Office and is alleged to have demanded Rs. 30,000 from a mill owner who had been under investigation for the non-payment of EPF to his employees.

The suspect was arrested by sleuths from the CIABOC.

Impersonator nabbed at O/L exam centre

MULLAITIVU: An impersonator at a G.C.E. O/L exam centre at Shilawatte in Mullaitivu was caught red handed and handed over to the authorities this week.

The suspect was detected by an official from the Education Department.

In a separate incident three G.C.E. O/L students were taken into custody following a brawl outside an examination centre at Madatugama in Kekirawa.

According to the police, the brawl had erupted following a heated argument be-

tween two groups belonging to different schools.

One student who had sustained injuries in the melee was later taken to the Dambulla Hospital while three others were produced before a local Magistrate and each released on Rs. 100,000 surety bail.

Obscene photos lead to death

NARAMMALA: A furious husband is alleged to have stabbed a man to death after the victim is alleged to have sent obscene photographs his wife on to his phone.

The suspect initially collided with the victim's motorcycle and later stabbed him to death with a sharp instrument in a daylight incident at Pahamune-Narammala.

The suspect later surrendered to police and told investigators that the victim had embarrassed him on several earlier occasions by posting obscene photographs of his wife to his phone.

The victim was a resident of Pahamune in Narammala.

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Feature

PCol report - not up to Government to decide - Keheliya Rambukwella

Cabinet Spokesman and Minister of Mass Media, Keheliya Rambukwella said neither the President nor the Government will take responsibility for the final report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) on 2019 Easter Sunday attacks.

He told the weekly Cabinet press briefing that the report has been presented on an independent basis and it is not up to the Government to decide whether that Commission report is right or wrong. Minister Rambukwella said the Government will continue its investigations via the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and the Terrorism Investigation Division (TID) if justice has not been delivered.

Stating that the PCoI was an Independent Commission, the Minister reiterated that the SLPP, the Government, the President, the Prime Minister and the Government Parliamentarians reject bearing the responsibility for the Commission report.

Gama Samaga Pilisandarak Program

The 13th phase of the *Gama Samaga Pilisandarak* Program was held in Weragala in the Giribawa Divisional Secretariat in the Kurunegala district yesterday (March 6), under the patronage of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

The program commenced at the Maduragama playground at 10 a.m. with the participation of Ministers, State Ministers, public representatives, ministry secretaries and public officials.

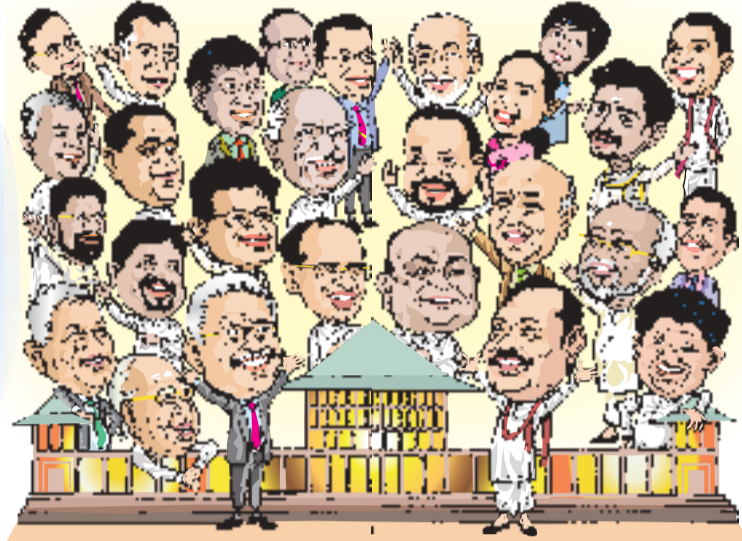
The program, a brainchild of President Rajapaksa, is designed to meet the people in rural areas and understand their issues first hand to address them while considering them in policy making.

Of the 35 Grama Niladhari divisions in the Giribawa Divisional Secretariat area, Weragala is considered to be the poorest and the one with most difficulties and comprises 147 families who mostly depend on agriculture. Maduragama village is also in a similar state.

A copy of the final report of the PCoI on the Easter Sunday attacks was presented to the Archbishop of Colombo Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith by the Director General, Legal Affairs of the Presidential Secretariat, Hariguptha Rohanadheera at the Archbishop's House.

Rohanadheera had presented the PCoI report to the Mahanayaka of the Malwatta Chapter Most Ven. Thibbatuwawe Sri Sumangala Thera at the Malwathu Maha Viharaya in Kandy and also to the Mahanayaka of the Asgiriya Chapter, Most Ven. Warakagoda Sri Gnarathna Thera at the Asgiri Maha Viharaya in Kandy.

In addition, the final report of the PCoI has also been handed over to Aggamahapandita Most Ven. Makulewe Wimala Mahanayake



University of Politics

By Prof. Backbencher

THE SJB HAS PRESENTED A PETITION TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE SEEKING AN INVESTIGATION AGAINST THE PANEL OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY WHICH PROBED THE ALLEGED INCIDENTS OF POLITICAL VICTIMISATION

Sunday terror attacks of 2019.

The JJB said the Easter Sunday attacks were a tragedy that took the lives of many and caused severe injuries to hundreds. The victims and their families deserve justice for this grave crime. However, the JJB alleged, the report of PCoI into the terror attacks, which was supposed to be the provider of justice, failed to inform the public of the true masterminds behind the attack.

The final report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) into the Easter Sunday attack will be taken up for debate in Parliament on March 10. This was decided during the meeting of the Committee on Parliamentary Business chaired by Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, held on Thursday (March 4).

It was decided that the report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry would be taken up for debate as an adjournment motion and the debate on the Easter attacks Commission report will take place

Thera of the Ramanna Nikaya and Most Ven. Gantune Assaji Thera, President of the Amarapura Sangha Council and Udarata Amarapura Nikaya acting Chief Prelate.

Chief Opposition Whip and SJB Kandy District Parliamentarian Lakshman Kiriella has written to Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena asking him to provide the MPs with copies of the complete report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) on Easter Sunday carnage.

Kiriella in his letter has said that the Opposition has continuously demanded the PCoI report on the Easter Sunday terror attacks and as a result only the first volume of the report was made available to the MPs.

The MPs are asking for the report to study its content for the Parliamentary debate on the issue.

He said the MPs cannot participate in a parliamentary debate successfully by reading only the first volume of a report, which contains five volumes, adding that the volumes (two to five) contain the evidential documents and accounts of testimonies given to the PCoI.

Political mileage

The Chief Government Whip Minister Johnston Fernando told a public gathering recently that the Opposition is trying to get mileage out of the PCoI report. "Those who were at home after they were given prior notice of the attack and those who created security lapses paving the way for the attack are making various statements on the Easter Sunday attacks and trying to get political mileage out of it. These statements do not matter as the Government will definitely take action against those who are responsible for the attack."

Justice for victims

The Archbishop of Colombo Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith said that the Church will go beyond the 'Black Sunday' this weekend and continue to protest until justice is meted out to the victims of the 2019 Easter Sunday bomb attacks. 'Black Sunday' has been announced as a

day of protest against the lack of justice for all those who died and were affected by the attacks.

At a media briefing at the Archbishop's official residence in Colombo, the Cardinal said that Church officials have declared a 'Black Sunday' in all Catholic churches islandwide on March 7 as the first step in the series of protests demanding justice for the attacks which killed over 260 people.

The Cardinal said that on April 21, the second anniversary of the Easter attacks, black flags would be raised in all homes across the country if proper action was not taken against the masterminds and real culprits by then.

The Cardinal clarified that the protests by the entire Catholic community and him demanding justice for the series of Easter attacks are not targeting the President, the Prime Minister or any other group of people. He said it was a protest demanding justice for the victims of the attack, the Catholic people and the future security of the country.

The Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) has also decided to support the Black Sunday declared by the Archdiocese of Colombo demanding justice for the victims

of the 2019 Easter Sunday terror attacks. SJB General Secretary MP Ranjith Madduma Bandara in a media release said it is regrettable that the recommendations of the Presidential Commission, which was appointed to investigate the carnage and serve justice to the victimised parties, has failed to fulfil the expectations.

Reveal masterminds

He urged the Government to reveal the real 'masterminds' who were responsible for the Easter Sunday carnage which claimed more than 260 lives. The Jathika Jana Balawegaya (JJB) also said it would support 'Black Sunday' declared by the Archdiocese of Colombo on March 7 to protest against the lack of justice for those killed and wounded in the Easter

from 11.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Debate on Report

Leader of the House, Minister Dinesh Gunawardena presented the Sinhala and English versions of the final report of the PCoI to the Parliament on February 25.

Chief Opposition Whip Lakshman Kiriella called on the Speaker to hold a three-day debate on the report while Minister Gunawardena, in response, said that they had previously agreed to a debate on the report and dates will be scheduled after consulting the Speaker.

Former high-ranking politicians and officials including ex-President Maithripala Sirisena, ex-Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando, ex-IGP Pujith Jayasundara, ex-State Intelligence Service Chief Nilantha Jayawardena, former National Intelligence Service chief Sisira Mendis and many others have been charged in the PCoI report for their criminal negligence and failure to take decisive action and perform duties. The Presidential Commission has recommended the Attorney General to institute criminal proceedings against the accused.

SJB petitions Chief Justice

The Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) has presented a petition to the Chief Justice seeking an investigation against the panel of the

Presidential Commission of Inquiry which probed the alleged incidents of political victimisation. The SJB in its petition said certain recommendations in the final report of the Presidential Commission has suggested that the Supreme Court has overlooked its jurisdiction, stressing that this is in contempt of court.

The petition, signed by 40 SJB Parliamentarians including Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa, was submitted to the Supreme Court's office of the registrar a couple of days ago.

According to the SJB, some of the recommendations in the final report of the Presidential Commission have regarded the powers of the Supreme Court with contempt. Thereby, the SJB members have called for an investigation against the three commissioners of the panel under Article 105(3) of the Constitution.

The final reports of the two Presidential Commissions of Inquiry have been handed over to the Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena by Director General of Legal Affairs of the Presidential Secretariat, Senior Attorney Hariguptha Rohanadheera.

The Cabinet of Ministers has granted its approval to table the two final reports of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry. One of the final reports submitted was the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into Political victimisation of Government Officials, staff members of Government Corporations, members of the Security Forces and the members of the Police Department during the period from January 8, 2015 to November 16, 2019.

The other PCoI report was on the incidents of fraud and misappropriations which had allegedly taken place at public institutions from January 14, 2015 to December 31, 2018.

Gender equality

The female Members of Parliament have made a request in writing to Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena to appoint a Select Committee to look into



CHIEF GOVERNMENT WHIP MINISTER JOHNSTON FERNANDO TOLD A PUBLIC GATHERING RECENTLY THAT THE OPPOSITION IS TRYING TO GET MILEAGE OUT OF THE PCOI REPORT

and report to the Parliament its recommendations to ensure gender equity and equality with special emphasis on looking into gender-based discrimination and violation of women's rights in Sri Lanka.

The request has been made by the Women Parliamentarians Caucus chaired by State Minister Dr. Sudarshini Fernando. It has been suggested that the Committee and its Chair should be appointed by the Speaker and that the composition of the proposed Committee should consist of not more than 25 members.

The report of the Committee needs to be presented to Parliament within a year from the first meeting of the Committee and once tabled in Parliament it is expected to be referred to the Minister in charge of the subject to submit observations and steps taken governing the particulars within eight weeks of being tabled.

Vaccination

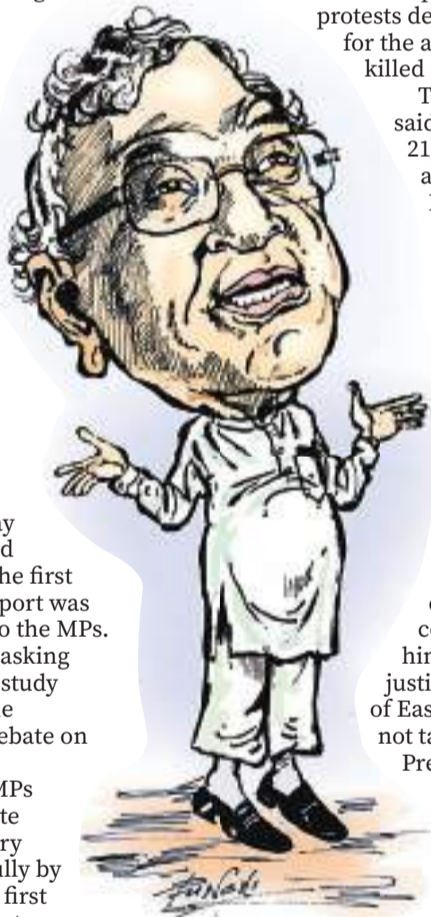
Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa charged that the Covid-19 vaccination is administered out of priority list order. Speaking at an event in Dedigama, Premadasa said that the Covid-19 vaccination has now become politicised. He said, "In other countries, the health sector comes first, then the security services that help the health sector, and then the elderly. With such a classification, there is a certain priority list."

The Opposition Leader said that he will not receive the Covid-19 vaccine. "How can I jump the queue and get the vaccine? Can I wear clothes and do that? I have shame and fear. It doesn't matter if I contract Covid-19, I'm not going to get that vaccine before the ordinary people of the country."

SLFP to appoint management committee

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) will appoint a new management committee to the party. The decision had been taken during the meeting of party representatives chaired by SLFP Leader and former President Maithripala Sirisena on March 4. Following the meeting, MP Shan Vijayalal de Silva told the media that the focus of the meeting was on how the said management committee will function in the future.

He said many other decisions have also been taken to strengthen the party's restructuring program. He further stated that the SLFP expects to implement a definite program during the next year-and-a-half.



LAKSHMAN KIRIELLA HAS WRITTEN TO SPEAKER MAHINDA YAPA ABEYWARDENA ASKING HIM TO PROVIDE THE MPs WITH COPIES OF THE COMPLETE REPORT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY (PCOI) ON THE EASTER SUNDAY CARNAGE



THE FINAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY (PCOI) INTO THE EASTER SUNDAY ATTACK WILL BE TAKEN UP FOR DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT ON MARCH 10



EMA reviews Sputnik V Covid-19 vaccine

EMA's (European Medicines Agency) human medicines committee (CHMP) has started a rolling review of Sputnik V (Gam-Covid-Vac), a Covid-19 vaccine developed by Russia's Gamaleya National Centre of Epidemiology and Microbiology. The EU applicant for this medicine is R-Pharm Germany GmbH.

(Sputnik V is made up of two components comprising different viruses belonging to the adenovirus family, Ad26 and Ad5. Separate submissions have been made for each component.)

The CHMP's decision to start the rolling review is based on results from laboratory studies and clinical studies in adults. These studies indicate that Sputnik V triggers the production of antibodies and immune cells that target the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus and may help protect against Covid-19.

EMA will evaluate data as they become available to decide if the benefits outweigh the risks. The rolling review will continue until enough evidence is available for formal marketing authorisation application.

EMA will assess Sputnik V's compliance with the usual EU standards for effective



ness, safety and quality. While EMA cannot predict the overall timelines, it should take less time than normal to evaluate an eventual application because of the work done during the rolling review.

EMA will communicate further when the marketing authorisation application for the vaccine has been submitted.

How is the vaccine expected to work?

Sputnik V is expected to work by preparing the body to defend itself against infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus. This virus uses proteins on its outer surface, called spike proteins, to enter the body's cells and cause Covid-19.

EMA WILL COMMUNICATE FURTHER WHEN THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION APPLICATION FOR THE VACCINE HAS BEEN SUBMITTED

Sputnik V is made up of two different viruses belonging to the adenovirus family, Ad26 and Ad5. These adenoviruses have been modified to contain the gene for making the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein; they cannot reproduce in the body and do not cause

disease. The two adenoviruses are given separately: Ad26 is used in the first dose and Ad5 is used in the second to boost the vaccine's effect.

Once it has been given, the vaccine delivers the SARS-CoV-2 gene into cells in the

body. The cells will use the gene to produce the spike protein. The person's immune system will treat this spike protein as foreign and produce natural defences - antibodies and T cells - against this protein.

If, later on, the vaccinated person comes into contact with SARS-CoV-2, the immune system will recognise the spike protein on the virus and be prepared to attack it: antibodies and T cells can work together to kill the virus, prevent its entry into the body's cells and destroy infected cells, thus helping to protect against Covid-19.

What is a rolling review?

A rolling review is a regulatory tool that EMA uses to speed up the assessment of a promising medicine during a public health emergency. Normally, all data on a medicine or vaccine's effectiveness, safety and quality and all required documents must be ready at the start of the evaluation in a formal application for marketing authorisation. In the case of a rolling review, EMA's human medicines committee (CHMP) reviews data as they become available from ongoing studies.

Once the CHMP decides that sufficient data are available, the company can submit a formal

application. By reviewing the data as they become available, the CHMP can come to an opinion on the medicine's authorisation sooner.

During the rolling review, and throughout the pandemic, EMA and its scientific committees are supported by the COVID-19 EMA pandemic task force (COVID-ETF). This group brings together experts from across the European medicines regulatory network to advise on the development, authorisation and safety monitoring of medicines and vaccines for COVID-19 and facilitate quick and coordinated regulatory action. -Pharmaphorum

Financial inclusion strategy to boost equitable access to products and services



The Central Bank launched the 'National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS)' at a ceremony held in Colombo on Thursday.

The launch symbolised by presenting the NFIS strategy to Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Mahinda Rajapaksa by the Governor of the Central Bank Professor W D Lakshman.

State Minister of Money and Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms, Ajith Nivard Cabraal, Australian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and Maldives David Holly and International Finance Corporation (IFC) Country Head for Sri Lanka and the Maldives Amena Arif were present.

With an aspiring vision of "Better Quality Inclusion for Better Lives", the NFIS strives towards a financially inclusive Sri Lanka where people and enterprises in Sri Lanka are well-informed and have fair and equitable access to a range of high-quality, appropriate, secure and affordable financial products and services that they can use to contribute to economic growth and improve their living standards. The development of the NFIS was a multi-stakeholder effort led by the Central Bank which encompassed the expertise of public and private sector institutions across the economy.

The NFIS is strategically designed to align all isolated efforts of financial inclusion taken by various entities in the economy into a single direction, having noted the potential higher yield of these efforts. The technical and financial assistance for the NFIS development project was provided by the IFC under the "IFC-DFAT Women in Work Project", funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of the Australian Government.

As a part of the NFIS, a time-bound Action Plan which sets up delegated actions for each stakeholder has been introduced. The monitoring and evaluation of the NFIS Action Plan and providing appropriate policy guidance will be carried out by the national level Management Entities of the NFIS and the Regional Development Department of the Central Bank with the support of the NFIS Secretariat. Regional Development Department 04.03.2021 With the launch of the NFIS, Sri Lanka joins more than 60 countries around the world who have taken similar initiatives to improve financial inclusion landscapes to reach sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

In line with the NFIS Launch, a Panel Discussion on the NFIS was held today from 2.30 p.m to 3.30 p.m with the participation of Ajith Nivard Cabral, State Minister of Money and Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms, Prof W D Lakshman, Governor of the Central Bank, J P R Karunaratne, Assistant Governor of the Central Bank, Channa De Silva, General Manager /CEO, Lanka Clear, Samadanie Kiriwandeniya, Managing Director, SANASA International (Pvt) Ltd, M Ramamoorthy, Director General (Planning), State Ministry of Samurdhi, Household Economy, Micro Finance, Self-Employment, Business Development and Underutilised State Resources Development, as Panellists.

The session was moderated by Senior Prof H.D. Karunaratna, Chair Professor of Business Economics, Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Colombo.

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to every child

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Services of a qualified agency to provide Social Listening Services

UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health and Health Promotion Bureau (HPB) in its roll out of the COVID - 19 vaccine across the country through technical support and communication including, Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) needed for the vaccination campaign.

UNICEF Sri Lanka country office calls for Request for Proposals for services of a qualified agency to provide Social Listening Services.

Agencies with the qualifications, specialized knowledge and experience required for the assignment are invited to send in proposals as per the requirements of the Terms of Reference (TOR) and solicitation documents (RFP) which can be downloaded at: <http://bit.ly/unisd-social>

The virtual pre-bid meeting will be held at 1.30 p.m. on the 10th March 2021. The deadline for the submission of the Request for Proposal by 4.00 p.m. on Monday 22nd March 2021.

UNICEF reserves the right to accept or reject any bid. The procurement process will be governed by the rules and regulations of UNICEF

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Hiring of a Research Institution to conduct Formative Research & KAP Assessments in support of the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) related to COVID-19 vaccine roll-out in Sri Lanka

UNICEF Sri Lanka country office calls for Request for Proposal for Hiring of a Research Institution to conduct Formative & KAP Research in support of the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) related to COVID-19 vaccine roll-out in Sri Lanka.

Agencies with the qualifications, specialized knowledge and experience required for the assignment are invited to send in proposals as per the requirements of the Terms of Reference (TOR) and solicitation documents (RFP) which can be downloaded at: <http://bit.ly/unisd-fr>

The virtual Pre-bid meeting will be held at 9.00 a.m. on the 10th of March 2021. The deadline for the submission of the request for Proposal by 4.00 p.m. on Monday 22nd March 2021.

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SUNDAY OBSERVER

Women's leadership post-Covid-19

Tomorrow, the world celebrates International Women's Day. IWD is a worldwide event that celebrates women's achievements - from the political to the social - while calling for gender equality. IWD is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women, who have played an extraordinary role in the history of countries and communities.

The IWD's roots can be traced to 1908, when 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding voting rights, better pay and shorter working hours. A year later, the first National Woman's Day was observed in the US on February 28, in accordance with a declaration by the Socialist Party of America. In 1910, Clara Zetkin - leader of the 'women's office' for the Social Democratic Party in Germany - tabled the idea of an IWD.

She suggested that every country should celebrate women on one day every year to push for their demands. A conference of more than 100 women from 17 countries agreed to her suggestion and IWD was formed. In 1911, it was celebrated for the first time in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland on March 19. In 1913, it was decided to transfer IWD to March 8, and it has been celebrated on that day ever since. The UN officially recognised the day in 1975.

This year, the IWD theme is rather easy to guess. Women stand at the frontlines of the Covid-19 crisis, as healthcare workers, caregivers, innovators, community organisers and as some of the most exemplary and effective national leaders in combating the pandemic. The crisis has highlighted both the centrality of their contributions and the disproportionate burdens that women carry.

This year's theme for the International Women's Day, 'Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a Covid-19 world', thus celebrates the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. It is also aligned with the priority theme of the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, "Women in public life, equal participation in decision making", and the flagship Generation Equality campaign, which calls for women's right to decision-making in all areas of life, equal pay, equal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work, an end to all forms of violence against women and girls, and health-care services that respond to their needs.

No country has, however, achieved gender equality. Legal restrictions have kept 2.7 billion women from accessing the same choice of jobs as men. Less than 25 percent of parliamentarians were women, as of 2019. One in three women experience gender-based violence, still. A gender pay gap persists across the globe - women earn 23 percent less than men and nearly 60 percent of women around the world work in the informal economy, earning less, saving less, and at greater risk of falling into poverty.

Women are still not present in equal numbers in business or politics. According to the World Economic Forum, the gender gap won't close until 2186. In 2019, women effectively worked 'for free' from November 14 until the end of the year because of the gender pay gap.

For the past couple of years, women's rights have dominated the news, following a global reckoning on sexual misconduct. Following the outpouring of allegations against Harvey Weinstein and other prominent men in power, the #MeToo movement gave a voice to women on the abuse and harassment they suffer in film, fashion, music, politics and art. The world must collectively address the issue of physical and sexual violence against girls and women.

Sri Lanka has made a lot of progress over the years in terms of women's empowerment. In fact, Sri Lanka produced the world's woman Prime Minister, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, way back in 1960. Since then, Sri Lanka has produced a woman President and many other women politicians as well as women leaders in many other fields such as academia, business, education and civil society. However, the level of women's representation in politics from Local Government to Parliament is less than five percent. It is extremely difficult to break into politics if a woman is not politically connected (father, brother or uncle has to be a politician generally).

It is important to get more women involved in grassroots level politics as they have an intimate knowledge of local development and social welfare needs. An attempt was made earlier to raise the women's representation in Local Government politics to 25 percent, but we feel that the formulators of the next Constitution should enshrine this as an irreversible right of all Sri Lankan women.

In Sri Lanka, there is hardly any discrimination against the girl child in terms of education. In fact, girls are among some of the best performers at recent examinations. However, we need more girls to get into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects at all levels from the school to the university. The emergence of Covid-19 has also shown us the importance of having more nurses who are qualified to operate the latest life-saving machinery.

We also need more women in the boardrooms. There are very few women holding top positions in business and commerce not only in Sri Lanka but also worldwide. This is a pathetic state of affairs that needs corrective action. Thus in addition to STEM, more girls and women should be encouraged to follow business and commerce studies. Thus the glass ceiling that still prevents the onward march of women in many spheres must be shattered. Women must challenge themselves to climb higher and higher.

Imagining a 'hidden Easter attack perpetrator' may be futile

by
Rajpal Abeynayake



Of all the foreign relations perspectives on Sri Lanka, the most engrossing for scholars and editorialists alike, has been the one regarding our ties to China.

The focus is back on China Sri Lanka ties, as Sri Lanka's post Covid-19 economic prospects come under increasing scrutiny. Partly, this is owed to what have been labelled the 'Western agency doom-sayers,' the Moodys, Fitch, etc. that have been predicting a somewhat dire debt outlook for this country.

The relevant Minister and the other responsible State sector actors have vehemently denied that there is any debt issue that should be cause for concern.

It is in this context however that there is some focus on Sri Lanka's reliance or possible future reliance on China, to bail us out in the short term if need be.

There is no need to elaborate. Sri Lanka if we rely on China instead of the IMF would come under closer international scrutiny, or so we are told. But, is this quite correct - this assessment in a new world order, and particularly a post-Biden world order where there is a 'great reset' in many areas, not just global economics?

Veiled

In short, the world has seen a rapid mainstreaming of this country's all-weather friend China, in the last four years at least. This 'mainstreaming' of the global giant - the world's second largest economy - has many implications for friends of China, such as Sri Lanka, and other similarly placed nations.

The four years under Trump's leadership of the global superpower, saw the Chinese 'mainstreaming themselves' or positing the country as the global leader on many issues, such as climate change, and free trade.

This was hitherto, unthinkable, but the mainstreaming or the Establishment Swagger of China, as it shall be referred to for convenience in the rest of this article, was something that Western nations in particular looked at with some measure of not so thinly veiled gratitude.

China played its part. So much so, that today, the country is looked upon in some circles as the global leader for free trade and action on climate change, because the US is still in the process of 'being back' as their new president, Joe Biden puts it.

Such mainstreaming has won China some obvious advantages. For one, the Western establishment had to look at China as the major ally, against Trump, who many actors in that Establishment thought was a destabilising force that was imperiling the globalist economic order.

When that's the case, all perspectives on China change. Loathe as they may be to admit it, China became more of a friend and ally to the Establishment in the West than an enemy, and it follows that friends of a friend such as Sri Lanka, would derive a natural advantage from that standpoint as well.



Security personnel walk through debris following the Easter Sunday attacks in St Sebastian's Church, Negombo

It's a stretch? Not exactly, though appearances may be such. The issues are far too complex - even awkward - to be gone into here, but the current US administration, particularly in the end-stage of the former Trump administration, had more reason than one, to consider China a friend.

Suffice to say, that in some quarters they even accused China and the Biden folk of having collaborated to see the back of Trump. Refer all the stories of Biden and the laptops, etc.

Forums

Whether such stories are true or false is a different matter, but what more mainstreaming than this for the second largest economy on earth, whose tactics hitherto had been considered 'iffy' at best in the Western establishment?

The point is that, if Sri Lanka relies on China at a time of some concern over a Covid-19 hit economy - that may not have the bad optics it used to have among certain interlocutors in the West. This includes the all important media, the diplomatic establishment, etc.

These interlocutors know that China could not have pulled off the advocacy for free markets and action on climate change, without allies such as this country - which backed these Chinese policies to the hilt in international forums.

It's also a tad difficult for the Western political establishment to rely on and look to China when things, as per their own viewpoint, went a little awry back home - and then abruptly spurn China once they are firmly ensconced back in power, partly with a little support - if some are to be believed - from the Chinese ... (even though the Chinese scoff at the idea that they provided any such assistance.)

Does this all mean that there would be an unprecedented détente between Biden's US and the Chinese, which will benefit particularly China's friends?

On the surface, not so much. The US continues to protest over the usual gripes any American government has with reference to China, such as the Hong Kong

carrying out elaborate schemes entirely on their own due to their single-minded and bizarre religious zealotry.

From the outside looking in, that this kind of extremism by a close knit cult/gang is possible, is not something ordinary people are easily able to wrap their heads around. They feel there has to be a different story that sources these acts to organised entities - countries, secret service arms of nations, politicians even - because it defies logic that a bunch of zealots can plan out and carry through such a destructive plan on their own.

Perished

Besides, the Cardinal's local Catholic flock is not prepared to accept the explanation that the terrorists that died, planned and executed the attacks themselves, because the former's state of loss and grief naturally demands that there should be a specific perpetrator that has to pay - in order that there is justice, and closure. They need someone alive to pay, and feel cheated to contemplate that perhaps the perpetrators can't be punished because they already perished in the attacks.

All these are understandable human reactions. This writer does not purport to know or purport to guess 'whodunnit', and does not want certainly to incur the wrath of anyone who is convinced there is a hidden hand behind the attacks, that surely has to pay.

But ever so gently, is there anything wrong in venturing the suggestion that there does not necessarily have to be anyone else behind the attacks? Of course it is the right of the victims, and the Church to leave no stone unturned to further dig into the mystery - and not end the quest to find answers for the next hundred years even. Just think Kennedy assassination.

But it just might be that there is really nobody else. Arising from which, if the Catholic Church or anybody else is asking that the deed has to at the very least be pinned on somebody else for the sake of closure for the victims - well, then that's not a very good position to take ...

Not for a moment do I suggest that anyone connected to the Church wants to pin the deed on somebody they can find - just anybody at all. But the total unwillingness to even consider the possibility that the terrorists that did it may have planned and carried out the scheme on their own, could sadly lead to the unpleasant situation when even the authorities feel a need, at least at the back of their minds, to pin the deed on someone - just anyone - to pacify the insistent call for an identifiable hidden perpetrator. (Of course the authorities will never do that however great the temptation, as that would be unconscionable.)

Nobody in their right minds would think that's a good way to end the matter. It was a bizarre deed, a despicable terrorist act, and it put Sri Lanka on global headlines for weeks, if not months. As much as there is a different perspective on China after the mainstreaming of the Chinese with regard to some key global issues, there is probably a different international perspective on Sri Lanka after the country was made victim on Easter Sunday 2019, very probably for something that happened in far away New Zealand.

BUT EVER SO GENTLY, IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG IN VENTURING THE SUGGESTION THAT THERE DOES NOT NECESSARILY HAVE TO BE ANYONE ELSE BEHIND THE ATTACKS? OF COURSE IT IS THE RIGHT OF THE VICTIMS, AND THE CHURCH TO LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED TO FURTHER DIG INTO THE MYSTERY - AND NOT END THE QUEST TO FIND ANSWERS FOR THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS EVEN.



Opinion

Bogus Vellala Gandhis reduced Tamils to abject slaves

By
H. L. D. Mahindapala



In 1968 Jaffna was shaken by the most explosive moral, political and religious issue that has been simmering beneath the surface for centuries. The low-castes who were treated as outcasts and pariahs decided to challenge the might of the Vellala supremacists by staging a non-violent satyagraha at the entrance to the Maviddipuram Temple pleading that they too be allowed to enter the inner sanctum and pray to the common Hindu God/gods.

Until the sixties the low-castes had no leadership to guide them into political action. Political leadership in Jaffna was monopolised by the Vellalas and no other entity could get a toe in. As the English-speaking, Saivite, Vellala majority entrenched in the commanding heights of the society – from the village temples to the top rungs of the colonial administration – they ruled the roost. The vacuum in the leadership of the low-castes was eventually filled by N. Shanmugathasan, leader of the Peking-wing of the Communist Party. Earlier he had organised the protest against Arumuka Navalar when his statue was taken in a procession along the streets of Jaffna.

Navalar is the revered holy guru of the Vellalas. It was he who elevated them to the highest level in the Jaffna caste hierarchy. In the absence of the Brahmmins in Jaffna – they were forbidden to cross the seas – Navalar raised the Vellalas to the level of the Brahmmins. Shanmugathasan organised a mass protest, with posters and placards against the procession. In some places the statue was stoned and the Police had to be brought in to keep the peace. That was only a test run. The real clash took place at Maviddipuram in 1968.

The organised non-violent protest of the low-castes to enter the Maviddipuram temple brought two antagonistic forces of Vellala and non-Vellalas into a head-on crisis. Never before had the low-castes organised themselves on such a scale to confront the Vellala supremacists.

This was the opportune moment for the so-called Gandhians in the Federal Party led by S. J. V. Chelvanayakam and Appapillai Amirthalingam to stand up for the oppressed low castes, particularly on the critical issue of temple entry to restore dignity, equality, justice and peace to the Tamil people. The elitist Vellalas enjoyed dignity, equality, justice and peace but not the Tamil people who were below them. In dodging the issue Amirthalingam came up with the specious argument that he does not want to mix religion with politics. And Chelvanayakam shuffled along, haltingly, taking advantage of his physical disability caused by Parkinson's disease, to project himself as a saintly Gandhian.

Maviddipuram

It was not a time for Gandhians to be non-committal. It was a time to take sides and stand up for what is right. But the bogus Gandhians in the Federal Party 'tip-toed' out of the issue not to offend the Vellalas, as stated by Prof. Bryan Pfaffenberger. They did not lift a finger to help the low-castes while their representative Prof. C. Suntheralingam, (Cambridge) walked up and down the pathway to the Temple with a walking stick threatening to hammer any low-caste who dared to cross the line. Prof. Suntheralingam (Cambridge) was the public face of Vellala Gandhism.

When tensions were rising in Maviddipuram police had to rush in. It was Superintendent of Police S. Sunderalingam who stepped in to separate the two forces. He was appointed by Prime Minister Dudley Senanayake as the head of Northern Province Police and given a free hand to handle the rising tension within Jaffna. Of all the actors in the scene he can be considered the most objective and informed authority on this issue. He also happened to be a family friend and I approached him for clarification long after he retired. His reply is illuminating. I reproduce it in full

mainly for its insights and its objective analysis. It is also important to place it on record. He was the brother of my friend, Dr. R. Pararajasegaram, the great pioneering ophthalmologist with an international reputation. After doing a stint at Interpol "Sunda", as he was known to us, was living in Chennai when he wrote this reply:

Dear Mahinda,

Just returned to Chennai from Hyderabad. A Lecture at the Police Academy. Well, you have written a thesis on Vellala caste Tamils in the Jaffna Peninsula. A well-researched analysis.

My input will be minimum, confined to my personal experience and happenings on caste disputes during my 6-year tenure in Jaffna as SP Northern Province. It was a fact the Vellala community, considered the High Caste, dominated all political and economic activities in the Peninsula for decades in the pre-Independent and post-Independent Ceylon.

In 1970 all Jaffna MPs were Vellalas. If one had visited a village in Jaffna, one could have observed that the Vellalas lived in residential area in well built houses, the lower castes always lived in clusters in the outskirts in cadjan sheds doing daily menial work for the high caste Vellala Hindus and Christians. To be fair, Christians were more compassionate. It was during the sixties the so-called depressed classes including Nalavas, Pallars, Parayas etc etc woke up, thanks to Mr Shanmugathasan and his Peking-wing set up a "Minority" (low-caste) front

THE VACUUM IN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE LOW-CASTES WAS EVENTUALLY FILLED BY N. SHANMUGATHASAN, LEADER OF THE PEKING-WING OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. EARLIER HE HAD ORGANISED THE PROTEST AGAINST ARUMUKA NAVALAR WHEN HIS STATUE WAS TAKEN IN A PROCESSION ALONG THE STREETS OF JAFFNA



S. J. V. Chelvanayakam

to fight for their rights

The Prevention of Social Disabilities Act 1957 was only an Act in the statute book to deal with social disabilities based on caste discrimination, more applicable to the Jaffna Peninsula. The bubble burst with the Maviddipuram Temple Dispute in 1968. My namesake Mr C. Sunderalingam (CS), a fanatic, put up a barricade in front of the Temple dividing the area. The outside area was exclusively for the Lower castes while a separate entrance was erected for the so-called Vellala caste people to walk closer to the inner sanctum.

I visited the Temple with a Police Squad when tensions were running high. I saw CS, with a walking stick, ordering the Palla community worshippers to do their worshipping by standing behind the barricade. They were not allowed to enter the sacred area reserved only for the



Mahatma Gandhi

upper caste. In the meantime, GA Jaffna, Vernon Abeysakera, and Mr Stanley Senanayake, SP Special Operations Anti-Immigration, KKS also arrived on the scene. Negotiations failed and free-for-all occurred between CS group and Minority group. It was not a major clash. Only a few were injured.

I mentioned to CS that he was morally bound to open the Temple to all persons alike or close the Temple doors for everyone. I remember telling him God is equal to everyone standing before him. Mediation with CS failed and Temple doors were closed. In one of the telegrams sent by CS to IGP and PM he alleged that the SP was acting as a Dictator and asked for my removal. PM Dudley Senanayake was well briefed by IGP. PM's response: "Let the Sundaralingams fight it out". The next morning Sunday Observer headlined "The Battle of the Sundaralingams rages in the North." Police filed a complaint against CS under the Social Disabilities Act. Same time CS filed action against me for Unlawful Assembly etc in Mallakam Courts.

The Magistrate was a die-hard Vellala who was determined to go for trial. I went to Colombo, and met Attorney General, Mr Victor Tennakoon. By virtue of his position under the criminal procedure he had the right to withdraw any private complaint filed against any Government official. When the State counsel appeared in Court with A/G's letter on the next date, this caste-minded Magistrate rejected A/G's plea and document. Believe me, this case went up to Supreme Court (SC) in Colombo.

It overruled the Magistrate's order and granted my discharge. In the meantime, Police filed action against CS under Social Disabilities Act and he was fined Rs 100. 00 and warned. When, however, SC upheld the Magistrate's order CS went to Privy Council. With his personal appearance he was hopeful that the conservative Lords will accept his arguments based on the customs and traditions of the Jaffna Tamils but the Privy Council upheld the SC order. Mr Gratien appeared for the Govt of Ceylon. This was the last Privy Council case from Sri Lanka with no more appeals after that (I believe).

Aftermath- Maviddipuram Temple was closed, with an injunction filed by AG restraining CS and the Maviddipuram High Priest. My evidence was recorded for 3 days in District Court of Jaffna. In 1971 a Parliamentary Committee composed of Pieter Keuneman, Leslie Goonewardena and Cholomondely Gunawardena, with my recommendation, passed a new amendment to 1957 Act with more stringent provisions

Caste discrimination prevailing in Jaffna, no doubt, initially led to the growth of extremist Tamil Youth Movements. One Sivakumar, identified as a Militant Youth leader be-

fore Prabakaran in 1970, planned a campaign in the Peninsula for a common sit-down meal comprising all-caste youth in one sitting. This was a movement to get all youths of all castes together. Sivakumar was suspected in two bomb throwing incidents, including Alfred Duraiappah's car bomb incident, during this period. To begin with, all Youth leaders of the LTTE came from VVT Karaiyar caste.

I have always stated that the detention of Rohana Wijeweera in Jaffna 1971 and JVP attack on Jaffna Jail was an inspiration to Jaffna Youth. The cry in Jaffna was: If Sinhala Youths can revolt against Government what are we doing? From one perspective, it can be argued that Rohana Wijeweera created Prabakaran (?).

You are free to quote me in the incidents and happenings in Jaffna during my tenure in Jaffna.

Best wishes to your wife.

Sunda

This is a stunning expose, coming from the highest Tamil Police officer in Jaffna. It exposes four major aspects of the Vellala supremacists: 1. the Vellalas fought for Vellala privileges and not for the common rights of the Tamils who were kept out of Vellala temples / society; 2. intransigent determination of the Vellalas to go to the ends of the earth – even to the Privy Council – to preserve their casteist hegemony (3) the domination, manipulation and the rigging of the administrative and the judicial systems to protect and serve Vellala supremacy and (4) the low-castes had to fight their own battles to regain their dignity, equality, justice and peace from the Vellalas.

With the entire Jaffna elite expecting him to throw his weight behind the Vellalas it was not easy for Superintendent Sunderalingam to take the side of the low-caste. But his duty was to uphold the law and he did it with courage. In this letter Superintendent Sunderalingam debunks the fiction of the Vellala leadership being angelic apostles of Ahimsa.

Casteism

Prof. C. Suntheralingam, a bright mathematician from Cambridge University and a minister in the first Cabinet of D. S. Senanayake, was the face of the Vellalas inside Jaffna. Casteism was inextricably ingrained in the blood stream of the Vellalas that not even Cambridge and Oxford could take it out of their system. Outside Jaffna the Vellala leadership was posing as non-violent Gandhians demanding "Tamil rights" – a euphemism for Vellala privileges which, for instance, did not include the rights of 'minorities' to enter a Hindu kovil. The mask of Tamil non-violent piety was the public face worn by the Vellalas to deceive the world. The Vellala elite of Jaffna was the most

privileged community in Sri Lanka. They were better off than even the Sinhalese in some respects. But they preferred to wallow in the myth of victimology. It is those who believed in this myth that ended up in Nandikadal.

The Vellalas, in short, have been the worst enemies of the Tamils. In Jaffna the cows, the chicken, the dogs could walk in daylight except that class of Tamils classified as Turumbas by the Vellalas. The assumed sense of superiority and purity of the Vellalas led them to discard their own people as pariahs. Not knowing how to come to terms with their criminal past and their guilt of denying their own Tamil people dignity, justice, equality and peace the Vellala elite distorted the reality and accused the Sinhalese of denying dignity, justice, equality and peace to them. This is typical of their habitual tendency to deviate from the truth to demonise the 'Sinhala state'.

In any case 'the Sinhala state' has been in existence only or 73 years. But Jaffna was turned into a colony of slaves by the Dutch, with the consent of 12 Vellala mudliyors in 1707. Jointly they produced the Tesawalamai which gave the Vellalas the right to own slaves and rule their lives from the womb to the tomb. Historian Nira Wickramasinghe and Alicia Schrikker argued that by "tapping into a perceived local practice of slavery and legally constituting slaves, Dutch colonial rulers further strengthened the power of the dominant caste Vellalar over their subordinates." (The Ambivalence of Freedom: Slaves in Jaffna, Sri Lanka, in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries - The Journal of Asian Studies Vol. 78. No.3 (August 2019).

So, colonialism and Vellalaism went hand in hand to consolidate



G. G. Ponnambalam

the power of the Vellalas to rule Jaffna with an iron fist. Vellala supremacy was crowned with codification of Tesawalamai. This gave them the power to persecute, suppress, marginalise, ostracise, burn the schools and houses of low-castes, beat them if they violate the Vellala norms, rape their women and even murder them.

Vellalas used political tools of discrimination, marginalisation and majoritarianism against the minority low-castes. From 1707 until the rise of Velupillai Prabhakaran they fought the low-caste minorities on these lines.

The administration reports of the Dutch and British are crowded with Vellala thuggery, rape, inhuman treatment of slaves, exploitation, and generally reducing the Tamils to subhuman species unfit to live in human society. Ironically, when they resorted to demonise the Sinhalese they used the same accusations of discrimination, marginalisation and majoritarianism. Coincidence? No. That is the Vellala way of trying to look good after what they had done to their own people. That is their way of trying to expiate their sins by pretending to be victims of the Sinhala demons.

The rise of the Vellalas since the Dutch period to its overdetermining height in peninsular politics is undisputed. Early power was based on caste supremacy. As castesim waned as a viable ideology to hold casteist Jaffna together they shifted to Gandhism and Tamil language mixed with various shades of Tamil nationalism.

Initially the Vellalas gained considerable political mileage posing as the pious apostles of the noble non-violence doctrine propounded

THE VELLALAS WHO POSED AS GANDHIANS BETRAYED THE ESSENCE OF GANDHISM. FOR INSTANCE, ONE OF GANDHI'S LIFE AND DEATH BATTLE WAS AGAINST SEPARATISM. IT WAS ESSENTIALLY AN EGO TRIP OF ONE MAN – JINNAH. IF THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO FIND A HOME FOR MUSLIMS IT FAILED. THERE ARE MORE MUSLIMS IN INDIA THAN IN PAKISTAN. AND THE DIVISION HAD LED TO MORE DEATH, DESTRUCTION AND WARS. THE IDENTICAL SITUATION WOULD HAVE RISEN IN SRI LANKA IF IT WAS DIVIDED INTO TWO

by Gandhi. He came to Jaffna in November 1927. The reception was overwhelming. But Gandhism was not in the hands of the Vellalas. It was in the hands of the radical and idealistic youth of Jaffna. It can be considered as the only Golden period in Jaffna when the youth came out denouncing communalism and casteism. P. de S. Kularatne, Principal of Ananda College, was even elected as the President. It was also a formidable force in its day. When it fizzled out in the thirties with the rise of G. G. Ponnambalam's virulent racism it never rose again, dashing all hopes of the Jaffna youth who yearned for one nation, one people.

Vellalaism

After the demise of the youth Congress Vellalaism reasserted itself with renewed vigour. And the people of Jaffna and the nation as a whole have been paying with their lives for the divisive, destructive and demonic politics of the 'congenital idiots' of Jaffna ever since then, who wallow in their myths of being Gandhians. Gandhism had very distinct characteristics like (1) anti-imperialism; (2) non-violence at any cost (leaving violence to Subas Chandra Bose) (3) anti-casteist oppression (4) national unity and not separatism and (5) peaceful coexistence emphasising commonalities and not differences.

The Vellalas who posed as Gandhians betrayed the essence of Gandhism. For instance, one of Gandhi's life and death battle was against separatism. It was essentially an ego trip of one man – Jinnah. If the objective was to find a home for Muslims it failed. There are more Muslims in India than in Pakistan. And the division had led to more death, destruction and wars. The identical situation would have risen in Sri Lanka if it was divided into two.

Then consider the claim of being non-violent Gandhians. Prof. A. J. Wilson says that his father-in-law, S. J. V. Chelvanayakam went through with a fine comb every word of the Vadukodai Resolution which declared war on Sri Lanka. Which Gandhian would have meticulously scrutinised and worded the declaration of war that led to deaths, destruction and dehumanisation – and, mark you, without achieving anything in the end? Since he is ultimately responsible for the Declaration of War all the deaths, destruction and the evil that followed should be placed fairly and squarely on the head of Chelvanayakam – the bogus Gandhian who sent other people's children to premature death.

As a cub reporter I was there at the Galle Face witnessing the Federal Party leaders staging their first satyagraha against the language issue. I was also there at Maviddipuram covering the tail end of the battle. To this day I am baffled trying to figure out in what part of the verti the Gandhians had tucked in their non-violence!

Features

Covid-19 - Government accommodates Muslims' wishes to bury corpses

By
Aanya
Wipulasena



Sri Lanka urged the UN Human Rights Council Core Group on Sri Lanka to remove the clause pertaining to the 'forced cremations' from the Resolution that was tabled recently, as officials here on Friday (5) carried out the first burials of bodies of those who died of Covid-19.

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office at Geneva, C.A. Chandraprema, informed the Core Group of the government's decision to allow burials.

The Government said Covid-19 deceased will be buried in Oddamavadi in the Batticaloa district and Irikamam of the Ampara district in addition to; the Iranaitivu island in the Gulf of Mannar as burial sites.

The spokesman for the Covid Prevention Task Force Vijitha Hetiarachchi said seven bodies of Covid-19 victims were sent from mortuaries for burial on Friday.

Cremation and Islamic law

Muslim Societies regard burial in the ground as the proper way to show regards for dead bodies; cremation is prohibited because it is thought to violate the dignity of the human body, thus states the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in its report titled the Management of the Dead under Islamic Law.

When the bodies of those who died of Covid-19 were cremated on the grounds that burial of such bodies would contaminate water resources in the country, it drew protests from the Muslim community and other concerned parties.

Former State Minister Ali Zahir Moulana tweeted saying that preparations for burials to be conducted in the proposed lands coordinated with the consultation of the Ministry of Health, Institute of Geology, local stakeholders, community representatives and local authorities.

The government announced that burials will be allowed in an Extraordinary Gazette notification published on February 25, amending the regulations made by the Minister of Health under Sections 2 and 3 of the Quarantine and Prevention of Diseases Ordinance (Chapter 222).

The decision was welcomed by many including the Prime Minister



(File photo)

New burial guidelines

The circular containing the guidelines on the burial of victims was issued by the Ministry of Health on Wednesday (3).

It states;

- The relatives of deceased should inform the Director/Head of health care institution (where the death has occurred) of their desire to bury the corpse without delay.
- The Director of the hospital/Head of health care institution should obtain a written request from relatives for burial.
- Director/ Head of health care institution should make arrangements to include the place of burial as Iranaitivu island in death declaration form by coordinating with the nominee of Director.
- If an inquest is held, the burial site has to be included by the Inquirer in to Sudden Deaths (ISD) / Magistrate in the document issued by them.
- The relatives have to provide the coffin as soon as possible.
- It is the duty of the Director/ Head of health care institution to transport the corpse in a coffin provided by the relatives to a designated location in Colombo Institute of

Forensic Medicine and Toxicology (office of JMO Colombo) / B.H. Welikanda where the corpse will be received by the designated officer.

- The vehicle transporting the corpse to "Nachchikuda pier" will leave daily at 5.30 a.m. from the designated receiving center nominated by the DGHS. Corpse carried by authorized personal will be handed over to respective authority at the "Nachchikuda pier" which is supervised by the area MOH/ representative PHI.
- Burial will take place by the facilitation and coordination of the Police/Security personal at an Island earmarked by the Government of Sri Lanka in the presence of two relatives, MOH/ his representative PHI of the area of burial.
- Before departure of the corpse, designated health staff of the hospital wearing PPE should bring the corpse from the pre designated area to the viewing area for relatives to view the corpse.
- Religious activities are permitted only at this point according to the guidelines provided by DGHS.
- The corpse in the coffin is placed in the

transportation carriage and handed over to MOH/representative PHI and police to be carried to the designated place of receiving corpses in Colombo.

- The relatives or unauthorized persons are not permitted to obtain photographs, video and video calls in the health care institution/s.
- Two of the relatives who visited the hospital where death has occurred and identified the deceased, allowed to be present at the Nachchikuda pier in the Kilinochchi district on the following day for witnessing the burial at Iranaitivu island.
- At the final destination, the corpse inside the coffin is received by the area MOH/ representative PHI of the area of burial.
- After receiving the corpse, it will be taken to the site of burial by the designated officers with necessary health precautions. Only two relatives are permitted to be present at the burial along with area MOH, representative PHI along with Police and security personal handling the burial process.
- The coffin should not be opened and relatives/next to kin will not be permitted to handle the coffin under any circumstance.

of Pakistan Imran Khan who was in Sri Lanka on a two-day official visit days before the announcement

was made.

Army Commander General Shavendra Silva told the media that of-

officials were looking for burial sites on higher ground to reassure that drinking water is not contaminated.

Cabinet Spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella said on Tuesday (2) that the Iranaitheevu island was iden-

tified as a burial site. "The burying will be done according to the health authorities guidelines", he said.

Angered islanders protest

The decision to bury bodies of Covid-19 victims angered those living and depending on the Iranaitheevu island. On Wednesday they carried out a protest against the decision.

In an open letter they urged the concerned parties to revise the decision to bury the bodies in the island saying that 417 families lived in the village.

They said that after the battle against terrorist the Navy took control of the island and they have not been allowed to return to the island yet.

"We the people of Iranaitheevu along with our fellow north and east people continuously stand up for the burial rights of our fellow Muslim community and voice against the forced cremation.

We emphasize that the dead bodies must be given due respect according to the culture of our country as well according to the universal humanitarian values.

Transporting the dead bodies of Covid infected persons from place to place is a violation of the dignity of those deceased as well their families.

Therefore, we emphasise the Sri Lankan Government to withdraw the decision that was taken by them to making the Iranaitheevu island as the graveyard of Covid deceased.

We also call upon the Government to give due respect and ensure the burial rights of Muslims and other communities in suitable places", they said.

However, government officials said that the burial sites were selected evaluating the positioning of the land and considering all necessary aspects.

Director General Health Services Asela Gunawardena told the media that "this is only a temporary measure. We will soon identify other locations too."

Shocking news

Vice President of the Muslim Council of Sri Lanka Hilmy Ahamed said that he was shocked by the decision to bury the Covid 19 victims in such far-off places.

"The Jennifer Perera Committee clearly approved burial in all Muslim burial grounds subject to strict adherence to quarantine rules and placing the body in double body bags", he pointed out expressing hope the government will revisit this decision soon.

Digitising the agriculture supply chain

by
Hemantha
Kulatunga



At present, food security has become one of the highest priorities for countries across the globe. Even before the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, food security, improving agricultural inputs and the main source of supply of food has been in discussion in almost every country including in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka as a developing nation is looking for various alternatives in agriculture supply chain management and its digitisation for efficient and sustainable functioning of the development of the sector. An optimistic observation is that with the common availability of mobile telephones, the Sri Lankan farmer community is becoming somewhat knowledgeable about information technology.

In Sri Lanka, although farmers individually want to maximise their revenues, there are several limiting factors such as weak market linkages, inadequate access to quality farm inputs, poor services by the authorities, and lack of information about government resources. Facilitate communication between the agriculture fraternity and the relevant authorities that control resources is an important task. Raising awareness about the internet among the rural farming community can be an effective first step.

As an initial step, the government is getting ready to implement digitising agriculture crop storage and distribution at a modern climate-control warehouse facility adjacent to the Economic Centre in

Dambulla. The project will be largely funded by India as per available information.

In a rare but highly optimistic and welcoming political scenario, Minister of Trade, Bandula Gunawardana, and Opposition Member of Parliament Dr. Harsha De Silva sat together in a forum to implement this essentially important effort. The government aims to establish a countrywide network of similar nature.

Sri Lanka, with approximately 27% of the population engaged in different forms of agriculture with approximately 7.4% contribution to the GDP, was heavily dependent on the import of food-related products lately. Particularly fruits and vegetables along with many other items including at times even rice.

Despite the large quantities produced, due to inadequate cold and normal storage facilities and improper supply chain infrastructure, an enormous amount goes to waste. A well-coordinated digitally controlled system is the remedy to reduce this colossal waste.

Several previous attempts by governments to control the waste by introducing various methods were futile. An efficient and effective digitised agricultural supply chain management and a marketing system will be the key driver of the sustainable development of the agriculture economy. As the backbone of future food security, agriculture needs an immediate boost in technology, particularly in digital knowledge.

Sri Lanka perhaps is amongst the world's worst food wasters and will confront a potential challenge in the future concerning food security to feed the growing population.

Most of the damage occurs either in transit or in storage. Fluctuating prices due to uncertain weather patterns also make severe damage to



the crop from time to time.

Supply chains are principally concerned with the flow of physical products and information between the stakeholders and distribute products among the end-consumers.

Due to the complex nature of the process, an information-driven digital supply chain can reduce costs, add value, exchange resources, and save a huge amount of time. Digitising coordinated efforts finally will help food security and also create happy consumers.

Supply chain co-ordination contains structured affiliation among producers, processors, traders, and consumers where detailed information is exchanged on quantities to produce, pricing, delivery time, transport, and so forth. The relationships also often involve financial assistance and technical support.

To provide better output, introducing Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to the

Sri Lankan farming community has become an absolute necessity. Especially for fresh perishable food products such as fruits and vegetables that need faster disposal requires speedier and more coordinated effort through ICT.

ICT is a powerful apparatus to integrate the whole process of the agriculture supply chain. Starting from land preparation until the product is handed over to the consumer can be done more efficiently through digitisation. The ICT sphere also can be used effectively to enhance quality aspects, agronomic aspects, and nutritional value measurements, etc.

In the Sri Lankan context, reaching the multitudes of small-scale farmers is one of the key aspects of future food security. In the spheres of marketing and value addition, ICT can contribute tremendously to increase efficiency.

Currently, the digital literacy in this segment is minimal although

most of them are somewhat familiar with mobile phone use.

Another sphere in digitisation is the efficient monitoring of land use patterns, records, tenancy norms, and even distribution of state lands. The government is currently evaluating the possibility of increasing agriculture production through uncultivated state lands and abandoned private lands. Seemingly, in the absence of properly managed computerised data on such records, the government is unable to implement such programs successfully. In order to be effective and efficient in the future, the authorities need digitised information.

Information technology must be used to maintain an updated database of specific agricultural information covering the entire country. This updated information can be related to climatic conditions, the arrival of monsoons, products in demand, demand-supply status, and even seed selections.

Currently, the vast majority of agriculture-related information is in disarray with various agencies giving different data, often contradictory. It is a conclusive necessity that all relevant information and data be brought under a single institution.

At present, collecting data and statistics seems a tedious and tiring process. Most of the websites of the Ministries and other government institutions are not updated regularly and the available information is obsolete. For example, this writer's effort to get through to the Ministry of Trade website to obtain the latest information was a complete failure.

The chain involves a number of players with different social and educational levels. Hence the integration of the effort of services depends on the extent of trust amongst the stakeholders. Striking equal balance between affluent participants

and the rest of the members has to be managed meticulously to avoid possible conflicts. In order to provide benefits to all partners, the techniques and the process must be strengthened through a digitised monitoring system.

The effectiveness of digitising information is beyond any doubt in improving productivity at all levels of the agricultural sector. Comparatively, food loss reduction is less costly than the increase of production.

By modernising the handling systems with ICT will undoubtedly cut down on food wastage and in turn improve food availability to society. Efficient collaboration between stakeholders will reduce risks and losses on one hand and greatly improve the efficiency to ensure food security.

Digitisation of the agriculture supply chain can provide required linkages, improve market reach, improve business processes, and increase product diversity. The standpoint of the authorities on digitisation is vitally important to make this happen.

Now is the best time for authorities to become proactive with the digitization program because the President not only has given maximum possible attention to agriculture development but also understands the opportunities and threats as a career ICT professional.

The government, related professional institutions, and the private sector players should take interest in the national need immediately and implement systems and make information available through a digital network to the farmers and other stakeholders. The focus on building a responsive and flexible digitised network will reduce end-to-end supply time. The need of the day is to exploit the potential of agriculture in the Sri Lankan economy.

Call for Special Parliamentary Select Committee on women's issues

Women face numerous issues

- Seetha Arambepola

By
Rajitha Jagoda Arachchi



The twelve women parliamentarians in the House, collectively presented a proposal to the Speaker recently, to set up a Special Parliamentary Select Committee (SPSC) on women's issues.

This proposal can also be seen as an applaudable feat by the Women Parliamentarians Caucus of the Parliament (WPC) led by Minister Sudarshini Fernandopulle, the Chairperson of the WPC, as they have sunk their political differences and set an example about the importance of placing the public interest first in national issues before political gain.

The gender gap

As per the international sex ratio, Sri Lanka is the 22nd country with more women than men in the total population (as a percentage). However, Sri Lanka is also ranked 102 of 153 countries in terms of gender gap (Global Gender Gap Index-2020).

"In my maiden speech in Parliament, I called on the Speaker to appoint a Parliamentary Select Committee on women's issues. Later we discussed this at a meeting of the WPC, and proposed it to the Speaker as a collective effort," Deputy President of the WPC, State Minister Seetha Arambepola told the *Sunday Observer*.

Rather than any other committee, a Special Parliamentary Committee bears authority to inquire about matters thus making it a powerful arm to seek practical solutions to the issues of women. As State Minister Arambepola said, there are several legislative issues too, women face in general.

"One such issue is land rights. According to the law, land rights of parents goes to the eldest son, not the eldest child. It is clearly discrimination based on gender. Also in terms of the labour rights, women are paid less compared to men, despite the same amount of work carried out by both," she said.

Lack of female participation in politics has always been a hot topic. Nevertheless, Arambepola thinks it is only one side of the story.

"There is no doubt about the fact that we need more female participation in

politics. But that should not be the end of the discussion. There are tons of common issues faced by women around the country. We aim to visit those issues through the proposed SPSC," she said.

jasin Arachchi incident

Matale district SJB (Samagi Jana Balawegaya) Parliamentarian Rohini Kumari Wijerathna, a Deputy President of the WPC, thinks the SPSC could be a good platform to resolve issues particularly with regard to violence against women.

...Continued on page 12

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News/Obituaries

Team up against divisive forces - Arun Siddharth

Call to eschew demagogic northern politics

BY MANJULA FERNANDO

Arun Siddharth, the youth who has embarked on a journey to swim against the popular tide, launched a people's march on February 28 from Point Don-dra, Matara to Jaffna to unify Tamils and Sinhalese to fight against external forces driven by 'geopolitics' and 'neoliberal strategies'.

"My journey will not be easy, I know that," Arun said in an interview with the *Sunday Observer* on Friday.

Their days-long march which proceeded through Galle, Kalutara, Kandy, Anuradhapura and Kilinochchi ended on Friday at Weerasingham Hall, Jaffna.

Excerpts:

Q: What is the purpose of the people's march?

A: Sinhalese and Tamils who did not harbour hatred towards each other were 'deliberately divided' by forces which had narrow politics in mind, for decades. It is time to come together against these divisive forces that thrive on people's woes. My effort is to make people see the reality. I perceive a dangerous trend, in another few years, there could be another issue between the Tamils and the Sinhalese. I want to prevent such an eventuality. Opportunistic politicians will only fuel such prospects, they don't want people to be united, happy and live in peace.

Q: You said another conflict is inevitable if nothing is done to change the course. Why do you say that, what are the signs?

A: I was born in the North and live there. My father was an ardent member of the Communist Party. He had weap-

ons and political training in China. I grew up with these sentiments. I have been close to politicians in the North. I worked as a journalist for five years. In 1984, the Indian RAW gave weapons training to Tamil youth and created the LTTE. That influence is still there. Sampanthan, Sumanthiran, Ponnambalam Shivajilingam, Anandi Shashitharan and Vigneswaran, all these people are influenced by the same forces. Through them, their neo liberal agenda is being pushed. Our big neighbour will never agree to a peaceful Sri Lanka. It will diminish their influence and dominance over Sri Lanka and our resources. An Internal strife is their tool to maintain the dominance. These are policies of neo-colonialism exploited by superpowers. We must try to understand the challenges posed by these external undercurrents and stand together as a nation to defeat them.

Q: Why do you think people should rally round you? What is your background?

A: I was born in Jaffna. My mother, Ulagawathy Arulanandam, is from Chunnakam, my father Arulanandam Arun is from Anjikulam. I studied at a small school in Oluvil. My mother was a teacher and my father was a journalist. He had worked at the Daily News and the Thinakaran. Later, I came to Hindu College, Colombo, to do my GCE Ordinary Level. My mother was worried about my radical thinking. My heart was always in Jaffna. I kept running back, so she sent me to India in 1994. I did my Advanced Level studies at St. Mary's College, Madurai. Later, I went to Russia to do Medicine. After three years, I gave up studies and travelled around.

During the 2002 peace talks, I returned to Sri Lanka. Then I joined the Weerakesari and worked as a journalist. I covered the LTTE's media office and Government's Peace Secretariat. I had access to first hand information on both sides. I learnt about people's issues during the time. This made me wonder if the politicians were actually interested in bringing communities together. When I got to know the truth I was devastated.

Q: Is this your way of making an entry into politics in the North?

A: We have severe caste issues in the North. Those are fuelled by fascist concepts. The TNA is talking about democracy, but says they are the sole representative of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. That statement itself is undemocratic. I did not plan to do politics. I was pushed to this corner.



For instance, Vigneswaran studied and lived in Colombo, after retirement, giving his daughter in marriage to a Sinhala person and at the age of 75, he has come to Jaffna purportedly to help people living in misery in the North. This is a joke. He has only made statements to arouse communal sentiments, all this time. He is not promoting peace and harmony. The last thing he has in mind is the wellbeing of the people.

Q: You said these politicians are backed by India. Powerful Tamil diaspora has also thrown their weight behind them. Do you think your voice can overpower theirs?

A: I agree. They wield money power. They have the media backing. But there is a thing called 'karma'. They fear my voice. An unseen hand is trying to block my voice from reaching the Tamil people. We once wanted to hold a press conference at the Jaffna Press Club. I tried to book the place many times. Finally, after a week, the press club management informed me that they could not allow me to have a press conference there. They said the Jaffna based political leadership has spoken against it. The press conference was to talk about the issues of the people.

Q: Do you think the people in the North will trust you?

A: I feel sad about the Jaffna people. We proudly say, we have one of the biggest libraries in Asia. But only a visitor will understand the sorry state of the place today. You will come across just a few elderly people immersed in reading the wealth of knowledge there. The youth in the North don't read anymore. They are being influenced by cheap south and north Indian films. They read about politics in the newspapers, as a journalist I know, what you read in papers is half truth, mostly sugar coated lies. Their source of knowledge is electronic and print media, where you get fabricated and doctored stories put out by media mughals who are only serving politicians.

One of the publishing houses is owned by a person who was close to late LTTE theoretician Anton Balasingham. All these media use the word 'Sinhala Buddhist chauvinists' frequently. When we hear this term time and again,

it adds up to your own vocabulary. Why do they fear my voice? My motto is 'I will not agree with your opinion, but I will defend your right to say it.' People should be allowed to hear me out and then decide to accept or reject me.

Q: Do you have the support of likeminded people?

A: Independent NGOs, civil society groups, social service groups were there in the North, but all those who did not peddle the LTTE ideology were wiped out by the LTTE. The battle against terrorism ended a decade ago, but these units have not been restored. The Tamil people still fear to engage in social service.

Q: What are the genuine grievances of northerners?

A: Even the Buddha said, "Don't preach those who are in hunger." Food, sleep, water and sanitation are the basic needs of human beings. Yet many in the North and East are still deprived of these needs. They have become 'luxuries' for our people. They also need land to cultivate. When I go on field visits, I feel utterly depressed to talk to people who are so helpless and who don't even have basic necessities fulfilled. People from lower castes, uneducated and poorer sections of the society were shown the attractive slogan of Tamil Eelam. They became the miserable ground fighters, but the powerful-affluent retained the political power. People have been taken for a ride throughout history. I intend to tell them in a way they can understand and expose this myth. But my path will not be easy. My family receives threatening calls every day. Sometimes they originate from overseas. The TNA is openly attacking me in their webpages, including in their youth page. These are uncivilised actions.

Q: There is a campaign to indoctrinate a third generation of Tamil expatriates to fight for the LTTE's homeland theory. What is your message to these youth, who have perhaps not even seen Sri Lanka in person?

A: They demand Eelam in English. Some can't even speak in their mother tongue. That is the funny part. These children are from countries, such as Canada and France. They are not even Sri Lankan citizens. We must realise that there is a huge business behind this call. Internal conflicts are created to sell weapons. It's a vicious circle. Neoliberals target Latin American countries, African countries and other third world countries. There is enough evidence to prove this - Wikileaks, Edward Snowden, to name a few. What is there to say more, when the US was caught up eavesdropping on German chancellor Angela Merkel? These imperialistic policies are a serious threat to world peace.

Q: How did you learn to speak fluently in Sinhala?

A: I can speak and understand several languages, such as Russian, German, French, Italian and Dutch. Learning languages is my passion. My father could speak English and Sinhala fluently in addition to Tamil. As a youth, I liked to listen to other languages and imitate their accents. I know that way I can be more close to them. As Nelson Mandela said, "If you talk to a man in a language he can understand, it goes to his head. If you talk to a man in his mother tongue, it goes to his heart."

I have shown that I can get to their hearts. When I travel to the South, the people are so friendly towards me. They recognise me, speak to me and praise my efforts. I hope to carry on my work and serve the poorest, marginalised people in my area.



Defence Secretary General (Rtd) Kamal Gunaratne presents a copy of the Sri Lanka Air Force's 70th anniversary publication, *Glory of Iron Wings* to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Air Force Commander Air Marshal Sudharsana Pathirana looks on.

Book Review

Overall focus into uncharted territory

NAME: *GLORY OF IRON WINGS*

REVIEWED BY GEORGE

I. H. COOKE

March 2021 marks the 70th anniversary of the Sri Lanka Air Force, and the milestone is being commemorated with numerous activities and events aimed at creating greater understanding of the SLAF, its contribution thus far and importantly, its potential.

While milestones are a natural occurrence with the passage of time, they are crucial as they offer platforms for invigorated review of that which has been, understanding of the present, and provide opportunities to explore what will be for the future. This anniversary comes at a critical juncture in global affairs as countries look to secure their air connectivity and capabilities in the midst of a pandemic.

Among the national commemorations for the 70th anniversary is the launch of *Glory of Iron Wings*, scripted by officers of the SLAF examining the trajectory of the Force and encompassing all that it has achieved.

The book lays out the journey from 1951 onwards but initially provides reflection on our first Easter Sunday attack in 1942. The Japanese, to tilt the World War in its favour, attacked the island sending shock waves across society as a hitherto international conflict hit hard within the country. Identified as the 'most dangerous moment in the Second World War' by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, those attacks on Ceylon served to highlight the relevance of the island not just in the Indian Ocean but in global affairs, owing to the impact it would have had if the attacks were not repulsed effectively.

Such concern remained paramount for the first Prime Minister and Defence Minister of Ceylon, D. S. Senanayake and fashioned his thinking and policy formulation. The need for establishing an Air Force in those initial years saw its founding in 1951.

The book discusses the initial period where the gradual process of development occurred within the Force over two decades until 1971, when it was called upon to assist in the operational aspect of thwarting the insurrection of that year.

This has been identified as the first paradigm shift of the Force which transformed again from the mid 1980s into the 1990s marking the second such shift. The next decade and a half, till 2001 is classified as the third paradigm shift wherein an internationally brokered ceasefire came into operation but the situation remained relatively fragile.

The fourth paradigm weaves in synergy in air power where it was harvested to ensure a triumphant counter terrorism mechanism, while the fifth paradigm shift occurs in the contemporary period as national security is strengthened and cross domain operations have become the key component.

The anniversary publication, thereafter, strategises for the future with analysis on air diplomacy, and means through which air power can be used for the preservation of peace and security. Seen as the sixth paradigm shift, this chapter explores the potential of the SLAF in the greater defence of the country and its air space.

The last chapter examines prospects of progressing from air power to aerospace power. This encompasses the true essence of a 21st century Air Force ready to meet the challenges ahead through collective and well constructed policies.

The publication becomes essential reading for two specific reasons. First, it provides a detailed overview of the Air Force and its seven decade flight. Second, it gives Sri Lankans a deep sense of satisfaction that an integral component of the nation's defence mechanism is writing the narrative from a defence perspective, and taking the overall focus into uncharted territory.

Herein is the rationale for this publication. Long after the air shows are completed and the commemorative events conclude, the publication will remain a beacon of the SLAF at its 70th anniversary and serve as an example of how Sri Lankans have to write the Sri Lankan story.

The publication is another signal that the time for strategising is here and now. While it is continuously claimed that Sri Lanka possesses immense potential, the rhetoric alone is not sufficient.

The country as a whole needs to write its own narrative, review its progress, discuss its challenges and find means to address and overcome such obstacles.

For a country possessing huge potential in a plethora of spheres, the need of the hour is strategy for the next 25 to 50 years. A critical lesson from other countries is that they strategised and achieved what they have within specified periods with innovative and often indigenous policies.

Sri Lanka stands at a juncture where the narrative has to be scripted within the island. At the beginning of the third decade of the 21st century, it is imperative that Lankans know where we want to be in a decades' time, and at our centenary anniversary in 2048.

This can be done through concerted policy formulation. An integral module of that policy formulation is knowledge of the journey and we must write our own narrative rather than responding to narratives emanating from elsewhere, which are naturally biased and prejudiced to circumstances and situations overseas, rather than reflective of that which occurs in the island nation. A key milestone for the Sri Lanka Air Force is upon us, and a noteworthy publication has been launched. May *Glory of Iron Wings* serve as a reminder that strategising must always be done if Sri Lanka is to take her rightful place among emerging nations.

OBITUARY



WEERATUNGA, CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS

26 July 1946 to 1 January 2021

Beloved husband of Upeksha, father to Vajira, Anushka and Eranga.

Father in law to Jayanika, loving grandfather to Tanudi and Methuka, all of Sydney, Australia.

Youngest brother to Indra, Grace and Lakdasa, all of Sri Lanka.

Brother in law to Kapila Ratnayake all of Sydney, Australia.

Funeral took place on Wednesday 6th of January 2021 in Sydney, Australia.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT



18

25

12

02

1951

2021

WEEDIYA BANDARA SENARATH EKANAYAKE (PŪSA)

Distinguished Old Boy of Trinity College & Dharmaraja College, Kandy

Loving son of late W.B. & Sama Kumarihamy Ekanayake, beloved husband of Geetha Ekanayake, precious father of Maneka (Australia), Buwaneka (Australia) and Rahula (Commercial Bank), father-in-law of Sampath Howpe Liyanage (Australia) and Sanohala Ekanayake (née Wickramasinghe), (Ceylon Cold Stores), loving brother of Sidath, Parakrama, Savithri Perera & Samudra Ratnayake, brother-in-law of K.P. Ratnayake, Mala Ekanayake, Siri Perera, late Anandi Ekanayake (nee De Silva) and A.H. Iranganie, loving grandfather of Alden and Ayaan Howpe Liyanage and Ayana Ekanayake,

Passed away on Thursday, 25th February at Teldeniya Base Hospital and Cremation took place on 26th February 2021 at Balagolla General Cemetery.

May He attain the Supreme Bliss of Nibbana!

No. 3B/26, National Housing Scheme, Aruppola, Kandy

Women face...

Continued from page 11

"This Parliamentary Select Committee was active during the time when Minister Chamal Rajapaksa was the Speaker of Parliament. Therefore, this is not something new. But for some reason this was not active in the past couple of years and issues of women have not also been addressed properly," she said.

Besides, this move is another display of unity among female parliamentarians despite their different political ideologies.

The WPC stood together and even called a press briefing urging the protection of rights and job security of Bimshani Jasir Arachchi, who was recently promoted as the first female Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police. Following the voice raised by the WPC, the subject Minister Sarath Weerasekera also criticised the irrational behaviour of male police officers towards the promotion of DIG Jasir Arachchi.

"There are so many Bimshanis in this country" MP Wijerathna said. A school teacher turned poli-

tician, Wijerathna believes that educational qualifications and skills have to be the only requirements for anyone to climb the ladder of professional success.

"If gender becomes a detrimental factor when selecting someone for a higher position, it is nothing but the act of a savage. Therefore, I am glad in a way that the incident of DIG Jasir Arachchi came out, as it created a good platform to talk about the issues of the women," she said.

Asked about the possibility of the SPSC overseeing the work of the National Committee on Women and Women's Bureau, the State Minister Arambepola said, "There are so many Parliamentary Select Committees, currently in place. We are not anticipating interference into the matters of such institutions. Instead we wish to stimulate them with our findings and actions." "We do not want this to be yet another committee in Parliament. We will continuously follow the progress, until resolutions are made," she said.

Mars: Perseverance rover begins exploration

The US space agency's Perseverance rover has wiggled its wheels and undertaken its first Martian drive.

It didn't move far - just 6.5m (21ft) in total. But Nasa's deputy project scientist Katie Stack Morgan said it was a significant moment. -BBC

Obituaries

SOMASEGARAM - Dr. SANDRASEGARAM - (Retired R.M.P.) - Beloved husband of Ivy Indraneer (nee Asbury), loving father of Jeevana Joseph, Christina Jebanesan (UK), loving father-in-law of Praveen Joseph, Daniel Jebanesan (UK), precious grandfather of Iroshika, Jeremy (UK), Jerusha & Jensen (UK), entered rest. Remains will lie at **Mahinda Funeral Parlour, Mt. Lavinia** on 10/03/2021 from 9.00 a.m. (to 7.00 p.m.) and the funeral service will be held at the parlour on 11/03/2021 at 3.00 p.m. (Contact Tel: # 0112501735). 018416



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SPORTS

Foreign experts hit gold mines in Sri Lanka

BY CALLISTUS DAVY

Pundits, experts and saviours are continuing to pick Sri Lanka's riches by way of millions in dollars as the country's heavily exposed and criticised cricket administration tries desperately to save face by enticing yet another fortune seeking foreigner to put things right.

Australian Tom Moody has become the latest overseas pundit to cash in on the island's multi-million dollar cricket industry and earn a sum of USD 576,000 equivalent to Rs. 106 million, a massive amount by Sri Lanka's living standards while its own experts who conquered the pinnacle of cricket in 1996 are not entitled to even half the value.

But Sri Lanka Cricket defended the entry of yet another foreigner into the alien club describing it as invaluable in the country's march into the future.

"Tom Moody (Director of Cricket) will meet our key objectives and yes it will cost us a tidy sum", said Sri Lanka Cricket secretary Mohan de Silva.



Tom Moody arrives in Sri Lanka

Under the terms and conditions of his contract Moody will have to be available for 320 days covering a period of three years as some of his tasks will be to prepare cricketers domestically for international deployment and uplift coaching.

He comes after some of the top-

shelf Sri Lankan coaches and experts left the country over the past 20 years in either disgust unable to abide by political dictates or like prophets not welcome in their own country but snapped up by overseas markets.

Among them were ex-Sri Lanka

players Duleep Mendis, Roy Dias, Bandula Warnapura, Ramesh Ratnayake, Champaka Ramanayake, Ruwan Kalpage and the last Naveed Nawaz who pulled off a world shocker when under his coaching guidance Bangladesh became Under-19 world champs in 2019 while a little known club cricketer Carlton Bernadus set up what was to become that country's cradle or academy from which came a string of professionals who paved the way for greatness.

The irony now is that a newly installed Cricket Committee to advise on decision making has been unable to tackle or take up local challenges and given its nod to continue with foreign solutions that have been associated with a past or present that Sri Lankan followers had and have very little to brag about.

It also contrasts with the powerhouse of world cricket, India, who have reached the top in world rankings thanks to its dependence on home expertise with ex-allrounder Ravi Shastri playing the lead role as mentor and head coach.

Cricket club urges Minister to appoint Interim Committee

One of Sri Lanka Cricket's stakeholders, Colts Cricket Club, has petitioned Sports Minister Nimal Rajapaksa to appoint an Interim Committee to run the affairs of the sport until the election of office bearers on May 20 saying the current administration had ended its two-year mandate in February 2021.

"It is manifestly evident that the office bearers of Sri Lanka Cricket are elected to hold office for a period of two years and not more.

"Thereby the office bearers of Sri Lanka Cricket elected on February 21, 2019 expired on February

21, 2021 and are not legally entitled to hold office," Colts president Nishantha Ratanunga has said in a letter to Minister Rajapaksa.

"We kindly urge you to exercise your discretion vested under section 32 of the Sports Law of 1973 and suspend the registration of Sri Lanka Cricket until the election is concluded in May, 2021 and under the powers vested under Section 33 of the Sports Law appoint an Interim Committee to carry out the duties and functions of Sri Lanka Cricket and thereby ensure the smooth and lawful functioning of Sri Lanka Cricket," the latter further stated.

Six players to rejoin Test squad in Caribbean

Six players, Lahiru Thirimanne, Dhananjaya de Silva, Vishwa Fernando, Lasith Embuldeniya, Roshen Silva and Dasun Shanaka will join the Sri Lanka squad for the two-Test series against the West Indies scheduled to begin later this month.

Dhananjaya was under rehabilitation after pulling a hamstring injury in the first Test against South

Africa last December and rejoins the Test team.

Thirimanne, Embuldeniya, Dasun Shanaka and Vishwa Fernando played in Sri Lanka's last Test series against England while Roshen Fernando who was recalled did not play any part in the two Test matches.

Sri Lanka will play the first of two Tests against the West Indies starting on March 21 in Antigua. (AN)

Colombo FC favoured over Sea Hawks

Sea Hawks will confront Colombo FC while Ratnam will take on Defenders in their Pre-League tournament football matches scheduled to kickoff at the Sugathadasa Stadium today commencing 5 pm.

Colombo FC after two comprehensive wins in this competition so far will go out as strong contenders to win the game having raised their morale by defeating the star-studded Up Country Lions last week 3-1.

Sea Hawks are yet to make amends in this tournament although coming close to winning

their curtain raiser which ended in a draw.

Ratnam after a 2-0 win over Blue Star last week are tipped to be the favourites to win this game with a mix of foreign and young talented local players in their ranks.

Their rivals Defenders drew their last week's fixture against Red Star after the curtain raiser match was canceled due to an official and two players of their opponent Renown tested positive for Covid-19.

Today's match will be a tough encounter for them but nevertheless they are capable of turning tables. (AN)

Air Force cycle race today

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

The 22nd 'Guwan Hamuda Papedi Sawariya' cycle race will be flagged off today (7) and at the Air Force Headquarters in Colombo.

It will cover approximately 160 kms while the women's race will start from the Air Force Trade Training School in Ekala to cover a distance of 76 kms. The race is scheduled to finish at Katunayake (20 km junction).

Air Force is conducting this event, as part of their 70th anniversary celebrations. It will have the elite riders from all clubs affiliated to the Sri Lanka Cycling Federation, competing for honours.

Over 100 male and 30 female rid-

ers, including many with Sri Lankan national rankings are expected to compete.

SLT-Mobitel is the principal sponsor of the 'Guwan Hamuda Papedi Sawariya'.

Individual winners and runners-up of the men's race are to receive Rs. 250,000, Rs. 150,000 and Rs. 75,000 respectively and the overall Sprint Champion will be awarded Rs. 20,000.

The winner of the women's race will walk away with Rs. 100,000. The Team championship prizes will be Rs. 100,000 to the winners and the runners-up prize is Rs. 75,000 with the overall young champion rider to get Rs. 25,000 according to the organisers.

India enter world Test championship final

AHMEDABAD AFP: India crushed England by an innings and 25 runs inside three days on Saturday to win the fourth Test and seal their series 3-1.

Spinners Axar Patel and Ravichandran Ashwin claimed all 10 wickets to dismiss England for 135 in their second innings in Ahmedabad as Dan Lawrence made 50.

England fell for 205 on day one with India replying with 365.

Virat Kohli's India bounced back from an opening defeat to win

three in a row and book their meeting with New Zealand in the World Test Championship final at Lord's in June.

SCORES:

England: 205 and 135 (Joe Root 30, Dan Lawrence 50, Axar Patel 5/48, Ravi Ashwin 5/47)

India: 294/7 overnight 365 (Rishabh Pant 101, Washington Sundar 96 n.o., Axar Patel 43, James Anderson 3/44, Ben Stokes 4/89, Jack Leach 2/89)

Rowing Nationals next week

The National Rowing Championships is scheduled to be held on March 12 and 13 at the Diyawanna Rowing Centre in Battaramulla.

The Championship is being held

in collaboration with the Amateur Rowing Association of Sri Lanka (ARASL) with SLT-Mobitel coming in as the sponsor to empower the young athletes. As most of the rowing enthu-

siasts hail from schools, universities, sports clubs and the armed forces, heats will be held under the categories of Under-14, 16, 18, intermediate and Open.



From left: Rohana Ellawala (Deputy Chief Marketing officer, SLT), Chandika Vitharana (Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mobitel), Dimuth Gunawardena (President ARASL), Sithira Wickremasekera (VP ARASL) and Pasan Ranaweera (Sect. ARASL) at the sponsorship presentation

Two Royalists to clash in U-14 tennis final



Methvan Wijemanne

Methvan Wijemanne and Tharuk Marasinghe set up a final showdown in the Boys' Under-14 Singles when they recorded convincing victories in their respective semi-finals of the SSC Open Tennis Tournament which continued at the SSC Courts at Maitland Place yesterday.

Wijemanne, the schoolboy from Royal College cruised to a rousing 6-1, 6-2 victory over Sandas Usgodaarachchi while his schoolmate Marasinghe registered a smashing 6-3, 6-2 win over Lisal Goonetilleke.

THE RESULTS:

Boys' Under-14 semi-finals:

Methvan Wijemanne beat Sandas Usgodaarachchi 6-1, 6-2. Tharuk Marasinghe beat Lisal Goonetilleke 6-3, 6-2.

Men's Doubles semi-finals:

Sanka Athukorala and Yasith de Silva beat Nishendran Sivendran and Michael Siyaguna 6-1, 6-1. Dineshkanthan Thangarajah and Gayanga Weerasekera beat Chehan Fernando and Rostom Ali 7-6 (1), 3-6, 10-3.



Tharuk Marasinghe

SLC T/20 inter club championship

Army SC win comprehensively, Police shock SSC

Army SC faced little opposition when they routed Navy SC by nine wickets in their T/20 cricket tournament encounter played at FTZ ground yesterday.

Navy SC: 85 in 19.5 overs (Chanaka Ruwansiri 30, Janith Silva 4/10, Maheesh Theekshana 2/9)

Army SC: 87 for 1 in 11.4 overs (Ashan Randika 44, Pathum Dilshan 30)

Police SC win

Police SC also came up with a superb display to beat SSC by three wickets at Colts ground.

SSC: 122 in 19.3 overs (Sammu Ashan 44, Tharindu Ratnayake 20, Sujana Mayura 2/24, Danal Hemananda 3/21, Aseel Siger 2/29, Lahiru Diyantha 2/15)

Police SC: 123/7 in 20 overs (Shehan Fernando 34, Maduranga Zoysa 37, Himesh Ramanayake 2/25)

CCC win

CCC managed to beat Nugegoda SWC by a narrow eight runs at the SSC ground.

CCC: 160/9 in 20 overs (Minod Bhanuka 34, Ashan Priyanjan 39, Lasith Abeyratne 22, Pawantha Weerasinghe 25 n.o., (M Jalil 2/17)

Nugegoda SWC: 152 for 4 in 20 overs (Minhaj Jalil 22, Umesh Karunaratne 38, Pramud Hettiwatte 41 n.o., Muditha Lakshan 24 n.o., Lahiru Gamage 2/36)

Lankan CC by two runs

Lankan CC came up anxiously to beat Colts by an exciting two runs at the Sara Oval.

Lankan CC: 164/4 in 20 overs (Vishva Chathuranga 30, Harsha Cooray 65, Saliya Saman 32, Rohan Sanjaya 2/14)

Colts: 162 in 20 overs (Sangeeth Cooray 24, Priyama Perera 41, Jehan Daniel 25, Kavishka Anjula 36, Roshan Jayatissa 3/27, Keshan Wijeratne 3/30)

Open snooker begins in Kandy

BY UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA
-KANDY SPORTS SPL. CORR)

An Open snooker tournament organized by the Sri Lanka Billiard and Snooker Association commenced at the Kandy Club parlor and at the YMBA yesterday.

Results on the first day's play. (First Round Matches)

- M. Azeem (PSP) beat M. Naushan (PSP) 2-0
- M. Dharnish (PSP) beat G. Kavishka (PSP) 2-0
- M. Shiyad (PSP) beat M. Mashood (PSP) 2-1
- Anjana Vithanage (YMBA) beat Sampath Perera (PSP) 2-1
- M. Ashif (PSP) beat D. Samarakoon (PSP) 2-0
- M. Bashif (PSP) beat M. Munsi (PSP) 2-0
- C. Clement (PSP) beat K. Hussain (PSP) 2-1
- M. Ekanayake (Pyramid Snooker Parlor) w/o to B. Watupola (YMBA)
- M. Mudashir (PSP) w/o to U. Gangadatenna (YMBA)
- H.M. Gunasekera (YMBA) w/o M. Jameel (PSP)

Second round matches will take place today.

Tough times ahead for Sri Lankan athletes

BY TB RAHAMAN

Sri Lanka Athletics (SLA) will conduct trials once again to kick off the calendar year from April 8 to 10 that will be limited to a selected group just as it was done for the National Championships.

However, SLA will consider those deserving athletes who appeal for entry unable to make the cut.

These trials will offer a chance for athletes to be selected for the Tokyo Olympic Games by achieving direct qualification standard or by increasing their present world rankings through a good performance.

The trials will also be used to evaluate the present elite and national pool athletes and a team will be selected to compete at the World Athletics Relay championship to be



Nilani Ratnayake

held in Poland on May 1, 2.

Maj. Gen. Palitha Fernando president of SLA said that they will send three relay teams to Poland as all top eight teams at the World Athletic Relay Championship will get direct entry to the Olympics.

Sri Lanka hopes to send the men's 4x400 and 4x400 mixed relay teams, 4x800 women's team as the island has three women 800m runners who are within the top five in Asia.

But the 4x800m relay is not included in the Olympic schedule.

Fernando hopes to conduct the national athletic championships from May 20 to 23 at the Sugathadasa Stadium open to any athlete.

Presently only 3000m steeple-

chase runner Nilani Ratnayake is within the qualification quota for the Olympics judging from her world rankings.

Cancellation of the Asian Athletics championship which was set to be held from May 20-23, 2021 is certain to hinder the chances of Sri Lanka's top athletes' from enhancing their world rankings.

The Asian meet is recognized high in the world athletics category where an athlete can earn higher bonus points to their rankings.

Now Sri Lanka athletes will have to ensure that they perform at their best in April and May to at least stand a chance to get the nod for the Olympics.



National Convention on Quality and Productivity 2020

“National Prosperity through World Class Quality and Productivity”

Organized by the
Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Quality and Productivity (SLAAQP)



Mr. Anusha Palpita
Hon. Secretary to the Minister of Industry & Commerce

It gives me great pleasure to send this message to the National Convention of Quality and Productivity 2020, organized by the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Quality and Productivity (SLAAQP).

Improvement of quality and productivity is an area of immense importance to any organization to achieve excellence. Concepts such as Lean, Six Sigma, Quality Circles play a major role to align the members in the organizations towards this. SLAAQP made a significant contribution to organizations by motivating employees to release their collective effort & knowledge to achieve organizational objectives by creating such a national platform; “National Convention on Quality and Productivity” for floor level employees to showcase their success stories.

I am indeed delighted to get involved with the National Convention of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Quality and Productivity (SLAAQP) as this is one of the key areas that the Ministry of Industries and Commerce can focus and support for the success of Sri Lankan industries. I wish this convention a success.



Prof. Kapila Perera
Hon. Secretary to the Minister of Education

SLAAQP is an organisation comprising of professional volunteers who must be commended for the effort they have put in to persuade a large number of teams to participate at this time of difficulty for everyone. The competition and convention are educational programmes and is an opportunity for knowledge sharing in their own establishments and also among the competing organisations.

Quality and Productivity go hand in hand and for our nation to prosper there is no other way but to promote Productivity at every juncture including the public sector. All education and training programmes must embed quality in order that they advance continuously. This will in turn support the strengthening of the knowledge base in Sri Lanka and to use them in relevant applications to enhance Productivity.

SLAAQP undertakes a school’s programme to instil the notion of Quality among school children which is the starting point of a Quality Education. I take this opportunity to congratulate the winners of awards and the organisers of the Convention for a job well done.



Message from the President

Quality & Productivity are the two keys to any nation for their prosperity. Its importance has increased more than ever with the Covid-19 pandemic. SLAAQP, as the premier organization nurturing World-Class Excellence in Quality and Productivity in Sri Lanka, provided this National platform by overcoming all the threats created by this pandemic environment.

While wishing the NCQP 2020 all the success, I convey my gratitude to the management of participating companies and supporting organizations, team members, SLAAQP council, and the members for the hardships they faced for the successful convention.

Together we all make our motherland better.

Mr. W.A.A.N. Weeratunga
President, SLAAQP

About SLAAQP

The Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Quality and Productivity (SLAAQP) which organized this event is a not for profit organization comprising of professionals contributing their time and expertise to a gallant cause of enhancing quality and productivity in the nation. It was founded in 1996 as the successor to the Quality Circle Association that was established in 1987. Driving its vision to be the premier organization nurturing world class excellence in quality and productivity in Sri Lanka, it is dedicated to build competencies and promote practice of quality and productivity concepts and techniques in organizations with a view to inculcate a quality and productivity culture in the society. Other strategic annual events of the Association are 5S conventions, training programmes on Lean and Six Sigma, Total Quality Management, Green Productivity. The Association conducts public seminars, tailor made courses and in house training programmes as a service to the industry and public.

SLAAQP Council 2020/21



Seated from L to R: Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe, Dr. Sakunthala Durairatnam, Mr. P. G. Tennakoon, Mr. Ajith Weeratunga, Mrs. Medhani Somasinghe, Mr. Namal Dharmarathne, Ms. Surani Dias, Dr. Nirmali De Silva, Mr. Wipul Kularathne,
Standing from L to R: Mr. Dumindu Ranaweera, Dr. Karthika Kathiresan, Mr. Gamini Dharmawardana, Mrs. Sakunthala Goonethilleke, Mr. Uditha Senaratne, Mr. Bannet Gamalath, Mrs. Ruwani Senevirathne, Mr. Hemantha Weerakoon, Mr. Jude Fernando, Mr. Dharshana Lalchandra
Absent: Mr. Premalal Pathirana, Mr. Sajeewa Ranasinghe

Program Summary

Session 1	9th March 2021 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Chief Guest	Mr. Anusha Palpita Hon. Secretary to the Minister of Industry & Commerce, The Ministry of Industry & Commerce
Guest of Honour	Mr. Peter D’Almeida Actor & Managing Director/CEO at N*able
Guest Speech	“නන්දවිලය හා ඵලදායිතා ආකල්ප මනස තුළ රෝපණය කිරීමේදී කලාකරුවාගේ කාර්යභාරය (The role of the artist in inculcating Quality & Productivity mindset in
Special Guest	Ms. Parami Ranasinghe TV Presenter & Voice artist at National television of Sri Lanka

Session 2	9th March 2021 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.
Chief Guest	Mr. Jagath P. Wijeweera Hon. Secretary to the Minister of Mass Media, The Ministry of Mass Media
Guest of Honour	Mr. Edward Jayakody Sri Lankan musician, singer, and composer
Guest Speech	“නන්දවිලය හා ඵලදායිතා ආකල්ප මනස තුළ රෝපණය කිරීමේදී ජනමාධ්‍යයේ කාර්යභාරය (The role of the media in inculcating Quality & Productivity mindset in the society)” by Mr. Jagath P. Wijeweera
Special Guest	Ms. Charitha Priyadharshani Sri Lankan musician, singer, and composer

Session 3	10th March 2021 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Chief Guest	Mr. Dilith Jayaweera Chairman, George Steuart Group & Derana
Guest of Honour	Mr. Pramodya Wickramasinghe Sri Lankan Cricketer
Guest Speech	“නන්දවිලය හා ඵලදායිතා ආකල්ප මනස තුළ රෝපණය කිරීම සමාජීය වගකීමක් ලෙස (Inculcating Quality & Productivity mindset as a Social Responsibility)” by Mr. Dilith Jayaweera
Special Guest	Mr. Sajeewa De Silva Sri Lankan Cricketer

Session 4	10th March 2021 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.
Chief Guest	Prof. Kapila Perera Hon. Secretary to the Minister of Education, Ministry of Education
Guest of Honour	Prof. Prathiba Mahanamahewa Department of Commercial Law, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo
Guest Speech	“පාසැල් අධ්‍යාපනය තුළින් නන්දවිලය හා ඵලදායිතා ආකල්ප මනස තුළ රෝපණය කිරීමේ වැදගත්කම (The importance of Inculcating Quality & Productivity concepts through school education)” by Prof. Kapila Perera
Special Guest	Ms. Indika Upamali Head of Department, The Department of Applied Music & Mass Communication, The University of Visual & Performing Arts



Mr. Jagath P. Wijeweera
Hon. Secretary to the Minister of Mass Media

It gives me profound pleasure to issue this message at the award ceremony of the National Convention on Quality and Productivity (NCQP) 2020 of SLAAQP.

The National Convention is an event that creates a national platform for employees in organizations to showcase their success stories and share their knowledge with counterparts.

The Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Quality and Productivity (SLAAQP) do enormous contribution by developing employees and motivating them to use their knowledge & experience to achieve organizational objectives. The theme of the convention, “National Prosperity through World Class Quality and Productivity” is well aligned with the present requirement of our motherland and the prime responsibility of the current generation.

I am delighted to get involved with the National Convention of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Quality and Productivity (SLAAQP) as the possible contribution of Mass Media to inculcate quality and productivity mindset in our Nation.

I wish every success in National Convention on Quality and Productivity (NCQP) 2020.



Mr. Dilith Jayaweera
Chairman, George Steuart Group & Derana

I am happy to send greetings to SLAAQP on the occasion of the NCQP-2020 which has been held with the participation of a large number of teams this year. Despite the lockdowns and health related guidelines and restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, SLAAQP has conducted the programme to satisfy the most important group in a company that work behind the scenes.

Participants in this competition form the backbone of the organisations. The companies cannot work without them. They bring the much-needed revenue and profit to the companies. We must use this opportunity to recognise their efforts to improve Productivity.

At this very difficult time for businesses, I am delighted to learn that several Sri Lankan companies have been keeping the momentum going with a positive attitude to succeed and to grow from strength to strength.

I wish to thank the organisers of the event and wish to congratulate the award winners of the convention.



Message from the Chairman, NCQP 2020 Organizing Committee

It gives me great pleasure and I am privileged to write this message to the National Convention on Quality & Productivity, 2020.

NCQP provides a platform to showcase the improvement projects implemented by the grass-roots level employees that contribute towards increasing productivity and the revenue earned. They use the “Quality Circle” concept, which is a magical tool that can transform ordinary employees into competent leaders and transform groups into productive teams resulting in continual improvement while working in a pleasant environment.

I consider that accomplishing NCQP-2020 with the participation of 249 teams amidst enormous challenges and uncertainties due to the Covid 19 pandemic is a great victory for SLAAQP. It was truly a mammoth task to put together an event of this scale.

I wish National Convention on Quality and Productivity 2020 every success.

Mr. Namal Dharmarathne
Vice President, SLAAQP

About NCQP

The Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Quality and Productivity (SLAAQP) which organized this event is a not for profit organization comprising of professionals contributing their time and expertise to a gallant cause of enhancing quality and productivity in the nation. It was founded in 1996 as the successor to the Quality Circle Association that was established in 1987. Driving its vision to be the premier organization nurturing world class excellence in quality and productivity in Sri Lanka, it is dedicated to build competencies and promote practice of quality and productivity concepts and techniques in organizations with a view to inculcate a quality and productivity culture in the society. Other strategic annual events of the Association are 5S conventions, training programmes on Lean and Six Sigma, Total Quality Management, Green Productivity. The Association conducts public seminars, tailor made courses and in house training programmes as a service to the industry and public.

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Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Quality and Productivity (SLAAQP)

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MARCH 7, 2021

Mathews flops again as Sri Lanka bank on young crop to beat Windies

The most highly paid player in the Sri Lanka team Angelo Mathews failed once again as newcomer batsman Pathum Nissanka and the highly skilled all-rounder Wanindu Hasaranga de Silva took centre stage in a 43-run win over the West Indies in the second T20 International at St. George's, Antigua yesterday to level the three-match series 1-1.

Opener Nissanka (37) starred in a 95-run stand with Dhanushka Gunathilaka (56) while Hasaranga chipped in with 19 and then plucked three important wickets while fellow spinner Lakshan San-

dakan had the scalp of power hitter Kieron Pollard who smashed Akila Dananjaya for six sixes in one over in the first match.

Pollard made just 13. Sri Lanka in turn successfully defended a total of 160 but the selection of Mathews to play in the most demanding form of limited overs cricket raised many questions after he had an appallingly poor series in last December's T20 Lanka Premier League (LPL).

He made just 13 runs after contributing five runs in the opener as the team's think tanks continue to go by seniority and

names, a concept which is firmly rooted in Sri Lanka culture. Mathews was also clobbered for 19 runs in one over when he opened the bowling in the first match.

But Hasaranga continued to be the prized player he is by way of white ball consistency so far as he finished with figures of 3 for 17 that prevented the home team from going after the bowlers.

The West Indies were never able to threaten the Sri Lankans in the run chase as they lost wickets at regular intervals to be all out for 117 in the 19th over.

"The wicket was a bit slow. I tried not to give away any boundaries. That's why I was able to bowl well," man-of-the-match Hasaranga said at the post-match presentation.

The West Indies were 45 for 1 before they lost five wickets for 21 runs and never recovered.

The win by Sri Lanka brought to an end a string of eight defeats in T20 Internationals.

The series deciding match is on Sunday after which the two teams will play in a three-match ODI series before moving into the final two-Test series.

SCORES:

Sri Lanka: 160/6 in 20 overs (Dhanushka Gunathilaka 56, Pathum Nissanka 37, Angelo Mathews 13, Ashen Bandara 21, Hasaranga de Silva 19 n.o. Dwayne Bravo 2/25)

West Indies: 117 in 18.4 overs (Lendl Simmons 21, Chris Gayle 16, Obed McCoy 23, Dushmantha Chameera 2/26, Hasaranga de Silva 3/17, Lakshan Sandakan 3/10)



Hasaranga de Silva is congratulated by his teammates

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The humanitarian mission (Pic: Rukmal Gamage)

WE NEED IT, NOT THE UN OR THE WEST

Local heritage-based peacebuilding model for Lanka vital

By
Frances Bulathsinghala



Although the history of peace-making is as old as the history of conflict which has gripped man, the term 'peacebuilding' which is a buzzword in Western NGOs, was first created in 1975 by Norwegian sociologist Johan Galtung. It appeared first in his pioneering work "Three Approaches to Peace: Peacekeeping, Peacemaking and Peacebuilding."

In this approach, he attempted to systemise the route of achieving a lasting peace within societies. It is because of Galtung that we have universities across the world teaching the subject of 'Peace and conflict'. Many of these universities are, however, in modern Western nations which established themselves upon the bones of old civilisations, destroying lives, cultures and heritage and still have no qualms about preaching justice and equality to others in this age where the cloak of power seems to coexist with an unfathomable and non-rational self-righteousness.

Having covered Sri Lanka's peace process from 2002 to 2005 as a journalist for the *Sunday Observer* and as correspondent for several South Asian publications, interacting with those involved in Sri Lanka's 30-year old battle against terrorism and having worked in the peace building training with foreign and local stakeholders and independently researching into post-conflict reconciliation, a conclusion I have arrived at alongside my personal journey towards spirituality, is that a subject, such as peace building cannot be learnt or taught in classrooms or training sessions.

Accountability

In similar vein, I have learnt that accountability of a battle in the country cannot be judged by outsiders who have little emotional link with civilisations, such as Sri Lanka, who themselves have waged and still wage war and use their own justifications to do so and are not held 'accountable'.

Human prejudice, love, compassion, hate and forgiveness are a vast paradoxical tapestry that exists in the heart of every saint and every terrorist and anyone falling between these two categories. Hence, let me approach this topic from a human dimension and not a political one, having no political affiliation or agendas and having maintained an impartial objectivity in writings on matters of war and peace and every other matter.

Historically, the word 'Sinhala civilisation' was used to collectively encompass anyone who arrived in the land from any location. Historians have written on how, for example, the

Muslim traders who arrived in Sri Lanka and decided to settle here became entrenched in this civilisation and were patrons of Buddhism; one of the healthiest sciences for the mind.

However, for the concept of a Sinhala civilisation to work, especially, in the neo-liberal context, it is essential that Buddhism is put into practice in every sphere of public policy and its fruits would be self evident. Sri Lanka could have used the past 12 years to usher in a peace building model unattached to the Western apron strings. Sri Lanka needs to showcase to its people and the world the examples where at the height of the battle against terrorism, security officials had won the trust of the Tamil people even at the risk of death by the LTTE.

Sri Lanka's Security Forces are one of the most disciplined in the world. We did not have an army running amok raping women and creating havoc when they took over Jaffna in 1995 or in the last phase of the battle against terrorism in 2009. Any Northern Tamil citizen would agree this is so although this image was falsely created by outsiders with vested interest. We have lacked a coherent strategy to counter this.

LTTE's ruse

The LTTE wanted errors in judgment in attacks, such as air raids. This is why they surrounded their opulent headquarters with civilians in shacks right round- they did this to the end - firing from close to orphanages and portraying the resultant attacks as those by the Security Forces to kill civilians.

The LTTE was shooting at its own people in the last phase of the battle against terrorism. But the Security Forces were popular with the Northern people who were escaping the LTTE held areas during the last phase of the battle with nothing but the clothes on their back and walking for miles without water or food.

I recall listening to the comments of a Colombo-based Tamil dentist who prior to 2009 May was sentimentally pro-LTTE although he had never visited the North, but changed his views soon after a visit to refugee camps. Having listened to his side of the argument every time I visited him in his professional capacity, I was aghast when I heard his views a few months later. Soon after the battle against terrorism, he had been on a voluntary medical camp for the refugees who had arrived from LTTE areas. Every story he had heard from the Tamil people was critical of the LTTE. However, he was annoyed that the foreign media was painting a different picture.

Objectivity is a key to this kind of situations. An objective analysis tells us that Buddhism has to be put into practice to use the concept of loving kindness as a base of a Sri Lanka's model of peace building to ensure that all its citi-

zens inculcate in their hearts a sense of belonging to the nation and will not want to let it down in the eyes of the world. The Tamils, especially prior to the riots which began in the 1950s, possessed an inherent quality of staunch loyalty to the motherland.

Popularity of security personnel

Even at the height of the battle against terrorism, there have been Commanders who were so popular with the people of the North that they were protected by them. A now retired Major General known for his discipline and humanity in an interview revealed how a poosari protected his camp through prayers in gratitude for him for re-building a Hindu temple destroyed in the battle. Incidentally, the camp had been saved despite many attacks.

We are today being preached to by countries whose police officers snap necks of the people in broad daylight on account of their colour, but have no qualms about preaching human rights to countries, such as Sri Lanka whose human rights were first violated to the highest level possible by Western invaders. However, although we are still paying for the divide and rule policy the British instituted here, we cannot blame either the Colonisers or the West for all our problems. We have had 73 years to build our nation the way we want and prevent pettiness and short sightedness to dominate our psyche.

We failed to quell as immediately as we could the anti-Tamil riots such as those of 1956 and 1958, 1977, to prevent the burning of the Jaffna Public Library of 1981 and the 1983 black July riots. If we had prevented these calamities, we could have changed the course of Sri Lanka's history by not allowing an uneducated, power hungry people, such as Velupillai Prabhakaran to turn Tamil citizens into cogs of war machinery. The country needs to welcome unbiased, objective, constructive analyses and criticisms by its citizens. Freedom of expression has to be safeguarded so that policy makers could understand different dimensions of looking at a problem and engage in consultation with the people.

'Peace careerists'

Peacebuilding is an everyday phe-

nomenon; everyone is party to it. It is not the responsibility of a Government alone although a wise government can do much for assisting those who want to promote national reconciliation. For a genuine reconciliation and peacebuilding, the first step could be that we separate it from 'peace careerists' who dot the INGO landscape where a significant number of them is emotionally disconnected with their work. Most of them are there in elitist organisations for the mere earning of money out of peacebuilding and human rights which are lucrative industries for the West, as is the so-called charities for Africa, one of the richest places in the planet portrayed as poor to enable the West to exploit it.

In a battle, human beings die. Those who joined either the Security Forces or the LTTE were not personal enemies of each other. We have not used this reality as strongly as we could have, to bring out to public domain the humane stories emerged in the battle. Below is one such case study.

It is a narrative of a Major. He was from Polonnaruwa and his family, kith and kin had suffered inordinately at the hands of the LTTE, who used to invade their village in the night and kill on sight. The LTTE was known for chopping people to death in border villages. Despite this, the youth, in his 30s, had no hate in his heart, more of a trained trait alongside being from a practising Buddhist family. He was doing an MA in peace studies and was interested in sharing his narrative with me.

Badly hurt

He is hereby quoted verbatim: "I will tell you a story. Stories, such as this, people won't get to hear. There are many accounts, such as this. The incident occurred around 2008, when I was leading my men and the fighting was bad. We knew there were women cadres who were shooting at us. Somehow, after some time, the shooting from their side ceased. We thought there was no one living. Suddenly, we saw a young woman struggling to reach up to her neck. Her gun was not with her. I instructed my men not to shoot. She was wounded. My conscience told me a wounded person without a weapon should not be shot. She was badly hurt.

I could see she feared us and therefore, struggling to reach for the cyanide round her neck. I appealed

her not to do so and not to harm me as I wanted to give her first aid to stem her bleeding so that she could hold on until her people found her. She was weak. As she collapsed, I gave her water and bandaged her arm and kept some water and other provisions with her. We waited for a while and left as we heard the rebels approach. I still think of that incident. I hope she had survived the battle and that she is leading a normal life now."

How many such stories may there be in the minds of youth who became either members of the Security Forces or the LTTE. The Government should look for laying a platform for such voices to be heard to bring forth a sense of collective opportunity for reconciliation.

Peacebuilding should be inculcated as the daily responsibility and duty of the people. It is the responsibility of Government workers, educators, scholars, entrepreneurs, bankers, businessmen, intellectuals, writers, meditators, those given to spirituality, poets, artists, environmentalists - everyone - and need to be accomplished maintaining freedom of mental space so that it is not clouded with Western influence or brainwashing. One of the strongest models of peacebuilding we can use is through local tourism. We can do this through Buddhist temples and Hindu kovils and other diverse links. Hearts and minds are changed through human interaction.

Among my dozens of interviews tracking how people change their views, an interesting one is of a new Colombo-based lawyer in his late 40s, who first came to Colombo, 20 years ago trembling in fear on account of LTTE brainwashing, expecting not to make a single Sinhalese friend. Today, many of his clients are Sinhalese.

He is working on his own volition to bring communities together, closely studying Sinhalese and Tamil cultural commonalities and implementing holistic initiatives. He is also countering the one sided view of the Tamil diaspora.

Unfortunately, we are not producing in our rote learning, ethnic, religion and social class divided education framework people who are thinkers. What we are producing mostly are youth who blindly crave to leave the country for 'foreign education' and become beholden to Western views without being able to decipher them carefully. The first casualty of Sri Lanka's tuition and exam obsessed education sector is its heritage. A peacebuilding, reconciliation and human rights model built outside its heritage is akin to constructing a building with a weak foundation.

Sri Lanka has an ample opportunity to build confidence in a heritage integrated model for peace and human rights. Such a heritage model should give due recognition to Tamil heritage and culture within a Sinhala Buddhist heritage framework. No Sinhalese

who is a Buddhist should be made to feel like a communalist or racist for wanting to assert their Sinhala-Buddhist identity.

Sri Lanka needs to build a genuinely rooted civil society. Now, we have a Colombo dominated elite, top down approach based INGO and NGO sector. Having worked in this sector, the writer is aware that although there are capable and genuine people in the industry and some organisations are doing valuable work, there are others who are consciously or subconsciously pawns of global power-based machinations that use structures set up for international unity and progress for the opposite purpose.

Naseby's report

The unbiased report by Michael Wolfgang Laurence Morris better known as Baron Naseby on Sri Lanka's last stage of the battle against terrorism and relating to the number of civilians killed should be used as needed to strengthen awareness in Sri Lanka and internationally.

Sri Lanka's Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) that was initiated in May 2010, a year after the battle, by the then Government and incorporating those who were notably independent can be capitalised upon and many of its recommendations, which are still relevant followed up on.

There is a need to use the Sri Lankan Human Rights Commission as a body that could be in local and international limelight in promoting human rights in Sri Lanka and supporting peacebuilding strategies.

We as a nation focus on the human right of language access. Although English can be used as a link language, Tamil is an official language as per the Constitution of Sri Lanka and should be respected in every aspect.

It is important that we give an opportunity to Muslims chased at gunpoint by the LTTE from the North to narrate their stories so that former LTTE cadres could understand the sorrow and hardship they had earlier inflicted on these people. The Sinhalese of border villages, who used to sleep in the night in adjoining wilderness to avoid being attacked by the LTTE could be given a chance to speak to former LTTE cadres about what they went through. The possibility of the Security Forces sharing their side of the story could be beneficial for creating lasting bonds with Tamil citizens.

Sri Lanka needs to initiate understanding with its citizens because we need it and not the UN or the West. Such an understanding is essential for us to ease out of the past and move to the future, as a sovereign, independent nation that respects the considerations of all of its citizens, who through unity and a strong patriotic sense contributes to creating a robust economy.

SRI LANKA'S SECURITY FORCES ARE ONE OF THE MOST DISCIPLINED IN THE WORLD. WE DID NOT HAVE AN ARMY RUNNING AMOK RAPING WOMEN AND CREATING HAVOC WHEN THEY TOOK OVER JAFFNA IN 1995 OR IN THE LAST PHASE OF THE BATTLE AGAINST TERRORISM IN 2009. ANY NORTHERN TAMIL CITIZEN WOULD AGREE THIS IS SO ALTHOUGH THIS IMAGE WAS FALSELY CREATED BY OUTSIDERS WITH VESTED INTEREST

Dr. C. G. Urugoda Lecture

History of Forensic Medicine in Sri Lanka

The Dr. C. G. Urugoda Lecture 2021 on the "History of Forensic Medicine in Sri Lanka" to honour the lasting contribution made by Dr. C. G. Urugoda to document the History of Medicine in the country, was delivered by Professor Ravindra Fernando.

Forensic Medicine is the branch of medical sciences where medical knowledge and expertise is applied to the processes of law to assist in the administration of justice.

The word 'Forensic' originates from the Latin word 'forensis' or 'forum'. Forum is a place of assembly for judicial and other business or a place of public discussion. In ancient Rome, this was the market place.

Forensic Medicine deals with all branches of medicine. Knowledge of all medical subjects is essential to practise Forensic Medicine.

Sub-specialties of Forensic Medicine include Forensic Pathology, Forensic Toxicology, Forensic Histopathology, Clinical Forensic Medicine, Forensic Psychiatry, Forensic Toxicology, Forensic Serology, Forensic Odontology, Forensic Anthropology, Forensic Genetics, Forensic Entomology and Forensic Chemistry.

In Sri Lanka, we have seen interesting developments in relation to death investigation system even before the onset of the colonial period.

Death investigation is an age old concept which has its roots extending into all primary civilisations. Sri Lanka is no difference.

According to reliable narrations and descriptions of the ancient history of Ceylon relating to the period of the monarchy, throughout the several kingdoms of ancient Ceylon, there had been a well-defined and structured system of administration of justice, with the King at the helm of affairs as the source of all laws and as the sole judge of the apex court. During the Kandyan Kingdom (1469-1815), in addition to courts and officials, there had also been several tribunals.

Among these tribunals, had been a panel referred to as the *Saakki Balanta* or 'looking for evidence', which had comprised principal public functionaries of the district, such as the Lekam, Korala and the Vidane. It had been empowered to inquire into the cause of death when the body of a dead person was discovered. An analysis of the categories of deaths in respect of which the *Saakki Balanta* was required to inquire into reveals that their role was confined to inquire into 'sudden unnatural death'. *Saakki Balanta* was a 'court of inquiry', and that it was somewhat similar to English Coroner's Courts.

John Davy provides a detailed and interesting account relating to the tribunal called *Saakki Balanta*.

"When a dead body was found, no one should touch it, till it had been examined by the *Sake-ballanta*, not even if the body was hanging, though by cutting it down, suspended animation might possibly be restored. It was the business of these officers to endeavour to ascertain the 'cause of death', and all the circumstances connected with it. In a case of suicide occurring in a village, had the suicide been of sound mind, or subject to temporary fits only of insanity, the *sakki-ballanta* inflicted a fine on the inhabitant of fifty rides (about 29 hillings), which were to be divided between these officers and the Disave. The body could not be burnt or buried till the fine was paid, a heavier fine was imposed on those who allowed a corpse to decay unburied or un-burnt. If the suicide were a confirmed idiot or lunatic, no fine was inflicted."

These historical accounts show the degree of sophistication our ancient indigenous judicial system possessed. It is also evident that, somewhat parallel to the birth of the English Coroner System, in Sri Lanka too, there was a system to collect evidence with a view to determining the cause of death of any person who had come by his death suddenly. This also shows the importance placed even in ancient times, to the need to independently determine the cause of death of a person who had died suddenly.

English Coroner System

The 'Coroner' is known to be a uniquely English institution and is one of the oldest public services. The history of the coroners, originally known as the 'Crowners', dates back to ninth and 10th Century England. They have been formalised in law in the 12th century under King Richard the first, who was known to dispatch coroners to death scenes to protect the crown's interest and collect the duties. Thus, the Coroners or 'crowners' were 'guardians of the crown's pleas'. The office was created to provide a local official whose primary duty was to protect the financial interest of the crown in criminal proceedings. On behalf of the crown, the crown



A forensic investigation

was responsible for inquests to confirm the identity of the deceased, determine the cause and manner of death, confiscate property, collect death duties and also investigate treasure troves.

The coroners as we know them today had been formally established by Article 20 of the "Articles of Eyre" in September 1194, which is said to be the only statutory basis for the coroner. Article 20 of the "Articles of Eyre" states, "In every county of the king's realm shall be elected three knights and one clerk, to keep the pleas of the crown."

The title coroner, is thus, derived from the original Latin term "custos placitorum coronas" meaning the keeping of the pleas of the crown. However, the complexity and importance of the modern coroner is said to bear little relationship to his historical predecessor though always connected in some way with sudden or unnatural death. Today's coroner is expected to perform a wide range of duties involving investigatory, administrative, judicial, preventative and educational functions. England exported her coroner system all over the world, Sri Lanka being one such country. The English coroner system has found its way in to its legal system formally through several statutory enactments.

English Coroner System in Sri Lanka

In 1796, when the Maritime Provinces under the Dutch were ceded to the British, the coroner system of England was introduced to the country. The first statutory enactment of the British relating to the investigation of death in Ceylon was regulation No. 1 of the British Government in 1819 which sets out the duties of the Magistrates and others in cases of homicide and sudden violent deaths. This required the Magistrate and if possible, a medical officer to inspect the bodies personally.

The Code of Criminal Procedure enacted in 1883 described the procedure to be observed when investigating cases of suicides, sudden deaths, accidental deaths, violent deaths, suspicious deaths and deaths in an asylum or prison. The Administration of Justice Law of 1973 repealed the 1883 Code and thereafter, a new Code of Criminal Procedure was introduced in 1979 which is in force up to now. The legal provisions with regard to the death investigation have not undergone any significant changes with the introduction of any of these statutes.

At the commencement of the British period, the doctors were military officers who were normally exempted from medico-legal work. Armitage, an unofficial member of the Legislative Council, declared in 1844:

"Except in Colombo and Kandy, there is scarcely a duly qualified private practitioner so that over the remainder of the island, where they might be advantageously made use of for the ends of justice (for instance, around Galle, Jaffna, Trincomalee, Badulla, Nuwara Eliya, etc.), no competent medical evidence will be available to the coroners in consequence of the exemption of the military. If it were not for the evidence of the military men at outstations, many cases of murder could never have gone to trial". Probably the first scientific paper on a medico-legal topic was published in the 1860s. It was written by Dr.

W.C. Ondaatje, Assistant Colonial Surgeon and concerned the death of a man who died in Chilaw. The stomach and intestines with their contents were sent to Ondaatje for examination in March 1864. The salient fact of the case was that the deceased had been given an emetic containing wara (*Calotropis gigantea*) by an ayurvedic physician. Immediately afterwards, he developed incessant vomiting and died. As wara was not considered a poison up to that time, Ondaatje carried out an experiment with it on a dog, who died

two hours later. The ayurvedic physician was tried for manslaughter and sentenced to two years imprisonment on the strength of Ondaatje's evidence, which was based on experimental findings. In presenting this case report to the Royal Asiatic Society (Ceylon Branch), he commented that it was "the only literary and scientific body in Ceylon, through which the fact can be communicated."

This remark underlined the acute need for a medical association, a void which was later filled by the Sri Lanka Medical Association. About the same time, Dr. Green of Manipay was involved as an expert witness in another type of case. Some Englishmen, offended by the odour of rotting coconut husks opposite their houses, had filed action in the District Court against some local inhabitants. The Englishmen argued that this industry was a nuisance. Green, whose sympathies were with the thousands of local people who earned a living by working in the coir industry, gave evidence for the defence.

In 1817, on the recommendation of Charles Farell, Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, British Governor Robert Brownrigg authorised the establishment of a hospital for the poor. Thus Colombo's first modern hospital was established in 1819 at Prince Street in Pettah. The birth of the General Hospital, Colombo, at its current location took place in 1864 as the 'successor' to the first civilian hospital under the charge of a single doctor in British Ceylon in 1861.

The Colombo Medical School was opened in 1870, adjacent to the main hospital by the then Governor Sir Hercules Robinson. In 1873, with the introduction of the new prospectus for undergraduate training, Dr. Vanderstraeten took over the lecturing on *Materia Medica* and *Medical Jurisprudence*. The proper death investigation system in Sri Lanka was established in 1883 and was a modified model of the British coroner system.

With the establishment and expansion of the state-owned hospital network in Sri Lanka, the doctor-in-charge [District Medical Officer (DMO)] of the medical establishment became a virtual expert on medico-legal matters as well. During the early nineties, due to lack of infrastructural and transport facilities, at times, DMO supposed to travel considerable distances after clinical work and conduct postmortem examinations at the scene. Dr. S. Sinnathurai MD, Judicial Medical Officer, Colombo, from 1935 to 1945, was the first qualified medico-legal expert of the country.

The establishment of the Medico-Legal Society of Ceylon in December 1937, an umbrella for all the stakeholders involved in criminal justice, is a landmark event of the development of Sri Lankan forensics. The establishment of the College of Forensic Pathologists of Sri Lanka in 2000 was another landmark event of the Forensic Medicine in Sri Lanka.

There are reliable historical accounts that flickers of legal medicine existed even in olden human societies dated 1500 BC. The examination of corpses has been instituted by ancient scientists and physicians mainly for the morbid anatomical and clinic-pathological purposes and then have been adapted for legal requirements. In ancient Sri Lanka, since 500 BC, many years prior to the invasion of western colonial rulers, there were common

laws to maintain good governance and social order. However, legal matters appeared to be settled by persons with judicial power applying evidence based common sense, and native physicians were never called upon as experts until the establishment of Roman-Dutch legal framework.

Before the appointment of judicial medical officers to large towns, medico-legal work was shared by the doctors. This system still prevails in rural areas, where district medical officers are called upon to do forensic work. Dr. J. Carberry, demonstrator in anatomy at the Ceylon Medical College, was, for example, sent out of Colombo to perform autopsies at coroner's inquests.

It is difficult to trace when the first medico-legal autopsy was done in Sri Lanka. However, we could track its initial days up to the late 1880s. This is possible due to another great medical personality of Sri Lanka who lived in the early 19th century. He was Dr. Richard Lionel Spittle.

It was documented that in the late 1880s, a young boy with a burning ambition to become a doctor stood in a jungle clearing, watching his surgeon-father perform an autopsy. This is the first recorded instance of a post-mortem examination in our country during the colonial period.

Sir Marcus Fernando was a pioneer physician who contributed so much to understanding Tropical Diseases. He was the first student from Ceylon to study Medicine at University College, London, arriving in England in 1883. Having acquired his B.Sc., he qualified in 1888 with the M.B., obtaining the university Gold medal in Medicine and in Forensic Medicine. He also became a licentiate of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries.

According to the current records, he is the first Sri Lankan born doctor to receive an overseas qualification in Forensic Medicine in the United Kingdom. Dr. Marcus Fernando was SLMA's 12th President in the 1905. He was re-elected as the 21st President in 1915.

The present medico-legal system in Sri Lanka was established during the British colonial period in the late 19th century. The Sri Lankan medico-legal system to a great extent was influenced by the nature and the investigation structure that existed in Britain at that time. The English Coroner System of investigating death was established in Ceylon in the same period. In Sri Lanka, the medico-legal services are mainly provided by the medical officers employed by the Ministry of Health and the medical academic staff of Departments of Forensic Medicine in state university medical faculties. Sri Lanka is among the few countries where both Forensic Pathology and Clinical Forensic Medicine services are provided by the specialist forensic practitioners.

Office of JMO, Colombo

The first appointment of a Judicial Medical Officer (JMO) was made way back in 1880 when Dr. Gratian, who was the Medical Officer to the Prisons, was appointed to perform the Medico-Legal duties in addition. However, Forensic Medicine was not recognised as a specialty until 1935. The medico-legal work in the provinces was shared by the district medical officers like other clinical medicine practice. The post of Prison Medical Officer cum Judicial Medical

Officer was given to the most senior medical officer. As he was paid an additional fee for the medico-legal work, this post had been financially attractive.

However, no formal training was given to the medical officers who engaged in the medico-legal work. In the late 1930's, the then head of the Department of Health in Ceylon, Sir Rupert Briarcliff, who was dissatisfied with the status of affairs in the medico-legal services, after consultation with Sir Sydney Smith, who was the Professor of Forensic Medicine of the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, made arrangement for special training in Forensic Medicine for JMOs.

As a result, in 1939, Dr. N. Sinnadurai was sent on a Government scholarship to the University of Edinburgh for training in Forensic Medicine under the guidance of Sir Sydney Smith. Dr. Sinnadurai returned to the country after post graduate training and higher qualifications. He was appointed as the JMO Colombo and part time lecturer in Forensic Medicine in the Medical College, when the Medical College was under the purview of the Department of Health.

Dr. Sinnadurai, the first JMO Colombo was provided with a well-equipped laboratory and other facilities by the Department of Health to carry out his duties. However, this facility was housed in the Medical College. Dr. Sinnadurai who covered the medico-legal work for the entire country was highly appreciated by the bench and the bar for his work. During Dr. Sinnadurai's tenure, he made an attempt to initiate a judicial medical service in the provinces, which was to be managed by trained medical officers. However, he was not fully successful in this endeavour and the Department of Health continued to appoint medical officers who had no special training, to the provincial JMO posts.

In 1940, the post of JMO Colombo, which was a part time post until then, was made a fulltime post in the Health Service of Sri Lanka.

Dr. G.S.W. de Saram succeeded Dr. Sinnadurai as the JMO Colombo. He was also trained in University of Edinburgh by Sir Sydney Smith. Dr. de Saram did the postmortem of the driver who was killed in the Ceylon Turf Club Robbery of Rs. 400,000 in 1949. Having tied to a tree in the Puttalam jungle, John Silva was murdered by suffocation covering the face using a gas mask. This was the first and perhaps the only case where murder was committed using a gas mask in Sri Lanka. With the appointment of Professor de Saram as the first chair in 1951, the post of the JMO Colombo was filled by Dr. P.S. Goonewardena. He served as the JMO Colombo for three years figured in the famous trials, such as 'Ratnapura Taxi Club murder', 'Wellawatte dispensary double murder' and the 'Thenuwara murder case'.

After the sudden death of Dr. Goonewardena, Dr. W.D.L. Fernando succeeded Dr. Goonewardena as the JMO, Colombo in 1956. Dr. Fernando continued in this capacity up to his retirement in 1970. The complex at 111, Francis Road, Colombo 8, became fully functional during this time. The complex was named as the Medico-Legal Morgue and the Office of the JMO, Colombo. Dr. W.D.L. Fernando was involved in some famous criminal cases, such as 'Adeline Witharane murder case' where he used dental evidence and facial superimposition to identify a dead person for the first time in Sri Lanka. Convictions of Alfred de Zoysa, murder of Lillian Perera and the 'Dodampe mudalali's case' (a death in Police custody) were a few of the notable cases where his work played an important role.

Dr. W.D.L. Fernando who retired in 1970 was succeeded by Dr. Chandra Amarasekera, who held the office till 1977. He later joined the Department of Forensic Medicine, University of Peradeniya, as a Professor in Forensic Medicine. Dr. S. Subramaniam held the office from 1978 to 1982. During his

tenure, he performed the post-mortem examinations of Russel Ingram and Eunice Peiris murdered by Rev. Mathew Peiris by giving Glibenclamide (Daonil). This was the first time in the world, glibenclamide, an anti-diabetic drug used to murder two persons.

Dr. M.S.L. Salgado assumed duties as the JMO Colombo in 1982. During his tenure of eight years up to 1990, the medico-legal morgue was metamorphosed into a fine forensic facility with modern infrastructure as well as with human resources. Forensic radiology and forensic photography facilities were introduced during this time. Maradana and Pettah bomb blasts and the attack on Air Lanka Tri-Star at Katunayake were disasters that were handled successfully during his tenure in office. After his retirement, Dr. Salgado joined the Department of Forensic Medicine, North Colombo Medical College as a Professor in Forensic Medicine, where he served for five years.

Dr. Sydney Premathirathne then occupied the post for a short period in 1991 before Dr. L.B.L. de Alwis was appointed in 1992. Dr. de Alwis served 15 years until his retirement in 2007. During his tenure, several terrorist bombings were investigated, including the assassination of President Premadasa by a suicide bomber.

Dr. de Alwis was succeeded by Dr. Ananda Samarasekera in 2008. He held the office for five years until his retirement in 2013. Dr. Ajith Tennakoon was appointed as the JMO Colombo in 2013.

The facility at 111, Francis Road, Colombo, which is commonly known as the JMO office, Colombo, has been renamed as the Institute of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology (IFMT) in 2014 and is the premier centre for providing medico legal services to the country. It also functions as the main teaching and training centre for postgraduate studies in forensic medicine.

The IFMT has developed sub-departments in forensic toxicology, forensic histopathology, forensic odontology and forensic photography. The JMO's Office Colombo, which was the main medico-legal service provider for the Ministry of Health became an academic hub. Sri Lanka was the venue of the Second Asia-Pacific Congress on Legal Medicine and Science, held in Colombo from August 14 to 18, 1986. Dr. Salgado was the Chairman of the Congress. The Indo-Pacific Association of Legal Medicine and Science (INPALMS) was inaugurated on August 16, 1986.

Teaching of Forensic Medicine

The lectures in Forensic Medicine were conducted by the Judicial Medical Officer, Colombo, from the inception of the Colombo Medical School in 1870 up to 1951. The Department of Forensic Medicine functioned as a sub-unit of the office of the JMO, Colombo. Among others, Dr. N. Sinnadurai, Dr. P. S. Goonewardena and Dr. G. S. W. de Saram performed the duties of the Judicial Medical Officer, Colombo, and delivered lectures in Forensic Medicine. The first Faculty of Medicine in the then University of Ceylon was established in 1942.

In 1951, a separate Department of Forensic Medicine was created in the Faculty. This could be considered as the beginning of the present era of formal undergraduate forensic medicine teaching programs in Sri Lanka.

The then JMO Colombo, Dr. G.S.W. de Saram, MBBS (London), MRCS (England), LRCP (London), LMS (Ceylon), OBE, was appointed as the first Professor of Forensic Medicine, in the University in 1951. Professor de Saram was well known to the Forensic Medicine community as well as to bar for his research work to determine the "Time since Death" using prisoners who were hanged to death and also for leading the forensic examination in the Sathasivam case.

This case was unique because it was the first time a Professor of Forensic Medicine from abroad was summoned by the defence to give evidence. He was none other than Sir Sydney Smith, Professor of Forensic Medicine from the University of Edinburgh. When he was in the King's College, Dr. de Saram contributed an article on "Pulmonary Aspergillosis Following Post-influenzal Bronchopneumonia Treated with Antibiotics" with his colleagues to the prestigious British Medical Journal in 1952. Only a few Sri Lankans are fortunate enough to get an article published in the prestigious British Medical Journal.

An obituary of Professor G.S.W. de Saram, who passed away in 1963, was published in The Journal of Pathology and Bacteriology of the United Kingdom in 1965. It was written by G. R. Cameron, Professor of Morbid Anatomy in the University of London. It was great honour to a Sri Lankan.

ACCORDING TO RELIABLE NARRATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS OF THE ANCIENT HISTORY OF CEYLON RELATING TO THE PERIOD OF THE MONARCHY, THROUGHOUT THE SEVERAL KINGDOMS OF ANCIENT CEYLON, THERE HAD BEEN A WELL-DEFINED AND STRUCTURED SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, WITH THE KING AT THE HELM OF AFFAIRS AS THE SOURCE OF ALL LAWS AND AS THE SOLE JUDGE OF THE APEX COURT. DURING THE KANDYAN KINGDOM (1469-1815), IN ADDITION TO COURTS AND OFFICIALS, THERE HAD ALSO BEEN SEVERAL TRIBUNALS



The magnificent BBC Orchestra

John Keats and his Isabella

By
Gwen Herat



The world literati remembered his poetry and paid tribute on his bicentenary last month.

Flawless to begin with, in those epics he wrote; Endymion, Lamia and Isabella that stood out from the rest, he was unmatched among the male Romantics who opted to represent an erotic feel with a woman as a visionary experience, not that many men do not. They go through this experience when a woman they desire is unattainable. But where Keats was concerned, it was different owing to his feminine character that dominated his poetry. Sad to say, his brilliance was one-sided, more feminine connected, it revealed his weak personality that prevented or clashed with the beauty of words that made his poetry scale heights.

A striking feat towards the discourse on Keats in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries is the frequency with which his gender was an issue not on a matter of biology but his ideology in this context. A profound division of judgment that he agitated, was of interest not only to his colleagues but the critics of his time who lost no time surfacing his effeminate character in the language he wrote with.

Social and psychology influences

Many were to question or provoke this type of obsessive vocabulary in his letters about the character difference and poetic existence. However, Keats did not fit conventional theory that made him a convenient focus for ideology. He had his own literary style and sensibility which was signature that made him highly legible to social and psychology influences. Byron was the first poet to come out and criticise Keats's feminist bearings and together with John Lockhart forced a rhetoric that purilled to exclude Keats from adult male company from a serious consideration as a poet.

They tabbed as one from the Cockney School. Though it hurt Keat's ego, he was aware he was born in the city of London which 'cockney' implies also being a mother's darling, a child brought up tenderly. All poets of his generation found Keats spoilt by Cockneyfying but Byron was different and thought Keats spoilt by sexual immaturity.

But Keats had his own charm that drew women to him with elegance. This made it worse as he plunged into their admiration and affection that unwittingly ended up in his poems. He was never the spirited man women thought him to be.

Two combined verses

Two combined verses from his 1818 poem, Isabella (or the Pot of Basil). A robust tragedy spiced in romance and death, laid upon a helpless, beautiful girl who is at the mercy of her two brothers. The story has high value, seeped in romance and cold-blooded murder; a story as remarkable as its heroine but Keats fail to rise to its depth. The verses are filled with unwarranted melancholy and stereo-type, run-on-the-mill poetry. It is sad that he failed to draw out the essence, the aura that surrounds the subject. Compared to Keats' Endymion, Isabella takes a back seat with so much potential that has gone untapped. Given to Shakespeare, Isabella could have been dialogued to such scaling heights with a spectacular, rise, that Isabella would have been among his top tragedies.



Isabella with the Pot of Basil

It was a vision...
In the drowsy gloom
The dull of midnight, at her couch's foot.
Lorenzo stood, and wept;
the forest tomb
Had marr'd his glossy hair
which one could shoot
Lustre into the sun and
put cold doom
Upon his lips,
and taken the soft lute
From his horn voice and passed his
loamed ears
Had made a miry channel his tears....

But Keats has failed to seize the significance of his own story and build around it. Instead, his mile long stanzas are painful to read and if the reader was not updated with the story, he would have felt reading nonsense.

In fairness to Keats, we must realise that he never wrote a play rather a narrated story that would have been better written to a tale rather than a poem. May be he was intent conveying the poem into a poetic play, but it never occurred. When the poem was published, it met with a lashing from some while others saw a glint of hope in the flagging poetry scene. This tale was praised by Charles Lamb but in 1853, Mathew Arnold pitched it for criticism. But later, the reader was given the option to decide to himself on a comparison with his Isabella as with A Sicilian Story Written by his friend. It was conceived with love and misery of Isabella.

Yet the question remains: Why did it have to trail behind Endymion? or for that matter, why did Keats have to trail behind Wordsworth? Keats confined himself to his own art of writing and drew heavily upon archaic and pseudo English that produced a sense of public disgust not so much for Isabella but in general. By this time, poetry readers were tired of antiquity and were looking for robust romanticism and his style was static where certain spellings could have



John Keats

been removed. I am not a great poet to sit in judgment on Keats but taking for granted that poets, such as Shelley, Coleridge, Milton, Wordsworth; Robert Browning and lesser known English had left him behind in spite of his spectacular Endymion and the rest. However, Endymion was the target for the criticism against Keats but later, one critic asserted it on the failure of those critics to understand the beauty and meaning behind this literary saga.

Keats after his death

Keats opted to dream a story to evolve around Isabella but came up with a long poem instead and originally titled The Pot Of Basil derived in turn from the narrative in Boccaccio's The Decameron. The love story turns into a tragedy; a gruesome murder where Isabella becomes the innocent victim. Lorenzo visits her in a dream and tells her where his body lies so that she could exhume it and hold unto her heart in a bottle of basil where later, the brothers discover it only to destroy what she obsessively pos-

sessed, whereupon she pines and dies.

Keats died in 1821 and Frank Bridge in 1879, fifty-eight years later. Bridge was to resurrect Isabella as well as Keats to phenomenal heights of fame and popularity. Keats was buried after casts of his head, hand and foot were taken before his body was interred in the Protestant Cemetery according to his wishes where violets grew and was his own elegy. Bridge was the Messiah for the awakening of Isabella in symphony.

I attended this massive orchestration in September, 2011 at the Royal Albert Hall by the BBC symphony Orchestra with the rare notation by Frank Bridge whose music had been a regular feature at the RAH. Bridge had been only 27 years old when he scored Isabella after its tone-poem inspired by the most horrible, gruesome story of the innocent eponymous heroine whose brothers kill her lover, Lorenzo and who visits her in a dream and inform her whereabouts her buried body. Isabella finds the grave, cuts off his body and conceals it in a pot of basil. Later the brothers discover it and steal whereupon, she pines and dies. Great was her love for Lorenzo.

But no poet attracted so many literary biographers as Keats among Romantic poets. He blazed a trail full of them and new readers will find Keats's aura especially in The Poetry of Keats by Brian Stone in the penguin series published in 1992. All writers have criss-crossed his poem and keep rediscovering his amazing virtuosity.

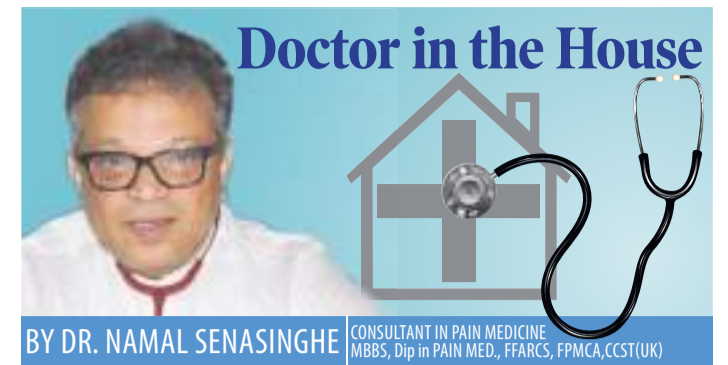
Consistent writer

Keats was a consistent writer and fair enough to say criticism has been more traditional with literary scope and method until recently which made critics tend to concentrate on matters of style and artistic purpose. There is always a story or a legend in his long poems. A fine example is Isabella, a stunning story that lifted the imagination of composers. One of them boarded the story in musical lyrics at the spacious ornate auditorium of the Royal Albert Hall with the BBC Orchestra conducted by the living composer, Sir Harrison Birtwistle. The original score was by Franck Bridge (179-1941) in Concerto for Violin and Orchestra 25.

A wide full orchestra three times over with so many harps, may have been around hundred musicians that I had never seen even with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. It was so amazing and such a wonderful tribute to Keats's Isabella. Sir Harrison being one of the magnificent conductors of the day, rose in full stature bringing many violins to the fore. It was really a string affair presented by the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

Bridge completed the score of Isabella of 1907 and was his most effective orchestral work. It established him as recognised individual music voice. It was conducted by Sir Henry Wood and was smashing success. In 1935, The BBC Orchestra played the score with Bridge conducting for the first time.

The grisly story related in John Keats' Isabella (or Pot of Basil) was derived from a narrative, The Decameron. No other work by Bridge follows a literary program closely as this poem. The composer had segmented the score into four divisions to retain the elements of sadness, horror and love tragedy. It is a simple diatonic melody which reflects Isabella's bold character as suggested by Keats. Apparently, Bridge had studied Liszt's symphonic poems as well as Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet and perhaps some of Richard Strauss's essays in genre. But the radiant orchestral outpourings that Bridge combined Lorenzo's and Isabella's theme pointed forward to his maturity in mixing tone poems in symphonic scores, to outshine many who tried to follow him.



BY DR. NAMAL SENASINGHE

CONSULTANT IN PAIN MEDICINE
MBBS, Dip in PAIN MED., FFARCS, FPMCA, CCST(UK)

Leg pain



VARICOSE VEINS

Greetings from the garden of England 'Kent'.

Currently I am in Kent visiting my family. I was held up in Sri Lanka since March, 2020 due to Covid-19 and the travel restrictions imposed as a result.

This prompted me to start the 'London Pain Clinic' at Horton Place, Colombo 7. As a result the clinic was opened on September 2 by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. Covid-19 may have been a blessing in disguise as it allowed me to settle back in my motherland after 25 years. I treat this as a privilege. There's no place like home, especially, Sri Lanka. Amid all the shortcomings which you find as in any other country there is no place like Sri Lanka. I will be back in a couple of weeks.

Leg pain is a pain condition that is common among people. The list below gives some common causes of pain in legs. I tend to see a variety of patients with sciatica, knee pain and diabetic neuropathy.

SCIATIC PAIN

Due to a good referral system in the U.K. the commonest leg pain I had come across in pain clinics is 'sciatica'. The medical term for sciatica is radiculopathy or radiculitis if the pain is acute. Sciatica is the pain shooting down the legs like a current, usually on one leg. The area of the leg where pain travels down into the leg depends on the nerve compressed.

Usually, a spinal nerve coming out of the lower spine is compressed due to prolapsed inter vertebral disc, slipped vertebrae termed Spondylolisthesis (a vertebrae is slipped over the lower vertebrae). It can also be due to a bony growth (osteophyte) or a cyst pressing on a spinal nerve. Facet joints can overgrow (hypertrophy) and compress a nerve. Facet joints are the small joints that hold the vertebrae together.

SPINAL STENOSIS

The spinal cord extends from the brain down to the lower spine (L1) travelling inside the vertebral canal. Due to changes in the discs and vertebrae spinal cord can get tight-ended.

This can cause pain in the legs. This is also called neurogenic clarification. This is normally an ache rather than a shooting pain found in sciatica. This is termed neurogenic claudication and unlike the vascular claudication the pain does not subside with rest.

PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY

The commonest cause is diabetes, and cause pins and needles type pain from the toes up to the knees, usually in the area of a stocking. There are other causes of peripheral neuropathy. These are the neuropathic pain conditions which result due to altered sensations in the nerve fibres.

KNEE PAIN

Knee pain could be due to trauma, osteoarthritis or rup-

tured ligaments. I have discussed this in a previous article.

DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS

Blood clots leading to severe leg pain. Urgent medical attention is necessary.

POOR BLOOD SUPPLY TO THE LEGS

This is vascular claudication. Unable to walk far, and pain develops in the leg due to poor blood supply.

OSTEOMYELITIS

Infection in the bone due to a germ. Urgent medical attention is needed.

MERALGIPARAS-THETICA

This is a pain in the outer aspect of the thigh due to pressure on a nerve termed lateral cutaneous nerve of the thigh.

VARICOSE VEINS

Leg pain may be a feature.

BONE CANCER

Due to primary bone cancers or secondary deposits from a primary cancer.

BONE FRACTURES

Hairline fractures, stress fractures or fractures due to trauma.

OBESITY

Obesity can cause leg pain due to obvious reasons. Pregnancy too can cause leg pain.

DIAGNOSIS

Clinical examination is important

Blood tests
X-rays
Scans MRI, CT scans,
Arteriograms
Doppler

ULTRASOUND

Not too many tests are required. But what I have seen in Sri Lanka is that patients visit multiple consultants for the same clinical issue due to a poor referral system and also due to the relative low costs to see a consultant for a section of the society.

Numerous blood tests, especially multiple scans have been instructed and carried out. I have seen some patients having back pain with five sets of MRI scans. The patient has seen four to five neurosurgeons. My advice to patients in Sri Lanka is to stick with one good specialist and trust them. A second opinion from another specialist is acceptable but not a third, fourth or fifth opinion.

Try to see a specialist in your area. Not having a proper referral system does contribute to this.

TREATMENT

Treat the cause and the pain.

Dr NAMAL SENASINGHE
MBBS, FFARCS, Dip in pain med, FPMCA, CCST (UK)
Consultant in Pain Medicine
London Pain Clinic
31, Horton Place
Colombo 07
Sri Lanka
Tel - 0767155716 (Hot Line)

AGM of Sri Lanka Women Lawyers' Association

The Sri Lanka Women Lawyers' Association held its 58th Annual General Meeting in Colombo on January 24, 2021.

Judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Kumudini Wickremasinghe was the Chief Guest. Former President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka

(BASL) and Chief Advisor to the Ministry of Justice, U. R. De Silva PC was the Guest of Honour.

Special Guest, Attorney-at-Law,

Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) - Legal, Discipline and Conduct Range, Ajith Rohana made a presentation on "Leadership towards

Professional Excellence". Immediate Past President Swarna Jayaweera felicitated Justice Kumudini Wickremasinghe (Past President of SLWLA

- 2005-2006) on her Ladyship being elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka in the presence of past presidents and office-bearers.

Features

Night of terror on Wennapuwa estate

Doctor and family brutally killed, suspects steal ring, necklace and Rs 2,000

BY LEON BERENGER

The lady doctor would visit the hospital along with her family each Sinhala and Tamil New Year to partake in a traditional breakfast of milk rice and sweets.

This was an annual happening for the middle-aged doctor and her family for several years.

The year was 2014 and the Sinhala and Tamil New Year had dawned and the staff at the local Government hospital laid out a traditional spread for breakfast where everyone present was invited to partake, and this also included the patients.

However, during this year a notable absence was the doctor and her family and everyone who knew them were surprised and to some extent even concerned since they never failed to show up.

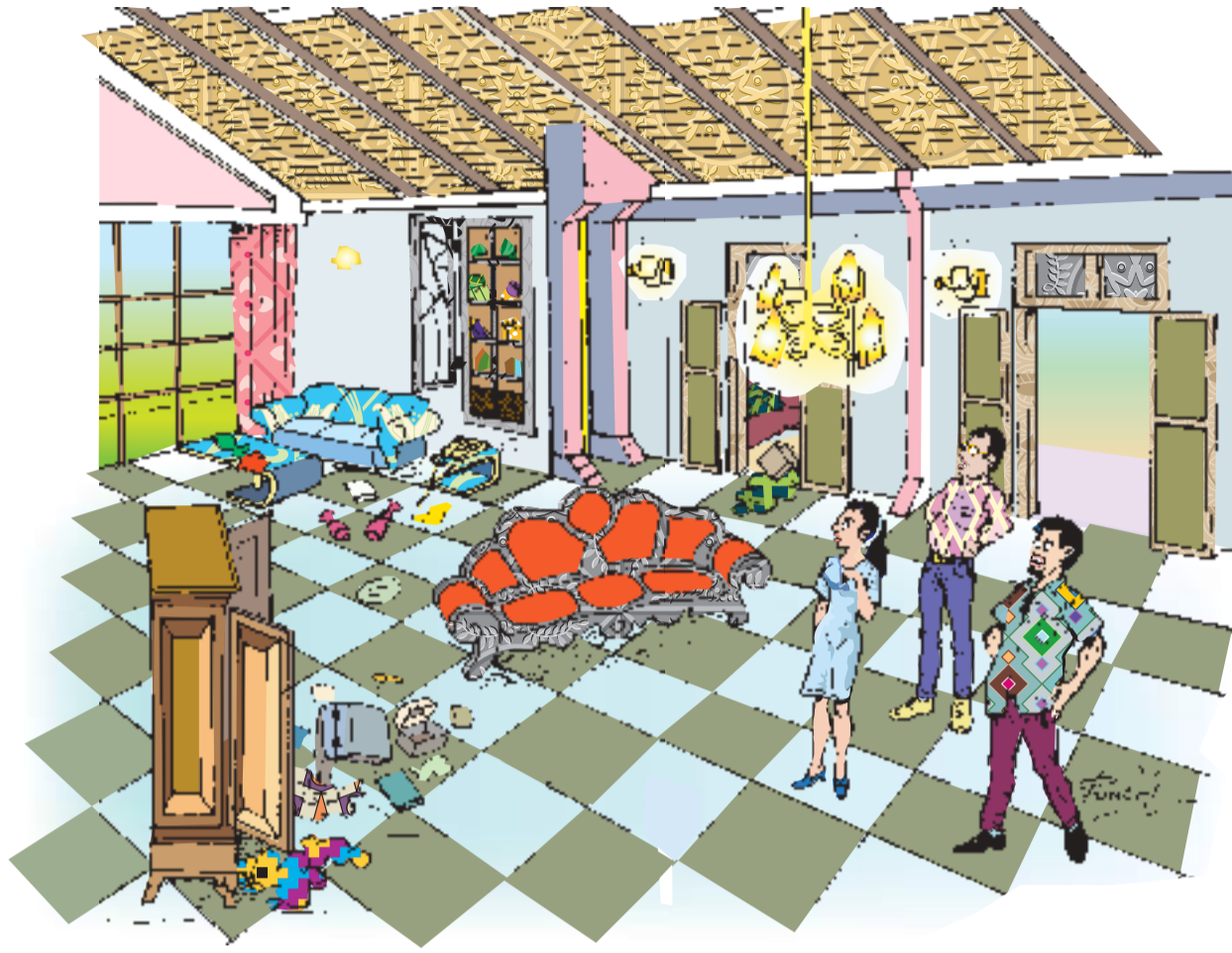
The staff let the matter rest for the day assuming that the doctor and her family were visiting relatives or attending to an urgent family obligation so they did not wish to disturb them on the phone.

However, the next day the hospital staff began to be concerned since telephone calls made to the mobile devices of both the doctor and her husband had been switched off and there were no recorded messages.

Staffers from the hospital decided to visit the doctor's home after several telephone calls made to their landline also went unanswered.

Lights

On arriving at the doctor's home on a coconut plantation in downtown Wennapuwa a small group of hospital employees were surprised to find that the windows and doors of the house and the garage were wide open and the lights were on with no



sign of any occupant.

The group cautiously advanced towards the house and stared in shock as they noticed that the house had been ransacked and littered all over the floor were files, clothes, shoes, papers, pieces of smashed cutlery among many other items.

What became even scarier was that there were no signs of the hired hand and his female partner that occupied a small abode at the far end of the plantation some 500 metres away from the doctor's home.

Fearing the worst and wasting no

time the police were quickly alerted and a search for the missing persons began.

Gruesome

It did not take the police, aided by sniffer dogs to stumble on to a gruesome finding for in a shallow pond filled with coconut husks were four dead bodies and the search for the doctor and her family had ended and an island-wide alert was sounded off to trace the hired hand and his female partner.

THE GROUP CAUTIOUSLY ADVANCED TOWARDS THE HOUSE AND STARED IN SHOCK AS THEY NOTICED THAT THE HOUSE HAD BEEN RANSACKED AND LITTERED ALL OVER THE FLOOR WERE FILES, CLOTHES, SHOES, PAPERS, PIECES OF SMASHED CUTLERY AMONG MANY OTHER ITEMS. WHAT BECAME EVEN SCARIER WAS THAT THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF THE HIRED HAND AND HIS FEMALE PARTNER THAT OCCUPIED A SMALL ABODE AT THE FAR END OF THE PLANTATION SOME 500 METRES AWAY FROM THE DOCTOR'S HOME.

As he reached the house he was attacked from behind with a huge Manna knife and died instantly in a pool of blood.

When he failed to return and with the power outage continuing the unsuspecting doctor went in search of her husband and she faced the same fate.

The doctor's 16-year-old son was the third to be killed in a similar manner when he went in search of his parents.

Terrified

The suspects later turned on the power, shut the main gate to keep out visitors and headed for the employer's home to be confronted with a terrified and trembling 14-year-old girl who was the doctor's daughter.

Ignoring pleas from his female accomplice the male hired hand went on to sexually molest the helpless child before strangling her to death with a chord.

Having done that the couple began to ransack the home but all they could lay their hands on was a single gold ring, the little girl's necklace and Rs. 2,000.

Seething with what they had found and scared to their wits the couple made a hasty retreat only to be apprehended by the police, some two days later.

It was later reported that the male suspect was shot dead by police while he made a futile bid to escape from custody.

The suspect had led investigators to a river bank to retrieve the suspected murder weapon when the incident took place.

The woman was thrown into jail and faced multiple murder charges. The sad incident prompted a senior police investigator to say at that time: "Some hired hands come cheap, but it could cost one dearly as was the case on that coconut plantation in Wennapuwa."



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Jaden Gunewardena on his machine

SLT Speed Up Eliyakanda Hill Climb 2021

Ashan drives to a new course record, Jaden fastest rider

BY BERNARD PERERA

The SLT Speed Up Eliyakanda Hill Climb became a history-making event for driver Ashan Silva as he was able to lower the existing record for the course set in 2018.

Last Sunday Ashan driving his Evo 9 on this 675 metre course in style was able clock 31.76 seconds in the first run also erasing the record held by Dilan Seneviratne with a time of 32.422 seconds.

Later in the day coming on for his second run he improved further on the record he set during the first run taking only 31.26 seconds to complete the course and also was able to take the Award on offer for the day, the Fastest Driver's Award in addition to the Award for the SL Gt 3500cc Class cars event. Last year too he received the fastest Driver Award when he clocked 32.428 seconds.

The young rider Jaden Gunewardena was the best among the riders when he had the best time of the day 34.12 seconds riding in the Supersport Group M - Motorcycles over 900cc up to 1000cc 4T. This timing helped him carry away the Fastest Rider's Award on this day. In addition to this win he also achieved two more victories riding in two Group M - Group M over 400cc up to 600cc 4T and Supper sport Group SM - Supper Motard Open events.

It has to be noted that Gunewardena when winning his two major motor cycle events for the day was closely followed by his brother Aaron. These achievements too can be considered as a noteworthy record for racing events conducted by clubs in the island up to date.

In the motor car event too there was the father and son combination in two events with Susantha Gunewardena and his son Shenal Gunewardena with both of them coming on to the podium twice. Last year's fastest rider Sangeeth Suriyage riding in his pet event the Group SM - Supper Motard Open failed to live up to expectations when he clocked 34.38 behind Jaden Gunewardena who had a better time of 33.63 seconds.

In Group T&J up to 5500cc - Duminda Jayasinghe had a time of 44.61 ahead of Cassim Wahab the oldest competitor who has raced on all tracks in the island. The second event for Group T&J Open for Diesel and Petrol, Darin Weerasinghe was well ahead by two seconds of Ishraq Wahab the son of Cassim followed by the president of Southern Motor Sports Club Sanjaya Sedara Senerath who clocked 39.05.

The Minister of Sports Namal Rajapaksa who was present at the start of the event said the Southern Motor Sports Club has set a fine example by organizing a grand event not violating the health guidelines and Ministry regulation stipulated due to the ongoing Covid - 19 pandemic.

He further said that other clubs too can come forward with new plans to conduct their events in the future following regulations stipulated and keep the sport moving towards for a better future.

Results: Motor Cycles:

Group O - Standard Motorcycles over 100cc up to 125cc - 1. Sanjeeva Udayakumara (42.47), 2. Maheel Pavithra (41.48), 3. Dilan Ratnayake (43.43)

Group M - Standard Modified Motorcycles over 100cc up to 125cc 2T - 1. Kushan Appuhamy (38.45), 2. Danushka de Silva (40.58), 3. Gayan Priyadharshana (40.90)

Group M - One Make Motorcycle YAMAHA FZ 160 - 1. Pasanka Samarawickrema (37.87), 2. Janaka Dinesh (38.94) 3. Asanka Samarawickrema (39.65)

Group M - One Make Motorcycle YAMAHA FZ 160 - 1. Maheel Pavithra (42.03), 2. Amila Pathum (42.36), 3. Arun Himasha (46.35)

Group M - Modified Motor Cycles 250cc Super Sports 4T - 1. Janaka Dinesh (35.66), 2. Ishan Kavinda (38.98), Duminda Koswatta (39.33)

Group M - Street Trail Motor Cycles over 175cc up to 250cc 4T - 1. Maheel Pavithra (36.09), 2. Supun Suraj (37.34), 3. Udara Chandimal (37.34)

Group M - Street Trail Motor Cycles up to 250cc 2T - 1. S. Vasudevan (40.05), 2. Sarath Kumarasinghe (40.15), 3. Sivalingam Gnanaprakash (40.87)

Group M - One Make Motorcycle KAWASAKI TRACKER 250cc 4T - 1. Maheel Pavithra (36.32), 2. Sasinda Prasansana (38.11), 3. Supun Suraj (37.22)

Group SM - Super Motard 250cc 4T - 1. Dushan Mudalige (33.93), 2. Isuru Maduranga (35.48), 3. Maheel Pavithra (36.26)

Group SM - Super Motard Open - 1. Jaden Gunewardena (33.63), 2. Sangeeth Suriyage (34.38), 3. Dushan Mudalige (34.56)

Group M - Sports Touring Motor Cycles up to 600cc - 1. Supun Suraj (38.62), 2. Navindu Silva (41.75), Pasan Buddika (41.98)

Group M - Sports Touring Motor Cycle over 700cc - 1. Sashika Sandaruwan (38.660), 2. Insaaf Bashir (38.668) 3. B.A.E.S. Hemachandra (41.57)

Group M - Group M over 400cc up to 600cc 4T Super Sport - 1. Jaden Gunewardena (34.84), 2. Aar-

on Gunewardena (35.39), 3. Arun Himasha (46.76)

Group M - Motor Cycles over 900cc up to 1000cc 4T Super Sport - 1. Jaden Gunewardena (34.12), 2. Aaron Gunewardena (34.73), 3. Reza Odayar (35.87)

Group M - Automatic Transmission Scooter over 90cc up to 115cc - 1. R.M. Mimshad (49.48), 2. K.D.S. Sandaruwan (49.96), 3. Navindu Silva (49.97)

Motor Car Events:

SL - N Ford Laser/Mazda 323 up to 1500cc - 1. Rajith Uluwita (39.74), 2. Shenal Gunewardena (40.06), 3. Susantha Gunewardena (40.9)

SL - N Ford Laser/Mazda 323 up to 1300cc - 1. Susantha Gunewardena (40.08), 2. Koliatha Edirisinghe (41.53), 3. Shenal Gunewardena (41.62)

Formula McLaren's 1300cc EFI - 1. Kevin Perera (38.57), 2. Ryan Grey (41.4), 3. Shiyana Shanaka Rodrigo (41.55)

Formula Cars Modified up to 1665cc - 1. Nadeera Jinasena (33.17), 2. Dilan Seneviratne (33.51), 3. Ryan Grey (42.5)

Group T&J up to 5500cc - 1. Duminda Jayasinghe (44.61), 2. Cassim Wahab (42.54)

Group T&J Open for Diesel & Petrol - 1. Darin Weerasinghe (36.48), 2. Ishraq Wahab (38.30), 3. Dr. Sanjaya Sedara Senerath (39.05)

Group A - 1000cc - 1. Chamika Rantunga (37.67), 2. Dilupa Palliyaguru (38.01), 3. Dilanka Wijesuriya (38.46)

Mini 7 (One Make) - 1. Sandaruwan Weerasinghe (39.91), 2. Neil Weerasinghe (40.87), 3. Namal Silva (42.03)

SLH Cars up to 1618cc - 1. Randika Niroshan (35.47), 2. Irfan Fuard

(35.61), 3. Shehara Jayawardena (38.17)

SLH Cars up to 1618cc - 1. Randika Niroshan (36.65), 2. Asanka Bandara (37.04), 3. Hashen Peris (37.39)

SL Mini cars One Make up to 1275 - 1. Chanaka Ratnayake (40.76), 2. Sandaruwan Weerasinghe (41.05), 3. Gihan de Silva (41.66)

SL GT cars 3500cc - 1. Ashan Silva (31.26), 2. Tyrone Hendavitharana (33.25), 3. Nadeera Jinasena (34.44)

SL - E Nissan March 1000cc - 1. Daham Jayanith (40.55), 2. Adisha Kithwith (41.00), 3. Nirosh Jeewantha (41.696), 4. Duminda Gunasekera (41.698), 5. Chameen Sri Wickrama (41.73)

SL - E Ford Laser/Mazda 323 up to 1300cc - 1. Thushan Madushanka (40.64), 2. Chamath Palliyaguru (41.17) 3. Rashitha Pasan (41.25), 4. Duminda Gunasekera (41.87), 5. Thenuka Yasith (41.88)

Group S - Cars up to 1500cc - 1. Chamika Ranatunga (40.03), 2. Dilanka Wijesooriya (41.02), 3. Shehara Jayawardena (41.75)

Diesel Cars Open - Club Event - 1. Dilupa Palliyaguru (44.31), Rajitha Uluwita (46.16), 3. Rashitha Pasan (55.17)

Special Club Event up to 1600cc - Open - Javid Wahab (46.16)

Best Diver - Ashan Silva - 31.26 secs.

Best Rider - Jaden Gunewardena - 34.12 secs.

Fastest timing of the day - Ashan Silva - 31.26



Ashan Silva (right) receiving his trophy from Dr. Sanjaya Sedara Senerath the president of the Southern Motor Sports Club



Best rider: Jaden Gunewardena

Taekwondo goes places

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Five winners from the open category and university category of the Ambassador's Cup Taekwondo Championship were presented awards at a ceremony held last Tuesday at the Korean embassy.

This awards ceremony was hosted by the embassy of the Republic of Korea in collaboration with the Taekwondo Federation of Sri Lanka (TFSL).

The tournament attracted more than 2000 competitors from throughout the country. They were admired for their enthusiasm and displaying the true spirit of Taekwondo.

"This tournament was a great opportunity for the Sri Lankan athletes in Taekwondo to showcase their talents. The Federation recognizes the support and the goodwill extended by the Korean ambassador to promote and develop Taekwondo in Sri Lanka.

"The Ambassador's Cup Taekwondo Championship has successfully contributed to deepening the ties between the

two countries," said Kanchana Jayaratne president of Taekwondo Federation of Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka participated in Taekwondo at the 13th South Asian Games 2019 and won four gold medals.

Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa graced the awards ceremony.

"I strongly believe that Taekwondo in Sri Lanka has great potential and more to achieve," said the Korean ambassador Santhush Woonjin Jeong.

Five winners from the Open category and University category were presented awards.

Didulla Hansaka - Badulla Old Duthians Club

Dulaksha Devindi, MNM Nishman - Dharmapala Taekwondo Club, Ratnapura

University category winners:

MGSS Tharangani - University of Uva Wellassa

KM Kathriarachchi - University of Ruhuna

Referees presented with awards:

WTI Fernando, Ajantha Karunaratne, ABCI Thushara

Netball to conduct a League

Netball is also billed to go on a mega scale soon. They too are longing to follow the pattern of cricket by launching a professional netball league for the betterment of the sport.

Chairman of the National Sports Council Mahela Jayawardane said a launching ceremony will be held in the coming days.

"We have already started a soccer league and we have the Lankan Premier League (LPL), which is the cricket version of it. We are now looking at starting a league for netball, volleyball and a few other sports as well, because without having a higher competitive edge and getting overseas players to come and compete, our sports will not progress to the next level."

"We are the Asian Netball Champions and need to compete at world level. We cannot do that without our girls getting that exposure competing at that highest level, so we will create that platform. We will have competitive leagues set-up in Sri Lanka so that the next generation of athletes will elevate themselves to the next level," said Jayawardena

Bringing down world class overseas players to compete in the leagues will be a major boost for young local talent, who will train and play alongside these players and are bound to improve their skills by leaps and bounds. These players can then be the nucleus around which the Sri Lankan teams can be built.

Sri Lankan fans would love nothing more than to see the Sri Lankan teams in all sports make progress.

Jayawardena also identified sports like rifle shooting and archery where investments should be made, as they have the potential to win medals at international level.

"We feel that Sri Lanka can win more medals in skilled sports. The two sports we have identified so far are rifle shooting and archery.

"These are two sports we are going to invest at grassroots level, in schools and other regional levels, so that we can actually compete at the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Olympics in skill based sports," said Jayawardena (TBR)

Entries flowing in for Trap Open shooting

Entries are rolling in to the National Shooting Sports Federation of Sri Lanka (NSSF) for the Trap Open Championship, which will be held at the Clay Target Shooting Club of Colombo's Shotgun Range in Payagala, Kalutara from March 11 to 14.

Under the leadership of Shirantha Peiris and purview of experts Mohan Gilbert as Match Director and Dinesh Lionel as Range Master, the Trap Open 2021 is NSSF's second event in the 2021 calendar year where 11 meets are lined up.

"The NSSF Skeet Open was held earlier this month and it was a great success, given the fact that we were able to have events back after many months. Unlike the Skeet Open, we have many inquiries from those eager to take part. Already over 65 entries have been received and interestingly all of them are from civil clubs," said Pradeep Edirisinghe, the General Secretary of NSSF.

Participants will be allocated slots to shoot two rounds of 25 Clays for a total of 50 Clays on the first day.

"Shooters with Top 18 scores above 25 out of the first 50 Clays will be detailed to shoot three more rounds of 25 Clays to shoot a total of 125 Clays. The top six shooters from the total of 125 Clays will then move on to shoot in the finals as per the current ISSF format, where any tie breaks will also be settled. The scores from the first two rounds will be considered for the Team, Masters and Ladies categories," Edirisinghe added.

The NSSF will finalise the dates and time slots for clubs which will be circulated by March 7.

The overall winner of the Individual Open event will receive a gold medal and certificate while the next two top finishers will receive silver and bronze medals respectively with certificates.

The winners of the Team event will also receive a similar set of awards. In addition to the two main events, Youth, Ladies and Masters categories are also slotted to take place depending on the number of entries received.

MCA 'G' division cricket to start on March 13

The Mercantile Cricket Association (MCA) will run the last lap of its 2020 league season by staging their 'G' division 25-over tournament for the Honda Challenge Trophy sponsored for the 10th successive year by Stafford Motor Company.

The tournament with the participation of 17 teams will get under way next weekend on March 13 and 14.

The 17 teams pooled into four groups are as follows.

Group 'A': Hayleys Group RC 'B', Zilione Technologies, Singer 'B', NDB 'B' and Aitken Spence

Group 'B': Hilton Colombo Res-

idencies, Kish Group, MD Gunasekera and Regnis Lanka

Group 'C': Pyramid Wilmer, VS Information, Ship Xpress and CIC Group

Group 'D': Abans, A Baur & Company, Orient Finance and ACL Cables.

The round robin Stage, consisting 28 matches will commence on March 13 and will run up to March 28.

The second stage of the tournament, the knock-out is scheduled to take place on April 3 and 4 (pre-quarter finals), April 10 (quarter finals) April 24, 25 (semi-finals) and final on May 2, at the MCA ground.

SPORTS

Olympics reborn in Athens in 1896 when the IOC rekindled modern games

By
Rear Admiral
Dr. Shemal
Fernando, PhD



The first of the Olympic Games in the modern history were held in Athens, Greece, from April 6 to 15, 1896. Greece was the birthplace of the Ancient Olympic Games. The Games of 1896 marked the beginning of an extraordinary adventure that has now lasted for 125 long years! The 1896 Summer Olympic Games, officially known as the Games of the I Olympiad is also identified as 'Athens 1896.'

It was French aristocrat Baron Pierre de Coubertin who dreamt up this ambitious sports project. Drawing inspiration from the ancient Olympic Games, he decided to create the modern Olympic Games. Athens had been unanimously chosen to stage the inaugural Olympic Games during a congress organized by Coubertin in Paris on June 23, 1894, during which he founded the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Athens 1896 was also the site of a number of firsts that still have resonance and importance, after 31 Olympiads. The author deals with some of the historical feats achieved at the 1896 Games and their relevance in 2021. The first modern Olympics programme featured 9 sports encompassing 10 disciplines and 43 events. The main venue was the Panathenaic Stadium, where athletics and wrestling took place.

A total of 241 male athletes from 14 nations took part. The participants were all Europeans, or living in Europe, with the exception of the United States team. Unlike today, the first-place winners received a silver medal, an olive branch and a diploma, while runners-up received a copper medal, a laurel branch, and diploma. Third place winners did not receive a prize. Retroactively, the IOC has converted these to gold and silver, and awarded bronze medals to third placed athletes.

The Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was held in the Panathenaic Stadium on April 6, during which most of the competing athletes were aligned on the infield, grouped by nation. It was an Easter Monday and an estimated 80,000 spectators, including King George I of Greece, his wife Olga, and their sons were present.

After a speech by the president of the organizing committee, Crown Prince Constantine, his father officially opened the Games: "I declare the opening of the first international Olympic Games in Athens. Long live the Nation! Long live the Greek people!" Nine bands and 150 choir singers performed an Olympic Hymn, composed by Spyridon Samaras, with words by poet Kostis Palamas. This very hymn was declared as the Olympic Anthem in 1958.

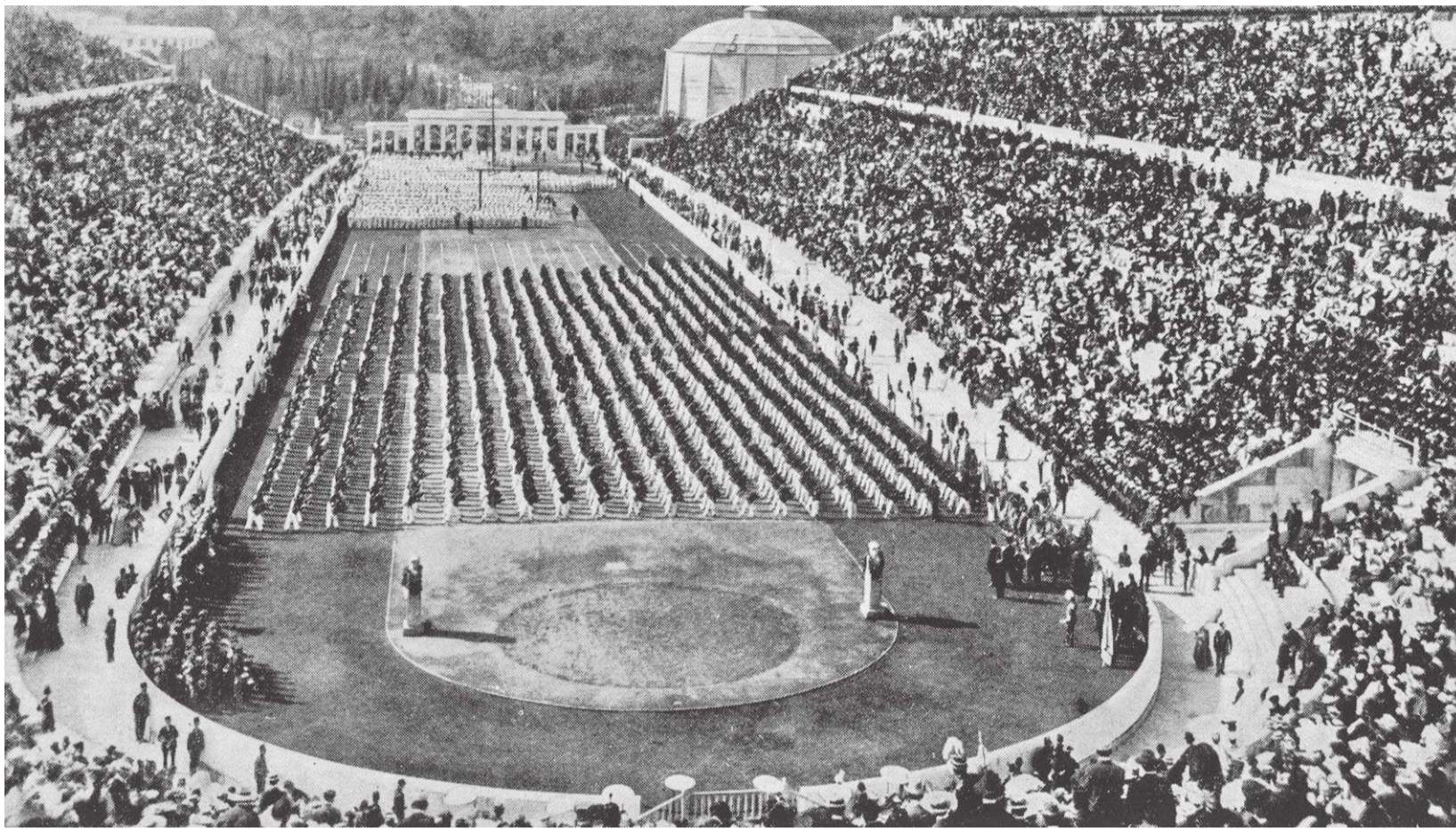
The Athens 1896 Olympics programme were regarded as a great success. The Games had the largest international participation of any sporting event to that date. The Panathenaic Stadium overflowed with the largest crowd ever to watch a sporting event.

The most successful athlete of Athens 1896

Carl Schuhmann of Germany won four Olympic titles in gymnastics and wrestling at the 1896 Summer Olympics in Athens, to become the most successful athlete at the inaugural Olympics. He competed in gymnastics, athletics, weightlifting and wrestling, and won four gold medals at the age of 26. The all-rounder competed in long jump, triple jump and shot put, his best finish being fifth. He also took part in weightlifting - the forerunner of the clean and jerk - lifting 90kg to take fourth place.

However, it was in gymnastics, held before tens of thousands of spectators at the Panathinaiko Stadium that Schuhmann displayed his prowess. He helped his country to win the horizontal bar and parallel bar events before going on to win the individual vault competition, topping the podium three times on the same day. Also, Schuhmann succeeded in wrestling, one of the sports that forged a symbolic link between the ancient and modern Games.

He won the men's Greco-Roman, which was an open competition at the time. On presenting the German with his medal, King George I of Greece told him: "You are now the most popular man in this country." Schuhmann is one of only three athletes to have competed in four differ-



April 6, 1896: The Opening Ceremony of Athens 1896

ent sports at the same edition of the Games and the most successful member of that trio, a distinction he will quite possibly hold forever.

Nine Sports Featured in Athens 1896

The United States won the most gold medals of 11, while the host nation Greece won the most medals overall of 46 as well as the most of 17 silver and 19 bronze medals, having 155 athletes more than the United States. Ten of the 14 participating nations earned medals, in addition to three medals won by mixed teams, comprising athletes from multiple nations.

The final medal count of the first Olympiad: the United States - A total of 20 with 11 gold, 7 silver and 2 bronze; Greece - A total of 46 with 10 gold, 17 silver and 19 bronze medals; Germany - A total of 13 with 6 gold, 5 silver and 2 bronze medals; France - A total of 11 with 5 gold, 4 silver and 2 bronze medals.

Athletics: The athletics had 64 competitors from 10 nations. On April 6, 1896, the American James Connolly won the Triple Jump to become the first Olympic champion in more than 1,500 years. He also finished second in the High Jump and third in the Long Jump. Ellery Clark of the US won both High Jump and Long Jump.

The major highlight was the Olympic Marathon, held for the first time in an international competition. Spiridon "Spyros" Louis won the event to become the only Greek athletic champion. In the early years, there was no set distance for the marathon, with most races around 40 km or 25 miles in length.

It was standardized to the present 42.195 km or 26 miles and 385 yards in 1921 following the London 1908 Olympic Games. Women first competed in an Olympic marathon at Los Angeles 1984. The American Robert Garrett won the discus and the shot put. Edwin Flack of Australia won both 800m and 1500m.

Thomas Curtis and William Hoyt of the US won 110m Hurdles and Pole Vault respectively. The curves of the Athens 1896 main stadium track were very tight, making fast times in the running events virtually impossible. Thomas Burke of the United States, won 100m in 12.0 and 400m in 54.2. His "crouch start" confused the jury but eventually, he was allowed to start from this position.

Intriguingly, Burke was reportedly the only athlete to start from a



Most Successful Athlete: Carl Schuhmann of Germany with four gold medals

crouch position with one knee on the ground. The rest of athletes began from a standing start. It turns out starting from the crouch is best for sprints after all. The starting blocks were first used at London 1948 Summer Olympics.

Cycling: A total of 19 cyclists from 5 nations competed. The Frenchman Paul Masson was the best in track cycling, winning the one lap Track Time Trial, the Sprint and 10 km. In 100 km event, Leon Flameng won after a fall, and after waiting for his Greek opponent to fix a mechanical problem. The Austrian Adolf Schmal won the 12-Hour Race. A Road Race from Athens to Marathon and back (87 km) was the only road event and was won by Aristidis Konstantinidis of Greece.

Fencing: The professionals were authorized to compete in fencing and a total of 15 fencers from four nations competed at the Athens Games. The 'Foil' event was won by a Frenchman, Eugene-Henri Gravelotte. The other two events, the 'Sabre' and the 'Masters Foil', were won by Greek fencers. Leonidas Pyrgos, who won the latter event, became the first Greek Olympic champion in the modern era.

Gymnastics: A total of 71 gymnasts from 9 nations competed at the Athens Games. Germany won five of the eight events, including both team events. In the Team Horizontal Bar event, the German team was unopposed. Three Germans added individual titles: Hermann Weingartner won the Horizontal Bar event, Alfred Flatow won the Parallel Bars; and Carl Schuhmann won the Vault.

Louis Zutter, a Swiss gymnast, won the Pommel Horse, while Greeks Ioannis Mitropoulos and Nikolaos Andriakopoulos were victorious in the Rings and Rope Climbing events, respectively.

Germany's Hermann Weingartner dominated the artistic gymnastics and his tally of six medals - three golds, two silvers one bronze made him the most successful individual athlete of the 1896 Games. In Athens, as well as helping Germany to secure victory in both of the team events, which were contested on the parallel bars and the horizontal bar. He also took first place in the individual horizontal bar, was runner-up in the pommel horse and rings, and finished third in the vault.

After his return to Germany he and most of the other German gymnasts were suspended, as the governing body of German had boycotted the Olympic Games. Weingartner returned to his native Frankfurt and took up managing the open-air swimming pool that had been founded by his father. Tragically, he later drowned while trying to rescue a person who had fallen into the River Oder.

Shooting: The shooting competition attracted 61 competitors from 7 nations. The first event, the 200m Military Rifle, was won by Pantelis Karasevdas of Greece. The second event, 25m Military Pistols, was dominated by two American brothers: Lieutenant John Paine and Sumner Paine. They became the first siblings to finish first and second in the same event.

Uncertain about the weapons or rounds required, the Paines took an arsenal: two Colt army revolvers, two Smith & Wesson Russian revolvers, a Stevens .22 caliber pistol, a Wurf-flein, two pocket weapons, and 3,500 rounds of ammunition. Unfortunately their .22 caliber pistols were disqualified; instead the brothers had to use their Colt .45 revolvers.

The Paine brothers were far too good for their opponents. The following day, by prior agreement between the brothers, the first day's winner sat out. Sumner contested the choice revolver at 30m Free Pistol as the sole representative of the US team, and won by the same score his brother had recorded the previous day.

He became the first relative of an Olympic champion to become Olympic champion himself. Having travelled to Athens with 3,500 rounds, the brothers needed just 96 shots to secure their Olympic titles. The 25m Rapid Fire Pistol event and the 300m Free Rifle, Three Positions event were won by Greek shooters Ioannis Phrangoudis and Georgios Orphanidis respectively.

Swimming: Spectators lined the Bay of Zea to watch the 13 swimmers from 4 nations. The water in the bay was cold, and the competitors suffered during their races. There were three open Freestyle events - 100m, 500m and 1200m, and a special event sailors 100m Freestyle. The 500m Freestyle was won by Austrian swimmer Paul Neumann.

Battling the elements, with 4m waves crashing around him, the 18-year Alfred Hajos served up majestic victories in both 100m and 1,200m Freestyle events to become the youngest champion of the inaugural Olympic Games. He was determined to become a good swimmer at 13 after his father drowned in the River Danube and changed his surname to Hajos which means "sailor."

While attending a dinner honouring the Olympic champions, the Crown Prince of Greece asked Hajos, who had been dubbed "the Hungarian Dolphin" where he had learned to swim so well. "In the water," was his laconic response. Hajos later showed him to be an extremely versatile athlete, winning Hungary's 100m, 400m Hurdles and Discus titles. He also played for the Hungarian national Football team. Later, he was a Football referee and the coach of the national Football team.

By Paris 1924, Hajos was a prominent architect specializing in sport facilities, and he entered the Olympic art competition, which were then a prominent strand and was awarded the highest honour. It made him just one of two ever to have won medals in both the Olympic sport and art. A number of stadiums are named after him in Hungary and he was awarded the Olympic diploma of merit by the IOC in 1953.

Swimming events continued to be held in the open water for at least three more Olympics - in the Seine at Paris 1900, an artificial lake in a park at St. Louis 1904, and in Stockholm Harbour in 1912 before returning to pool. However, open-water swimming would become an Olympic discipline in its own right at Beijing 2008, with the first 10 km marathons. Since then, it has become a regular staple on the Olympic calendar.

Tennis: Although tennis was already a major sport by the end of the 19th century, only 13 tennis players from 6 nations turned up for the Athens 1896. John Pius Boland, won men's Singles. In the men's Doubles Boland teamed up with Friedrich Traun, a promising tennis player from Hamburg, as a mixed team and won the gold medal.

Weightlifting: The sport of weightlifting was still young in 1896, and the rules differed from those in use today. Competitions were held outdoors, in the infield of the main stadium, and there were no weight limits. A total of 7 weightlifters from 5 nations competed. The first event was held in a style now known as the "clean and jerk." Two competitors stood out for the event 'Two Hand Lift'.

Launceston Elliot of Great Britain and Viggo Jensen of Denmark lifted the same weight; but the jury, with Prince George as the chairman, ruled that Jensen had done so in a better style. The British delegation, unfamiliar with this tie-breaking rule, lodged a protest. The lifters were eventually allowed to make further attempts, but neither lifter improved, and Jensen was declared the champion.

Elliot got his revenge in the 'One Hand Lift' event, which was held immediately after the other. Jensen had been slightly injured during his last two-handed attempt, and was no match for Elliot, who won the competition easily.

A curious incident occurred during the weightlifting event: a servant was ordered to remove the weights, which appeared to be a difficult task for him. Prince George came to his assistance; he picked up the weight and threw it a considerable distance with ease, to the delight of the crowd.

Wrestling: No weight classes existed for the wrestling competition, which meant that there would only be one winner among competitors of all sizes. The rules used were similar to modern Greco-Roman wrestling. A total of 5 wrestlers from 4 nations took part. Apart from the two Greek contestants, all the competitors had previously been active in other sports.

Gymnastics champion Carl Schuhmann advanced into the final, where he met Georgios Tsitas. Darkness forced the final match to be suspended after 40 minutes; it was continued the following day, when Schuhmann needed only fifteen minutes to finish the bout.

The Closing Ceremony

On the morning of Sunday April 12, King George the Great organized a banquet for officials and athletes. During his speech, he made clear that, as far as he was concerned, the Olympics should be held in Athens permanently. The official closing ceremony was held the following Wednesday, after being postponed from Tuesday due to rain.

Again the royal family attended the ceremony, which was opened by the national anthem of Greece and an ode composed in ancient Greek by George S. Robertson, a British athlete and scholar. Afterwards, the king awarded prizes to the winners.

Some winners also received additional prizes, such as Spyridon Louis, who received a cup from Michel Breal, a friend of Pierre de Coubertin. Louis then led the medalists on a 'Lap of Honour', while the Olympic Hymn was played. The King then formally announced that the first Olympiad was at an end, and the band played the Greek national hymn and the crowd cheered.

(The author highlights spectrum of sports extravaganza. He is the winner of Presidential Academic Award for Sports in 2017 and 2018 and recipient of National Accolades for Academic pursuits. He possesses a PhD, MPhil and double MSc)



The start of 100m at First Modern Olympic Games 1896

Lankan CC lift cricket title amid many obstacles

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Cricketing jargon that says 'catches win matches' is true, but along with that bowling and batting also has to be good to win matches.

This is what Lankan CC coach Nuwan Shiroman believed in as his players emerged winners in the under-23 cricket championship. They defeated the more fancied SSC at Maitland Place last week.

Shiroman is a former first class cricketer who is in his second year as coach of the Lankan CC team and he noted that the team spirit was also high during the tournament.

Lankan CC had also won the Premier Tier B title twice before and were promoted to Tier A.

"We hardly dropped a catch during the tournament. We haven't any big names nor experience but they were ready to apply the pressure on the opponents that forced them to make the mistakes. This was our plan during the tournament," said Shiroman.

The team ended up on top of their group very comfortably to earn a slot in the semi-finals. They beat Colts CC at the Sara Oval by three wickets to enter the final.

That was enough to give them the confidence to take on SSC in the final.

"Our spin department is very strong. Dunith Wellalage the 18-year-old Josephine led the way. Yasiru Rodrigo the only left arm pacer did his part really well and the spinners supported him well.

"Our little known batsmen



Nuwan Shiroman

contributed immensely. Kasun Abeyratne and Damitha Silva were the strength in the middle order. Besides, we had a mentor who strengthened the minds of the players which was important," said Shiroman.

Lankan CC does not have a ground of their own. They first practiced at the Bloomfield ground and later shifted to Thurstan ground.

They were also lucky to find a sponsor later in the tournament in SEARCH Enterprises whose chairman Aravinth came from the UK to sponsor the team for the first time.

The 46-year-old coach Shiroman also played for Lankan CC and scored 79 runs as an opening batsman in the Tier B final against BRC in 2007.

Earlier, he played league cricket and coached in Australia. He was the coach of the Thailand team before returning to the Lankan CC team.

Ceremonial functions seen as useless without results

Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa spells out his plans for the future

BY ALTHAF NAWAZ

Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa, along with the Chairman of the National Sports Council (NSC) Mahela Jayawardena, elaborated on progress made so far in developing sports in the country while identifying the sports that need their immediate attention by way of financial support and technical assistance while declaring that ceremonial functions like foundation-stone laying will be meaningless if results are not forthcoming.

Likewise the Sports Ministry has requested all affiliated bodies to furnish their effective work plan, short and long term, in order to obtain the support from the government for their future endeavors.

"Our aim is not to lay foundation stones but proceed with proper executed plans in developing sports. We are closely monitoring all bodies under our purview, whether they are precisely active or not. There are complaints received against some bodies which we are inquiring into and some have been directed to the CID for investigation. We assure that we will not tolerate any misbehavior by these sports bodies," said Minister Rajapaksa at the Duncan White auditorium on Wednesday.

In his address the Minister further stated: "We are facilitating all governing bodies with proper plans



Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa addressing the audience

to support them in whatever possible ways and means, to put them in line with the system established by the NSC.

"Unlike in the past, all information pertaining to an athlete is secured and computerized. We have a vision of developing sports to reach the next level, which is a herculean task but achievable. With the support of Mahela and his indefatigable team we are on to that task. We are pretty confident that we can achieve our goals provided the stakeholders, especially the sporting bodies, support us.

the stipulated plans work. They have segregated sporting events as Tier-1 (Olympics and Para Olympics) followed by Asian, Commonwealth, Asian Para and Asian Beach Games.

Tier-2 will include high potential sports persons and Tier-3 upcoming sports persons while Tier-4 will be sports persons unwilling to work along the Tier system.

"We are thankful to the Sports Minister for initiating this move. I am really thankful to my team members who spare their valuable time for this endeavor while engaging in their day-to-day activities. For the first time in history a Sports Minister was able to get 20% increase for the sports budget, which earlier was a mere 6%.

"Also, over 50 athletes have entered into an agreement with a monthly salary. This will enable them to concentrate on their sporting discipline freely and peacefully. Nevertheless, it is a long process and will take time to generate results while developing the infrastructure. But we are pretty confident that once the systems are in order anyone can follow it and gain results," said Jayawardena.

He also disclosed plans of structuring an ultra-modern Sports Complex at Kirimandala Mawatha which the Pakistan government has agreed to fund that will be a future asset for athletes.

"We even made changes to the election process while electing members to their governing bodies. Earlier, the elected member should have been a former player of that particular sport, but with the new Gazette notification any suitable person with a clean reputation and who will be service-oriented will be entitled to submit his or her nomination for election which we feel is a fair call to eradicate corruption from the game.

Jayawardena outlined the progress made while Committee Member Julian Bolling briefed on how

Targetted athletes to benefit with financial flow

BY TB RAHAMAN

Eighteen future Sri Lankan heroes (athletes) received a big boost by way of a sponsorship package from Ritzbury chocolates producer Ceylon Biscuits Limited (CBL) in a showcase ceremony held at the Taj Samudra on Thursday (4).

The boost came in the form of 'Ritzbury Mawbimata Weerayek' program and the athletes were selected by a special team of selectors who have been recording their performances over the past years.

The 18 athletes are said to be of high potential very ambitious to reach higher levels and win a medal at the highest levels such as the Olympics, Commonwealth Games and World Championships. They will receive Rs. 300,000 per year that will help them to go through their daily chores without facing hardships.

Besides these 18 athletes, 14 other young athletes will be given Rs. 60,000 annually so that they can purchase their running shoes and nutrition in whatever possible way. Most of these athletes are with their parents who cannot afford much.

Nilupul de Silva the General Manager of CBL who is a former athlete said that the standard of junior and senior schools athletes has reached a high level and it was necessary to help them financially.

He also added that in 2015, 2017 to 2019 those athletes who shone had an uncertain future as they were undecided on whether to pursue in studies or take up athletics with the ambition to winning medals.

De Silva said it was the reason why they decided to support these school



The 18 athletes Amasha de Silva, Amila Jayasiri, Aruna Dharshana, Niroshan Dhananjaya, Dilshi Kumarasinghe, Himasha Eshan, Indunil Herath, Kusha Kushantha, Lakshit Sugandi, Nadeesha Ramanayake, Nilani Ratnayake, Nimali Liyanaarachchi, Roshan Dhammika, Seniru Amarasinghe, Shelinda Jason, Sumedha Ranasinghe, Vidusha Lakshani and Vinod Suranjaya pose for a ceremonial picture

athletes to get over their hardships.

Most of these school athletes have shattered records and represented Sri Lanka at international junior meets and needed this financial support.

Rasith Wickremasinghe a Group Director of CBL said that any child loves sports but some of their talents go waste due to financial constraints.

"Today sponsorship comes as an alternative so that these athletes can fulfill their passion and reach their

dreams and there no need to fear failures," said Wickremasinghe.

The 18 athletes who will receive Rs. 300,000 annually are Amasha de Silva, Amila Jayasiri, Aruna Dharshana, Niroshan Dhananjaya, Dilshi Kumarasinghe, Himasha Eshan, Indunil Herath, Kusha Kushantha, Lakshit Sugandi, Nadeesha Ramanayake, Nilani Ratnayake, Nimali Liyanaarachchi, Roshan Dhammika, Seniru Amarasinghe, Shelinda Ja-

son, Sumedha Ranasinghe, Vidusha Lakshani and Vinod Suranjaya.

The 14 athletes who will receive Rs. 60,000 annually are Kavindi Sanjana, Anusha Hettiarachchi, Ishara Pallagama, Navishka Sandeesh, Rashmi Kavindya, Sadeepa Henderson, Kavindi Tathsarani, Shangika Lakshani, Janindu Lakjana, WIK Piyasiri, Harsha Karunaratne, Sandini Kaveesha, Dilan Bogoda and Bimashi Ashmike.

Munchee National Super League VB Championship 2021

BY BERNARD PERERA

The Munchee National Super League Volleyball Championship completed the final section of the Championship for men and women which was held at the Volleyball House in Dadella, Galle last week.

Air Force women and Army qualified to play in the final while in the men's class it was Ceylon Electricity Board Sports Club and Bitulink Sports Club who made their way to the final.

In the semi finals of the women's segment Air Force beat Navy 3-1 (25-20, 25-22, 20-25, 25-18) while Army beat Hirdaramani also by the same margin 3-1 (25-14, 21-25, 32-30, 25-23).

The third place play-off between the losers in the semi finals Navy and Hirdaramani saw the former outplay the latter in straights 3-0 (25-12, 25-15, 25-15)

The men's semi final saw Bitulink Sports Club outplay Army by 3-1 (22-25, 25-20, 25-18, 25-14) to enter the final. In the second semi final Ceylon Electricity Board SC beat Air Force 3-2 (22-25, 29-31, 25-18, 31-29, 15-10).

This game was the most interesting one of the whole Championship as it was evenly contested and went on for the full stretch of five sets before CEB pulled off the victory to play the final on Saturday next week.

In the play-off in the men's section Army dominated and made a clean sweep over Air Force 3-0 (25-21, 25-21, 25-21)

SEMI FINAL RESULTS:

Men: Bitulink SC beat Army 3-1 (22-25, 25-20, 25-18, 25-14)
Ceylon Electricity Board beat Air Force 3-2 (22-25, 29-31, 25-18, 31-29, 15-10)

Third place play-off:

Army beat Air Force 3-0 (25-21, 25-21, 25-21)

Women:

Air Force beat Navy 3-1 (25-20, 25-22, 20-25, 25-18)
Army beat Hirdaramani SC 3-1 (25-14, 21-25, 32-30, 25-23)
Third place play off:
Navy beat Hirdaramani SC 3-0 (25-12, 25-15, 25-15)



JAT Holdings signed up with Sri Lanka Cricket as the team's overseas sponsor for the 2021 season. Here Mohan de Silva (left-Secretary, Sri Lanka Cricket), Aelian Gunawardena (Managing Director, JAT Holdings) and Ashley de Silva (CEO, Sri Lanka Cricket) display the team's new attire

Netball Rising Stars tourney starts today



Amal Edirisooriya (left) the Director General, Department of Sports Development in the Sports Ministry, Anuradha Wijekoon, Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ashani Senaratne, Head of Marketing - Brand Management, Dialog Axiata and Victoria Lakshmi, President of the Netball Federation of Sri Lanka at the sponsorship ceremony

Sri Lanka's premier connectivity provider, Dialog in partnership with the Netball Federation of Sri Lanka (NFSL) and the Department of Sports Development of the Sports Ministry are conducting a Provincial netball tourney to identify and develop new talent to be champions of tomorrow on March 7 and 8 at the Torrington Ground, Colombo from 3.30 pm onwards.

Nine teams and 150 players from the nine provinces are expected to compete for supremacy at the event called the Dialog Netball Rising Stars 2021 tourney.

"Sri Lanka has the potential to perform extremely well beyond the Asian circuit with new talent we have been developing over the past few years and this tourney is an extent of that progression," said Victoria Lakshmi, the president of the Netball Federation of Sri Lanka.

"I would like to thank our partner Dialog for always supporting the NFSL, especially to develop the sport and find talent from the peripheries."

Dialog's marketing head Ashani Senaratne said they were pleased to take stock of the progress of netball in the country and their desire to become the sport's commercial partner is a tremendous encouragement for the players.

"Dialog Axiata is proud to have partnered with NFSL to develop the talent pool from all nine provinces of Sri Lanka and bring glory to our motherland.

"The national team has been making steady progress in the past few years especially with the new talent coming in and we are excited to see our finest young women in the international arena," said Senaratne.

Irish prop Healy extends contract

DUBLIN AFP: Cian Healy, Ireland's most capped prop, became the latest high profile player to extend his contract with the Irish Rugby Football Union on Friday agreeing a one-year extension which runs until the end of the 2021/22 campaign.

The 33-year-old has 107 caps to his name since making his de-

but in 2009 -- despite coming close to retiring in 2015 due to a serious neck injury -- and passed John Hayes's record of 105 during this Six Nations.

He was selected for the 2013 British and Irish Lions tour of Australia making two appearances before injury ended his involvement.

SPORT

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

MARCH 7, 2021

Royal-Thomian maiden T20 show on May 10



SPORTSCOPE
BY ELMO RODRIGOPULLE

No Lankan in IPL - signal of state of play

It was a sad indictment on Sri Lanka cricket when not one cricketer drew the attention of the franchises during the bidding for cricketers to play in the money bag Indian Premier League bash due to begin in April in India.

The previous tournament could not be held in India and had to be shifted to the Middle East where it was successfully conducted in Dubai and Abu Dhabi with spectators not allowed in.

The Indian Cricket Board has made all arrangements and barring any unforeseen incidents, the tournament will be conducted with great efficiency like in previous years and probably a percentage of cricket fans allowed in owing to the prevailing covid-19 virus.

While most countries will have their best players showing off their prowess in the game earning money and snapped up by the many franchises, when it comes to Sri Lanka no player will be on the field—a measure of our poor standing.

The only consolation for Sri Lanka will be that Mahela Jayawardena, Muttiah Muralidaran and Kumar Sangakkara will be on show not playing, but in different capacities. Jayawardena as usual coach of reigning champions Mumbai Indians, Muralidaran on the bowling staff of Sunrisers Hyderabad and Sangakkara Director Coaching at Rajasthan Royals.

That the franchises did not find it worth bidding for a Sri Lankan player is because no player was of any value and lacked the talent to contribute to the success of a franchise. This only proves that the levels of the game have hit a new low with no crowd pulling players in the local scene.

Who or when the next Lankan will be worth a buy by any of the franchises will be interesting to watch. The IPL is the tournament that not only players but all connected to the franchises earn big money from.

It is interesting to note that all-rounder Shakib al Hassan from Bangladesh has requested and was released by the Board to play in the IPL while skipping the Sri Lanka tour. Although country comes first the Bangladesh board has allowed Shakib to earn more money playing in the IPL than the money he will earn playing in Sri Lanka. Shakib will earn \$441,304 dollars playing for Kolkata Knight Riders.

It was not long ago that past cricketing stalwarts such as Sanath Jayasuriya, Tillekeratne Dilshan, Mahela Jayawardena, Kumar Sangakkara, Muttiah Muralidaran, Angelo Mathews, Lasith Malinga and Isuru Udana to name a few were in demand by the franchises.

The IPL will be a big attraction because it will be conducted where it all started in cricket crazy India where there is the possibility of fans allowed in to cheer and inspire their heroes.

It is sad that the moon among the stars the likeable and crowd attracting Malinga will not be seen in this edition's IPL too. With his unusual slinging action and unplayable Yorker he was a thorn in the flesh of all opposing batsmen and they feared him.

From the time reigning champions Mumbai Indians took him on their payroll he did not let them down but delivered consistently and made them champions much to the delight and elation of the Ambani brothers the franchise holders of the Mumbai Indians.

Sad that Vaas had to pull out

While there was a chaotic situation in the appointment of cricket selectors after the resignation of former bowling all-rounder Ashantha de Mel, it is understood that two selectors Pramodaya Wickremasinghe and Romesh Kaluwitharane picked the squad that is touring the Caribbean.

On the eve of the tour calamity struck when pace bowler Lahiru Kumara was tested positive for covid-19 and former left arm brilliant pacer Chaminda Vaas pulled out from the bowling coach's job.

Vaas who has done a wonderful job as bowling coach was roped in for the Caribbean tour when foreigner Sakar suddenly resigned prematurely. It is understood that Vaas's quitting on the eve of the tour was due to lack of payment.

If that is the problem and if it is true, then Vaas cannot be faulted. Sri Lanka Cricket need not be reminded of the axiom that a labourer is worthy of his hire. Vaas is no ordinary bowling coach. His credentials are high class as his figures in all formats of the game show.

When Vaas informed Sri Lanka Cricket of his unwillingness to tour a few hours before the squad emplaned, both parties should have sat down and indulged in Consultation, Compromise and Consensus and this unhappy situation could have been averted.

As for us with Vaas being on the staff of SLC he would have shown the sport in him by going on the tour, coming back and telling SLC what he felt about the whole thing and ironed things out. As it is the squad will be in the Caribbean sans a bowling coach and if we lose the series Vaas should not be blamed.

erodrigopulle@gmail.com

By
Dinesh Weerawansa



The inaugural Mustangs trophy Royal-Thomian T20 limited over cricket encounter will be played at the Mahinda Rajapaksa International Cricket Stadium (MRICS) in Sooriyawewa, Hambantota on May 10.

Though the Royal-Thomian cricket history goes back to 1879, this will be the first time the two teams are meeting in a T20 day-night match commencing at 7 pm on May 10.

The Battle of the Blues three-day encounter between Royal and S. Thomas' will be played at the MRICS prior to the T20 game on May 6, 7 and 8.

However, the Royal-Thomian 50 over game for the Mustangs trophy will not be played this year too.

Even last year, the proposed 45th Mustangs trophy match between Royal and S. Thomas' was cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic which had its first wave in Sri Lanka on the third day of the big match.

Ever since then, not only Sri Lanka's school cricket but all other regular events worldwide were stopped due Covid-19 as people across the globe battled it out to find out a steady answer.

Though a long lasting solution has not been found yet, with the global pandemic claiming around 2.6 million lives, some type of a relief has been found with the ongoing vaccination programs.

The big matches always gave a new rhythm until last year as the schoolboys and their old boys get proactive with excitement and renewed loyalty with true feelings for their schools.

Venues of the big matches eventually turn out as the annual meeting places for old boys of the respective schools to meet, greet and swap yarns, especially those who have domiciled abroad flying down for the big occasion.

Those living overseas make their annual cricketing pilgrimage to Sri Lanka in March to meet their school friends to go down memory lane. But the pandemic which hit the globe has turned everything upside down.

There were individuals who had created big names in the game right from their junior school cricket level in the good old days. Winning a Sri Lanka national cap at the age of 18 years is something unique, admirable and memorable. Only a few cricketers, including World Cup winning captain Arjuna Ranatunga, have had the distinction of achieving that rare feat. Former Nalanda captain Asanka Gurusinha is another of those superb cricketers who has shown his might and achieved that distinction. He is only the second from the Campbell Place school to be adjudged the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year after Roshan Mahanama.

Immediately after Mahanama's Observer Schoolboy Cricketer glory in back to back glory in 1983 and 1984, yet another Nalandian, Gurusinha won the coveted title in 1985.

The 54-year-old former Sri Lanka top order batsman and ex-cricketer manager of the Sri Lanka national team, Gurusinha feels that the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year' title he won in 1985 was the turning point in his cricket career. The 1996 Sri Lanka World Cup winning star, in a recent interview, said the year 1985 was a memorable year for him after winning the coveted title.

"I truly felt how prestigious and unique it is to win the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year award when my school senior Roshan Mahanama won this award twice in 1983 and 1984. It was a rare honour and a rich award that not every schoolboy cricketer had the fortune to win," he said.

"One has to be outstanding and be consistent right throughout a season to win that. You have to work really hard

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When Asanka Gurusinha won the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year in 1985

to reach the pinnacle of school cricket. I was hungry to win that title after watching the proud moment when Mahanama won the award which was also an honour for Nalanda," Gurusinha said.

"I knew similar hard work and dedication with exceptional performance could take a schoolboy cricketer towards that goal. I successfully achieved my dream as a schoolboy the following year."

Gurusinha was adjudged the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year in 1985 after an outstanding 1984/85 season for Nalanda, with a rich harvest of over 1,000 runs.

"The title gave me tremendous confidence and I started believing in myself more. In less than five months after that I made my Test debut for Sri Lanka," he added.

The technically enriched left-handed top order bat, who eventually turned out to be one of the most dependable one-drop batsmen ever produced by Sri Lanka, made his ODI debut on November 3, 1985 in Sri Lanka's fourth ODI against Pakistan in Hyderabad.

Gurusinha was called up at 19 years as a wicket-keeper, a role he performed in a further two ODIs and one Test. He gradually established himself as a one-drop batsman in the national team with many responsible innings that was taken notice of by the selectors.

Gura paid a rich tribute to the Sunday Observer and Lake House for holding the event for over four decades. "I am extremely happy that the Sunday Observer is hosting the awards show uninterrupted, thus encouraging the budding schoolboy cricketers. This was the only school cricket awards show during our school days - by the Observer, and we were eagerly looking forward to it," he recalled.

In 147 ODIs for Sri Lanka, Gurusinha aggregated 3,902 runs inclusive of two centuries and 22 fifties to average 28.27.

Just four days after making his ODI debut, Gurusinha won his Test cap on November 7, 1985 to play for Sri Lanka in the third Test against Pakistan in Karachi.

The rock-solid reliable batsman has represented Sri Lanka in 41 Tests and scored 2,453 runs with seven centuries and eight half tons. Not every star batsman showed his true colours until the finish but Gura was brilliant until the end, scoring a magnificent 88 off 239 balls against Zimbabwe at the SSC ground in September 1996 in his farewell Test innings. He finished with a Test average of 38.92 and a career-best score of 143.



Former winner as chief guest! Gurusinha addressing the 39th Observer-Mobitel Cricketer of the Year as the Chief Guest

He was worried about the dying spectator interest in school cricket, which had been at its best during his era. "There is too much cricket being played now and that could be the main reason. Live television coverage also discourages them from going to the grounds. In my school days, the grounds were house full for all key school matches. I could well remember our 1983 game against Royal. We were after five wins and Royal after seven wins. The Reid Avenue ground was packed," he said.

But he said that there is a vast gap between the present day school cricket standard and that of the Sri Lanka 'A' or national team. "There is a big gap now and you need to come out with an exceptional performance to make it to the national team. Fitness and sharp fielding play an important role and these aspects should be looked into from school level," he said.

"We must set one goal and work towards achieving that at all levels. High performance culture should work from school level with intense training and high fitness levels," he added.

Physical fitness is a key area that helps make a complete cricketer, Gurusinha pointed out. "Fitness is very important, not only to play school cricket but even excel in studies with a sound mind. They must work hard with dedication. Just because one takes 50 wickets, he should not expect a direct place in the national team. Instead, he should keep on performing and maintaining consistency," he said.

Gurusinha was a key ingredient in Sri Lanka's 1996 World Cup recipe, aggregating 307 runs - the sixth highest among all teams, with three half centuries in six matches to average 51.16.

"The Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year show has not only produced top cricketers but also an international level umpire such as Kumar Dharmasena who serves in the ICC elite panel," he said while paying a tribute to his former Sri Lanka team mate.

"We must not forget but also appreciate the tireless roles played by coaches and masters-in-charge, who render yeoman service," Gurusinha added.

The Observer-Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year 2021 will be launched shortly with the commencement of the inter-school matches from next week.

The Observer-Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year 2020 awards ceremony which has been postponed due to Covid-19 pandemic is likely to be held later next month after the Sinhala and Tamil New Year.

The few two-day matches played as non-tournament encounters are now in progress. But the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association (SLSCA) will confine its matches to a championship decided by one-day matches only.

Up to a maximum eight tournament matches including five in the qualifying round league will be played by a team. The final round matches will be from the quarter final knockout stage.

The Observer-Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year had a humble start in 1979. Even in the previous year 1978, there had been a similar event in Galle.

Chairman of Sri Lanka Telecom and SLT Mobitel, Rohan Fernando has given every possible assistance to the Mega Show which will march forward with more power and strength.

SLT Mobitel is sponsoring the show for the 14th successive year at a time when the company is heading towards new horizons under the dynamic leadership of Fernando, the former Thomian ace rower.

The management of Lake House has strongly backed the Mega Show. Its current Chairman, W. Dayaratne and the team of Board of Directors - Dharma Sri Kariyawasam (Editorial), Rakkitha Abeygunawardhana (Legal and Administration), Janaka Ranatunga (Finance) and Canishka Witharana (Operations) have always been a tower of strength to take the Observer-Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year forward.

France cleared of any wrong doing at Six Nations rugby

An internal investigation into the outbreak of Covid-19 within the France Six Nations squad has concluded that the health protocol was "well developed" and "respected" by the team, French Education Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer said on Friday.

"Nobody broke protocol," added the president of the French Rugby Federation (FFR), Bernard Laporte, after an hour-long meeting with Blanquer, who has overall governmental responsibility for sport, and Sports Minister Roxana Maracineanu.

Last weekend's Six Nations clash against Scotland was postponed after 16 members of the France squad, including

head coach Fabien Galthie and 12 players, tested positive for coronavirus.

Galthie has come under particular scrutiny after it emerged that, the day



after France defeated Italy 50-10 in the opening round at the start of February, he had left the secure bubble to watch his son play a game.

Questions have also been raised about the sight of France players enjoying waffles in the streets of Rome ahead of the opening match of the tournament against Italy.

While the investigation declined to point the finger of blame at anyone in particular, the three officials agreed on Friday that the protocol should be strengthened.

"You can never be too vigilant," said Blanquer. "We can always better tighten

the mesh." Laporte had already given his full backing to Galthie, a former France captain, saying he had been wearing a mask and was outside, decreasing the risk of him infecting anyone.

However, he emphasised that the bubble would now be even tighter.

"Now, no more leaving the hotel," said Laporte. "It's belt and braces." After the postponement of the match against Scotland, which is likely to be rescheduled for the end of March, the France squad will gather at the national training centre in Marcoussis to prepare for the match against England at Twickenham on March 13.

BUSINESS

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BIZ SNIPPETS

"Farms will need different robots"

On a lush, green patch of rolling farmland in Australia's Queensland, cows are quietly grazing a scene that is replicated around the world.

A closer inspection, however, would reveal that these particular bovines are a bit more high-tech than normal.

Behind one ear, each carries a device roughly the size of a matchbox - a tamper-proof, solar-powered, satellite-connected smart "tag" that is constantly transmitting real-time data back to the farmer.

"It tells us where the animal is with GPS, and also what condition the animal is in," explains David Smith, the chief executive of Ceres Tag, the Brisbane-based firm behind the technology.



Home working increases cyber-security fears

A senior computer network manager for a global financial services company, Peter (who did not want to give his surname, or the name of his employer, due to his firm's anxieties surrounding cyber-security), says they are bombarded from all directions.

With one in three UK workers currently based exclusively at home, and the same level in the US, this remote working on a vast scale continues to be a major headache for the IT security bosses of companies large and small around the world. And studies shows that many firms are not taking the issue as seriously as they should.



WindForce IPO to boost renewable energy sector

WindForce Limited, a pioneer in the growth and supply of renewable energy in Sri Lanka, has announced an Initial Public Offering (IPO) that aims to raise Rs.3.24 billion to fund its strategic expansion and growth in the renewable energy sector. The IPO offers 202,615,341 ordinary voting shares at Rs.16 per share and aims to raise Rs.3,241,845,456. The Joint Managers and Financial Advisors to the issue are CT CLSA Capital (Pvt) Limited and Capital Alliance Partners Limited. WindForce has been issued a [SL] AA- (stable) credit rating by ICRA Lanka, which is the highest rating given to a corporate in Sri Lanka.

WindForce plans to allocate a sum of Rs. 2,310 million as the equity investment for a wind power project in Mannar and a solar power project in Senegal. Remaining funds of Rs.932 million will be utilized for future projects the company intends to undertake in Sri Lanka or in other countries. The total installed capacity of the company will increase from 218MW to 263MW with the completion of the projects in the pipeline which would further strengthen the Company's position as the largest renewable energy Independent Power Producer (IPP) in Sri Lanka.



Practical Guide for Sri Lankan agri-product suppliers

"Lanka's potential and visibility will boost exports to EU"

Sri Lankan exporters have products of great potential and this practical guide for Sri Lanka suppliers of agricultural products, will help them to go through the process of exporting to the European Union, in a step-by-step process, International Technical Specialist from UNIDO, Jairo Andres Villamil-Diaz said.

He was speaking during a virtual event to launch the publication "Exporting to the European Union - A

Practical Guide for Sri Lankan Suppliers of Agricultural Products" by the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka (AHK Sri Lanka) with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) last week.

"With the help of UNIDO and AHK Sri Lanka, they can find further assistance to become successful exporters and the visibility of Sri Lankan products will increase significantly in the

international markets," Villamil-Diaz said, adding that the guide will help export capacity in the Sri Lankan agricultural sector enabling to be more competitive and enhance the volume of exports.

Chief Delegate of AHK Sri Lanka Andreas Hergenrother said, "The major reason for us as part of the German Chamber network to partner the initiative is to support Sri Lankan exporters of agricultural products to

obtain broader market access to the EU by providing key information on export and import regulations, certifications, labelling and packaging regulations, logistic solutions, and distribution channels in the EU."

He said that with Sri Lanka exporting goods to the value of Euro 717 million to Germany, it is the third most important export market for Sri Lanka behind the US and the UK. The virtual event focused on providing key infor-

mation needed to access the EU market and answered questions most frequently asked by exporters, potential exporters, and trade support institutions in Sri Lanka. This publication was developed in the framework of an EU-funded project and aims to increase export capacities of Sri Lankan businesses in the agriculture sector, by providing a simplified overview on the steps needed to export to the European Union... **TO PAGE 23**

MONEY CREATION - NO INFLATIONARY PRESSURE SO FAR - CB OFFICIAL

Move adopted world over to stimulate economy

By **Lalin Fernandopulle**



Money printing is done world over by economies to stimulate economic growth and in Sri Lanka the move has not resulted in inflationary pressure so far although some have been harping that it would, said a senior official of the Central Bank (CBD) on the sidelines of the Monetary Policy media briefing last week.

"As all Central Banks we too resorted to the best option given the low economic growth in the past few

years as a move to stimulate growth," the official said, noting that inflation has been in the mid single digit levels since last year.

Inflation is projected to remain subdued during the remainder of the year supported by the envisaged improvements in domestic supply conditions, which would also contribute towards maintaining inflation in the targeted range of 4-6 percent over the medium term according to the Central Bank.

Central Bank Governor Prof. W.D. Lakshman has been reiterating that domestic currency debt in a country with sovereign powers of money printing is not a huge problem, as



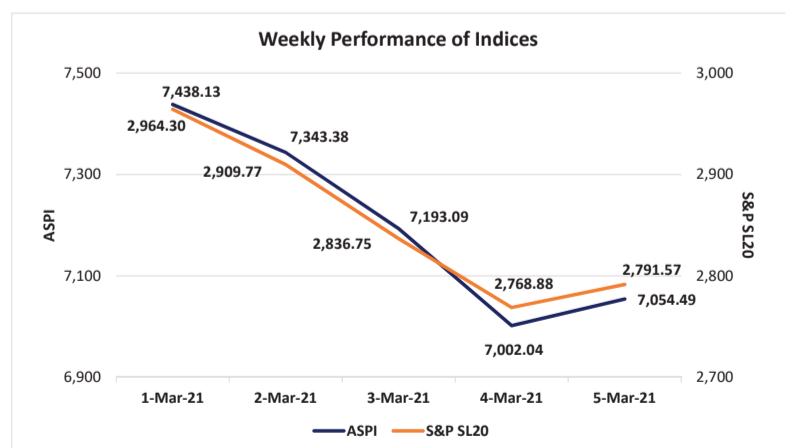
modern monetary theorists would argue. The country resorted to money printing last year to fund State coffers as tax revenues fell and foreign financing withered, the officials said, adding that the depleting balance of payments triggered rating downgrades. The Central Bank purchased a substantial volume of Treasury Bills

to finance deficits and target interest rates at various points along the yield curve. The Central Bank held around Rs. 566 billion in government securities towards the end of 2020.

The general notion is that excessive creation of money disregarding the quantum of goods and services produced in a country results in price inflation. However, certain proponents of Modern Monetary Theories say money could be printed by the approved authority to repay rupee denominated bonds within the 'sovereign powers'. However, the Sri Lankan economy is expected to make a notable recovery this year, supported by policy stimulus... **TO PAGE 23**



Sri Lanka which is well-known for handicrafts, has a long history of craft heritage. Wooden architecture and carving are inextricably linked to the traditional wooden architecture of the country. The carvings amplify the skills of the master-craftsmen and architects of the island. Here a skilled wood craftsman in Moratuwa with some of his products. **Pic: Thushara Fernando**



Courtesy: The Colombo Stock Exchange

EXCHANGE RATES					
Mar 1 - Mar 5	US Dollar \$	Euro €	Japanese yen ¥	Pound sterling £	Chinese Yuan ¥
Monday	197.050	238.66	1.8521	276.08	30.690
Tuesday	197.32	237.84	1.8516	274.66	30.694
Wednesday	198.32	239.81	1.8636	277.19	30.835
Thursday	198.27	239.36	1.8552	276.85	30.846
Friday	198.34	237.70	1.8457	276.23	30.756

Allaying price range fears

Ideal Motors to roll out first home-made car

Come April, Sri Lanka will have the first home-made car, made by Ideal Motors, which plans to roll out its first family car by the end of the festive month.

The four-wheel electric car for four, with a hybrid option, will be rolled out from the Ratmalana plant of the Ideal Group.

The fully Sri Lankan product will ward-off the range fear and will be manufactured to suit the average income earner who will have the first

exposure to the automotive skills and abilities of the country.

"Sri Lanka has great talent which we have proved with the first roll out that says it all. It is only a matter of directing the talents on the right path for the country to benefit from them," said Ideal Group Founder and Executive Chairman Nalin Welgama.

Outlining the need to promote Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) as a viable alternative for the production, assembly, and manufac-

ture of vehicles in the country instead of importing vehicles, Welgama said the company targets a sale of around 2,000 units of Mahindra cars by the end of this year. He said by mid this year approval will be granted by Mahindra to assemble the... **TO PAGE 23**



Nalin Welgama

EU, UNIDO trade assistance

Lankan SMEs enter new markets

A large number of Sri Lankan Small and Medium sector enterprises (SMEs) have entered around 16 markets following the completion of the EU-funded four-year "EU-Sri Lanka Trade Related Assistance" project co-implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the International Trade Centre (ITC) in partnership with the Department of Commerce

(DoC). UNIDO Chief Technical Advisor Jairo Andres Villamil-Diaz said a significant portion of the SMEs which were supported have entered markets in Germany, Greece, UK, New Zealand, France, Poland, Canada, Japan, the Maldives, South Korea, Australia, Dubai, China, USA, Peru and Mexico.

UNIDO in the framework of the EU-funded project supported over

100 Sri Lankan SMEs to be geared for the export market. The country specific "Export Compliance Program (XCP) program was prepared by UNIDO.

The technical assistance given within UNIDO's XCP and the financial support of the European Union, resulted in over 30 certified SMEs adding 50 different international certifications. UNIDO... **TO PAGE 23**

Plans finalised to export cinnamon cigarettes

The export sector is to receive a fresh boost with plans to export the first consignment of cinnamon cigarettes shortly, according to sources.

All preparations in this regard have been finalised and the first volume is to be shipped soon.

The move is said to have irked multinational companies which thrive on the trade and according to sources attempts have been made by them to obstruct the exports.

"Around six years has gone into the preparation with a target to achieve USD1 billion in export earnings per annum through 100 cinnamon cigarette manufacturing factories which will create 100,000 employment opportunities.

Cinnamomum Zeylanicum is a tree indigenous to Sri Lanka which produces the highest-grade of pure cinnamon. Sri Lanka is the world's largest producer... **TO PAGE 23**

Promoting South-South dialogue vital

- State Minister Cabraal

Sri Lanka and Pakistan have not done well in areas such as cooperation in trade and investment.

The targets that we have set for ourselves in this sphere seem to be quite

low, said State Minister of Money, Capital Markets and State Enterprise Reforms, Ajith Nivrad Cabraal at the Trade and Investment Forum organised by the Pakistan High Commission last week.

Excerpts of the speech: The targets that we have set for ourselves in the sphere of trade and investment seem to be quite low. We should not be looking at 300 or 400 million dollars of trade and investment. We should be talking about trade and investment between ourselves in billions of dollars. We all know that there is a resource gap in our countries... **TO PAGE 23**



Business

Motivation is not about a pat on the back



BIZ TALK with Kishu Gomes

Contrary to the popular belief that motivating people is all about appreciating people and pulling up people for weaknesses and negligence, demotivate people, the fact remains that you cannot change bad people to be good unless you are direct and openly offer your feedback. Without differentiating performance of people – say good for good and bad for bad – you will not be able to achieve business results.

The general notion of motivating people is to pat the back is a bygone theory and it does not work that way. Most Sri Lankan leaders try to be popular by only appreciating people and ignoring bad performance and performers. The loss of business value due to this typical Sri Lankan leadership attitude is enormous.

The world is full of uncertainties. A leader's role is to bring about certainty out of uncertainty. Given the erratic nature of the economy, which on a daily basis dictates and significantly changes the operating environment for business organisations, both employers and employees are faced

with the challenge of having to constantly adapt to meet challenges head-on, and to figure out new ways of working.

Sustaining performance

The work environment for employees is fast-paced, dynamic and challenging one making your strategies and value propositions short-lived, so you need constant creativity, analytical thinking, continuous improvements and correct speed of execution to improve or sustain performance.

To succeed as a manager you need to grow yourself and when you become a manager, success depends on how you grow your team members. Challenging employees to reach their best potential is one good way of growing them. Employees have the potential to do more than they think and it is not until they enter the working world that many slowly begin to discover that.

An employee who recognises the value of a challenge, and experiences the personal and professional growth through overcoming the challenge, is an employee who will develop a positive and realistic self-worth, as well as an understanding that personal achievement and business achievement are inextricably linked.

Managers have widely divergent ideas about what really motivates the team mates, with some managers ending up in avoidance mode. Most performance problems aren't dealt with directly.

More often, instead of taking action, the manager will transfer the person somewhere else or match the work to his capacity. Most leaders are trying to combine a mix of challenge



and support to get the best out of their teams.

Achieving this balance is never easy, and is specific to each individual. But in the end, growing others is a worthwhile effort for both noble and self-interested reasons. It's personally rewarding to help others accomplish more than they'd thought possible.

Raise the bar

Raise the bar, create a sense of internal competition, differentiate and pay for performance and reward excellence. Performance differentiation is the best way to motivate the high performers.

When an organisation creates such a performance culture, employees at the bottom end will have to

either catch up to match up or give up the competition and look elsewhere. Managers should distinguish those who would like to stay in the game from people who are unwilling to compete and deal with the two categories appropriately.

Challenging employees can also provide the benefit of increasing their level of job satisfaction. There are a number of ways to challenge an employee; whichever method you use, make sure the employees feel like the process is intended to help them and not to penalise anyone.

Job rotation is a good way to build capacity in employees and it prevents the boredom and stagnation that can occur from repeatedly performing

Job rotation is a good way to build capacity in employees and it prevents the boredom and stagnation that can occur from repeatedly performing the same tasks. It challenges and stimulates workers

the same tasks. Job rotation challenges and stimulates workers by offering them the opportunity to learn new job functions and develop their skills, which also makes them more valuable assets to your organisation. Workers who seek advancement opportunities may view job rotation as a way to become more attractive managerial candidates, as they will develop a

broader perspective of how the organisation functions.

Performance feedback

Encouraging innovation and creativity can lead to ideas that can help your business grow. Challenge your employees to become innovators by starting an idea generation program where employees are rewarded for ideas that are eventually adopted and implemented by your company.

Rewards can take the form of monetary compensation or public recognition, or the opportunity for the creator to lead a team charged with bringing the idea to fruition. Increase employee engagement by involving them in the decision-making process.

For instance, have a trusted employee sit in on a job interview to provide input about the candidate's suitability for the position, as well as how he might fit in with the team. By increasing your employees' engagement level, they will feel they have a greater stake in the direction of the company, which can challenge and motivate them. Managers have tremendous power simply by being in a position of authority, and can use their words to influence how others view themselves. The act of expressing belief in your employees and focusing on setting high, but achievable standards for them has real repercussions. When we communicate to an employee, we too often leave out the potential we see in them to be successful. We may challenge them but not say why we're sure they can do it. Instead, consider the idea that if you see something praiseworthy, innovative, or potential-enhancing from your team members, call it out.

Everyone knows HR

Feedback is a strong developmental tool in the organisation which is also embedded into performance appraisal systems



"You proactively check whether the team members need assistance, offer emotional support, share information and ideas, and praise others. That has to stop."

- Feedback

By Janaka Kumarasinghe

Milo to help children learn remotely

Will provide support to the value of Rs. 10 million

Ten thousand children will receive support to the value of Rs. 10 million from Milovia, Nestlé's latest campaign, in the form of laptops, tabs, reloaded scooters, bikes and more to help them learn remotely and stay physically active, at a time where many are shielding indoors from the pandemic and limiting the time spent outside their homes. The brand will gift 1,000 children every week via raffle draws up to April 18.

Category Marketing Manager for Milo, Mohamed Ali said, "The Milo brand has always been about nourishing our consumers to go further in life. Supporting and encouraging them to stay active and lead a healthy lifestyle has been a big part of this, but we wanted to go one step further this year.

"We heard many stories of families struggling with remote learning and online classes, especially those with more than one child, as they didn't have enough devices or data to cope. We also heard of parents worried about the lack of outdoor playtime and physical activity for their children. This purpose-driven campaign is our way of supporting parents with the resources they need to



Dinodi Dissanayaka with the laptop



Sethika Metunija with the children's scooter.

help their children go further in life," he said. Dinodi Dissanayaka of Anuradhapura is one of the first week's winners. She said the laptop she won will make a world of difference to her family. "My sister and I follow online classes on our mother's mobile phone and sometimes even have classes at the same time, which makes it difficult. We took part in the competition hoping against hope

that we would win an electronic device to help us follow classes better and complete our school work easily. Thank you so much Nestlé Milo."

Sethika Metunija of Piliyandala won a children's scooter, which his father says will help him and his sister get at least half an hour of exercise a day. "We never expected to win but we're so happy our children have won something

that will not only keep them entertained but also active. Keeping them at home for days on end isn't easy, so this is very much appreciated." One thousand winners will be chosen every week at random via a raffle draw, as per the terms of the competition, to win laptops, tabs, reloaded scooters, bikes, skateboards, basketballs, footballs, skipping ropes, headsets, or school bags.

Healthtech startup

oDoc raises \$1m in pre-series A funding

oDoc, a digital health company, has closed a USD 1 million in pre-series A funding at double its previous valuation.

Existing investor Techstars led the investment round along with leading Silicon Valley venture capital firms, Hustle Fund and Unpopular Ventures. Other notable investors included Cherif Habib (co-founder of Dialogue, a Canadian telemedicine start-up with over \$50M in ARR), Vir Kashyap (co-founder of Babajob) and LPs Bill and Leonard Lynch.

The investment will be used to expand operations and create a seamless customer experience across the healthcare and insurance verticals in the region.

The company connects patients with doctors for video consultations and fulfils home diagnostics and medicine delivery.

Managing Partner at Hustle Fund, Shiyam Koh said, "We are pleased to back Heshan and the oDoc team as they have demonstrated grit and capital efficiency. oDoc is taking on one of the most important problems we face - timely and affordable access to healthcare. Consumers' willingness to use digital health solutions has only accelerated dur-



From left: CEO Heshan Fernando, Chief Growth Officer Nare Bandaranayake, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Janaka Wickramasinghe and COO Ashik Bari

ing the COVID-19 pandemic and we see multiple paths to growth here."

Co-Founder and CEO of oDoc, Heshan Fernando said, "At oDoc, we strive to make high-quality healthcare universally accessible, afford-

able and personal. We are excited to transition to the next phase of growth, moving from a startup to a scale-up and thrilled to have some of Silicon Valley's best venture builders backing us."

Pelwatte Industries forms auxiliary industry to support dairy farming

Pelwatte Dairy Industries (PDI) has extended its support to several women and youth in the locality to set up forage and cattle feed production centres, that is in turn bought by the company and by the registered local dairy farmers to ensure that the cattle receive the food they need all year along, while also supporting an auxiliary industry in the process.

Managing Director of Pelwatte Dairy, Akmal Wickramanayake said, "As a local leader, we believe that the most significant component of our value chain are the farmers and their supportive industries.

It is for this very reason that we, at Pelwatte Dairy Industries, remain heavily invested in working with and uplifting the lives and work of the dairy farmers and those of the supportive industries with an intense focus of raising the socio-economic standards of these poor communities." By providing supporting services such as training, PDI ensures that they create a quality raw milk supply chain.

This helps the milk procurement personnel to source the highest quality fresh milk. Since PDIL only uses 100% fresh milk in its product range, this ensures the highest

standards in every product. The company has been sourcing milk from locals following strict guidelines and testing ensuring its quality and hygiene stays intact. This alone has been the livelihood of over 1,000

families around the area with an assurance that all small-scale farmers and private farms will have a guaranteed buyer in them, and that their products will always be competitively priced, he said.



The preparation of cattle feed.

Hiring amid Covid-19: Interviewing insights



STRATEGIC STRIDES
by

Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri

Powered by

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PIM Alumni

Covid-19 has created redundancies locally and globally alike. As such, the demand vs supply imbalance may require additional sharpness and smartness in selecting the right candidate.

That is where the interviewing comes to the forefront. One common myth is that you can sit in an interview panel without any preparation.

Some even sarcastically ask, "What is there to learn about interviewing?" It certainly goes beyond common sense.

I have seen in many Sri Lankan institutions, interviewing is taken rather lightly and as such obviously selecting someone who is not the most deserving. Today's column is an attempt to shed light on the nature and features of recruitment interviewing in the Sri Lankan context.

Overview

"When you hire people who are smarter than you, you prove that you are smarter than they are", said Robert Henry Grant. Hiring the right person to the right job is important to

achieve right results. The old adage "people are your most important asset" is not always accurate, says Jim Collins. He claims that rather than "people", it is the "right people" that make up the best asset of an organisation. The crucial challenge is how.

According to the United States Department of Labour, a bad hiring decision equals 30 percent of the employee's first year's earning potential. In Sri Lanka too, I have personally come across several situations, where companies had to pay badly in the wake of the wrong person being hired. We see such cases prominently featured in the media as well.

Right hiring

It is pertinent to mention that David Ogilvy, an advertising tycoon, had to say with respect to hiring, "If each of us hires people who are smaller than we are, we shall become a company of dwarfs, but if each of us hires people who are bigger than we are, we will become a company of giants". To hire people with potential, the hiring process has to be professionally designed and executed.

"My company's assets walk out of the door every evening," said Narayan Murthy, the founder of Infosys. With such a great emphasis on human capital, it is critical for every organisation to resort to means that offer quality recruitment solutions at competitive costs. This is where the realm of hiring begins.

If you compare hiring to a process, there are three key elements, recruitment, selection and placement. Recruitment is the way in which an organisation tries to attract the people from whom it will ultimately make a selection. Placement is the final step of assigning a suitable job to the selected candidate.

Interviews in a nutshell

An interview can be regarded as a critical step in the selection process. It is in fact a conversation between two or more people (the interviewer/s and the interviewee) where questions are asked by the interviewer/s to obtain information from the interviewee. Effective interviews provide an additional basis for comparing candidates, supplementing information gleaned from the applicant questionnaire and investigation. Interviewees need to do three things in an effective interview, viz, define, discover and decide. They should know clearly what they are looking for in the ideal candidate. Then they need to check whether those attributes are present in the candidates. Finally comes the decision.



The above process can be further elaborated by referring to its stages. They include: Identify: Defining the needs, Specify: Developing the person specifications and Codify: designing the ways of testing the required specifications. In doing the above, job analysis is a vital exercise that needs to be performed.

Different types of interviews are used, the one-on-one, the sequential interview, the panel interview and group interviews depending on the needs, customs and time constraints of the employing organisation. Their contents and conduct may vary as given below:

Structured interview: This is an interview that includes a predetermined set of questions that is addressed to each applicant. Before the interview is commenced this set of questions needs to be determined. Questions are direct questions to get the direct answers, and desired answers or expected answers are also developed.

An example of the structured question for the post of Management Trainee could be "tell three key functions that a manager has to perform". Structured interviews have the advantage of providing the same information on all interviewees, ensuring that all questions are covered with all interviewees and minimising the personal biases of the interviewers

Unstructured interview: Here the interviewer generally follows no set of format. The lack of a structure allows the interviewer to ask follow-up questions and pursue points of interests as they develop.

The interviewees for the same job may or may not get the same or similar questions. A few questions might be specified in advance, but they're

usually not, and there is seldom a formal guide for scoring answers. This type of interview could even be described as little more than a general conversation.

Semi-structured Interview: This is a combination of the above two where there is a skeleton structure allowing flexibility to the interviewer to probe further when required. The structure prevents the interviewer to go in a tangent yet allowing the discovery of the candidate better. This form is quite popular in Sri Lanka.

Apart from the above, stress interviewing and behavioral interviewing are two other specialised forms with specific intents.

In a stress interview, the interviewer seeks to make the applicant uncomfortable with occasionally rude questions. The aim is supposedly to spot sensitive applicants and those who with low (or high) stress tolerance. This type of interview is more suitable for jobs which are composed of highly stressful duties such as military, security, and peace keeping etc.

Behavioural interviewing

Behavioural interviewing is my favourite form. Here the emphasis is on the behavior demonstrated by the candidate. In many a time, I have seen a candidate with an impressive CV nicely printed in colour is not so impactful in the face of a proper behavioural interviewing. It is essentially probing the behavior of a candidate in the past. We call it focusing on "critical incidents".

"Tell me a situation in the past where you had to achieve a result under heavy pressure". Obviously, this is not a hypothetical question and the candidate cannot create an imaginary answer. It is the smartness of the

If you compare hiring to a process, there are three key elements, recruitment, selection and placement. Recruitment is the way in which an organisation tries to attract the people from whom it will ultimately make a selection. Placement is the final step of assigning a suitable job to the selected candidate

interviewer to allow the free flow of expressions from the candidate and probe deeper based on the answers. It should be done in a friendly and encouraging way rather than becoming a "criminal investigator".

The key advantage of a proper behavioural interview is that it will reveal the authentic nature of the candidate with associated strengths and shortcomings. It takes more time than a typically rushed casual interview and as such some busy managers avoid resorting to it. Also, you need to know what to check with regards to the job in hand, and the key dimensions of the job and that's why the interviewers need some preparation. The problem in Sri Lanka is that the interviewer reads the CV for the time during the interview and browsing is done while the candidate is answering a question.

Hence the prerequisite for a proper behavioural interviewing is preparedness from the interviewers and also the sharpness in asking, listening, probing and logically concluding. That is why every manager cannot automatically become an effective interviewer.

Issues with the interviewing process

There can be many issues associated with the interviewing process.

Let me summarise them as five "I's", namely, inability, inconsistency, irrelevance, irrationality and interference. Let's discuss these in relation to Sri Lankan organisations.

Inability is obvious when the top-most people just rush through the interview without any flair for the process. The danger is that the leader's decision may be the final decision despite the concerns by others.

Inconsistency is very common in Sri Lanka where connections are considered more important than competencies by some leaders. You pick your favourite despite the competency gaps, leaving more deserving candidates.

Irrelevance is one headache at some interviews where the interviewing panel gets carried away with irrelevant details missing out vital facts and critical aspects. A smart candidate can manipulate such a situation if the panelists go on a tangent focusing only on one area.

Irrationality is also common among some leaders where they look for the perfect candidate without willing to pay the asking rate. It is an illusion to attempt to get the best in the market whilst being reluctant to reward. Also there are the situations where you pick a candidate similar to your appearance or coming from your college or village without any rational justification.

Interference is rampant in Sri Lankan organisations. Particularly where a clear and coherent policy framework is absent.

There will be outside influence to the interview panel through a prior message from a powerful person at the top to intentionally pick a particular preferred candidate irrespective of his/her competencies. The panel in this case becomes a cat's paw of someone else.

It remains to be seen whether the impact of above "I's" can be minimised in the context of Sri Lankan organisations.

Way forward

Interviewing is an art and a science. One needs to have expertise as well as experience in successfully handling recruitment interviews. Defining the right requirement, discovering the right match and deciding on the right candidate are the vital steps to follow.

Sri Lankan managers, administrators and leaders alike can improve on all these aspects in order to ensure that the right person handling the right job in the right manner produces the right results.

ECCSL hosts webinar on paperless, contactless procedures at port of clearance

The European Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (ECCSL) hosted a webinar on "Paperless and Contactless Procedures at the Port of Clearance" recently to discuss the new procedures at the Port of Clearance and how this system can reduce delays and increase efficiency.

Chairman of Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA), General (Retd.) Daya Ratnayake outlined the importance of eliminating bottlenecks in Ports and Customs procedures and increasing the ease of doing business throughout the supply chain.

"Industry pressure is building for a single window one-stop facility that allows exchange of information between all parties involved in trade, to reduce the complexity, time and costs," he said.

The Sri Lanka Ports Authority has introduced new arrangements to facilitate Full Container Load



Gen. (Retd.) Daya Ratnayake

(FCL), Less than a Container Load (LCL) and Multi-country Consolidation (MCC) container operations smoothly by accepting electronic manifests.

An electronic payment facility

is available for Cargo Management System (CMS) in Container Freight Station (CFS) 1, CFS IV and BQ Warehouse Complex and partially implemented CMS at CFS Peliyagoda which will be fully functioning in the near future.

Meanwhile, documents for rework operations (rework applications and guarantee letters) and acceptance of empty container removal applications are operating electronically.

At present, the Customs accepts export or import invoices electronically and customers are given the advantage of e-pay platform since April 1 last year.

Seventy percent of Sri Lanka Customs process is automated to date and, by addressing the difficulties and challenges face by the Customs such as lack of human resources and infrastructure facilities, it can be brought up to 100% functionality. The Customs will

conduct awareness programs with the financial facilities obtained from the line ministries and encourage officers' contribute to function the system.

General Manager, Operations of South Asia Gateway Terminals (Pvt) Ltd (SAGT), Upul Jinadasa said that the paperless system at SAGT is process driven, adaptation of right technology, establishing accuracy, standardisation and discipline across all related data and processes.

Although digitalisation has been established at the SAGT since 2003, a digital paperless delivery processing including e-payments was introduced in June last year.

Under the paperless system, a vehicle booking system was introduced to minimise truck waiting times, traffic and optimise use and costs where current average truck turnaround time including entry queuing is less than 45 minutes.

Headline inflation up in February

Headline inflation, as measured by the year-on-year (Y-o-Y) change in the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI, 2013=100) increased to 3.3 percent in February 2021 from 3.0 percent in January 2021.

This was driven by monthly increase of prices of items in Food and Non-food categories.

Food inflation (Y-o-Y) increased to 7.9 percent in February 2021 from 6.8 percent in January 2021. However, Non-food inflation (Y-o-Y) decreased marginally to 1.3 percent in February 2021 from 1.4 percent in January 2021.

The change in the CCPI measured on an annual average basis decreased to 4.1 percent in February 2021 from 4.3 percent in January 2021.

Monthly change of CCPI recorded at 0.31 percent in February 2021. This was due to price increases observed in items of both Food and Non-food categories. Monthly

changes of Food and Non-food categories were recorded at 0.23 percent and 0.08 percent, in February 2021.

Within the Food category, prices of vegetables, green chilli, chicken and eggs increased in February 2021. However, the price of potatoes recorded a decline during the month. Prices of items in the Non-Food category recorded an increase during the month mainly due to price increases observed in the Transport (tyres, tubes and spare parts) and Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels (maintenance/ reconstruction) sub-categories. Core inflation (Y-o-Y), which reflects the underlying inflation in the economy, decreased marginally to 2.6 percent in February 2021 from 2.7 percent in January 2021.

Annual average core inflation also decreased marginally to 3.0 percent in February 2021 from 3.1 percent in January 2021.

Laxapana Batteries to invest Rs 1.1 b in solar energy projects

Laxapana Batteries PLC is entering the renewable energy business. Having evaluated prospects in this space, the company plans to invest over Rs. 1 billion in generating renewable energy from rooftop solar projects.

To fund the investment, the company proposes raising Rs. 540 m through a Rights Issue and also plans to lock-in in long-term debt to benefit from the prevailing low-interest rate regime. At an Extraordinary General Meeting held on February 10, the shareholders of Laxapana Batteries

approved the Rights Issue to offer 36,000,000 ordinary shares, which is in the proportion of 12 new ordinary shares for every 13 existing ordinary shares held at Rs 15 per share.

With a Rs. 1.1 bn investment to develop rooftop solar projects, Laxapana is well positioned with a sustainable business model to contribute towards the government's policy of increasing the share of renewable energy production.

Laxapana has delivered a resilient performance in the FY2020/21 period.

The Company recorded growth in Q3 FY2020/21 with a revenue increase by 14%, over Q3 FY2019/20 and profit before tax growing by Rs. 29.4 mn. It recorded a revenue of Rs. 206.2 mn and Rs. 552.7 mn in Q3 FY2020/21 and nine months ended December 31, 2020.

These compare to Rs. 180.4 mn and Rs. 506.2 mn to corresponding periods in FY2019/20. Cumulative profit before tax of Rs. 100.4 mn for the nine months ended December 31, 2020 is a notable year-on-year increase of 113% over Rs. 47.2 mn recorded last year nine months

despite numerous challenges encountered in the business environment.

The new investment initiative further diversifies the company's business portfolio and is expected to contribute positively to earnings going forward.

The management believes that revenues from its trading businesses will continue to remain strong with Laxapana branded products experiencing strong market demand. With this in mind, the present trend of improving profitability is expected to continue.



Business

OPA proposals for Sri Lanka's economic revival after mitigation of Covid-19

Developing a knowledge economy

Excerpts from the keynote address delivered by former Federal Minister of Science and Technology of Pakistan, Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman FRS at the Annual Conference - 2020 of the Organization of Professional Associations of Sri Lanka (OPA)

Twelve disruptive technologies that can make an impact by 2025 are:-

- Mobile internet, 2. Automation of knowledge work, 3. Internet of things, 4. Cloud, 5. Advanced robotics, 6. Autonomous and near autonomous vehicles, 7. Next-generation genomics, 8. Energy storage, 9. 3D printing, 10. Advanced materials, 11. Advanced oil and gas exploration and recovery and 12. Renewable energy.

The secret of enhancing export is moving forward quickly and retrieving the ability of manufacturing and exporting high technological products.

The fields hi-tech products can be used in are: Electronic, Engineering, Pharmaceutical, and Advanced agricultural practices.

Difficulties for applicability in Sri Lanka:

- Sri Lanka's workforce is ageing
- High-end training opportunities are limited in the country
- Insufficient numbers of high school graduates who have a background in science and technology related subjects so that they can enter science and technology-related training programs
- Many qualified science and technology workers emigrate.

Economic development through the export of high technology products

Key points:

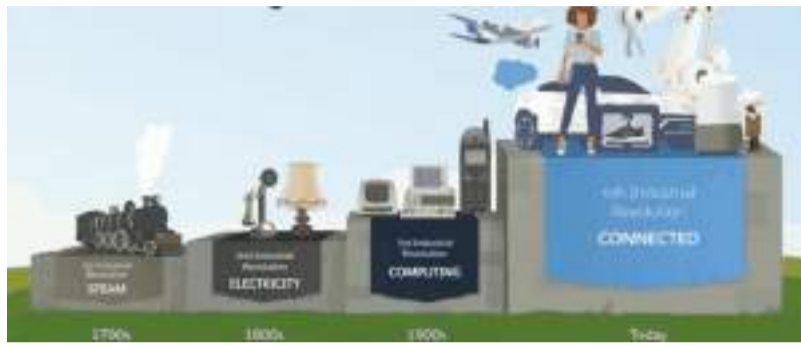
- Quality faculties in universities.
- Easy access to literature by setting up a large digital library in very university
- Increasing salaries of the academic staff
- Increasing funds for research
- Setting up an education and research network
- Select and train the brightest students in top universities
- Attract them back (the people who have left the country)
- Jobs on arrival

The answer lies in developing a strong Knowledge Economy. It is only through a transition from a low value Agricultural Economy to a Knowledge Economy that we can achieve a sustainable equitable socio-economic development. The goal is to manufacture High Technology products for export.

A report released by McKinsey Global on fourth industrial revolution states that by 2025 there will be a US\$100 trillion impact from Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Advanced Robotics,

Knowledge Economy Index (KEI) (World Bank)

Year	Rank	Country	Points
2000	87	Sri Lanka	4.3
2012	101	Sri Lanka	3.63



Industrial Bio Technology and 3D Printing.

The ability of countries to manufacture and export products with high technology is the way forward.

To achieve this goal, countries must compulsorily improve their universities and research centers while investing in Science and Technology and innovation.

World Export figures last year show that Singapore has achieved US\$330 billion. This was mainly due to their emphasis on the Knowledge Economy. South Korea is also among the leading countries in this respect. Sri Lanka has a long way to go to get into this list.

The Singapore per capita income is

US\$ 58,500 while the same in the USA is US\$ 53,240. Singapore ranks first in the Global Competitiveness Index. In Singapore, the Research and Development allocation is 2% of its GDP which is comparable to South Korea whereas in Sri Lanka it is only 0.1 %.

China sends their talented youth to leading universities in the world. The numbers have increased from a few hundred in the 1980s to around 600,000 at present.

They come back with Doctoral and post-doctoral achievements. They are the force driving the Chinese economy. Singapore also adopted this concept even before China. China's expenditure on Research and Development is double that of the USA. In 2019, 1.3 million international patents came from China which is four times that of the USA. China has become the world leader in the export of high technology products.

The vision, determination and commitment at the highest levels of leadership in the country are essential to

achieve these goals and the ensuing results would be remarkable. To transform Sri Lanka towards a Knowledge Economy, significant investment in Science, Technology and Research is vital.

A high priority must be given to research and innovative entrepreneurship. Collaboration of the Private Sector is essential to make use of Research and Development to produce High Technology products.

Recommendations

Provide opportunities for talented youth in University and Tertiary level education to partake in higher education and research programs in reputed universities worldwide.

The talented youth must be selected by an independent and competent body devoid of any political influence to ensure that best candidates are selected.

The issue of non arrival of some of the students migrating under student Visas should be addressed by implementing a methodology with following mentioned steps to bring such students back to Sri Lanka. Provide the required facilities for Research and Development inclusive of grants for them to conduct research projects in a conducive environment on their return to Sri Lanka.

The private sector must be incentivized to collaborate in these research projects to develop High Technology products. Certain selected candidates should be assigned to private companies before they are sent for overseas programs so that Research and Development can be continued in those private companies on their return. Set up a new organisation to

manage, administer and coordinate this process efficiently. This organization should be provided with adequate resources and authorities.

Funding must be provided for the education and training of the scholars and the smooth operation of the institutions engaged in this process. Negotiations should be conducted with other governments and their reputed universities for concessions and scholarships for the scholars sent from Sri Lanka to their countries.

As this endeavour requires substantial financial outlay, it is imperative that the state funding allocation for Research and Development must be enhanced from the present 0.1% of the GDP to required levels. For this procedure a plan of action must be implemented and also should get the private sector participation.

Government should encourage the private sector to invest in Research and Development by way of an incentive-rewarding system.

Implement a system to get back the foreign educated students. Work out a mechanism for them to use their knowledge effectively to our country's needs

As there is no internet coverage in most of the rural areas as Telecommunication companies do not invest in building towers in rural areas, govt should encourage those companies to develop their network by offering soft loans.

The fact that University ranking methodology is not suitable for Sri Lanka should be looked into by appointing a panel with educational experts.

Plans finalised ... Continued from page 25

...and exporter of pure cinnamon and pure Ceylon Cinnamon suppliers from Sri Lanka claim around 90 percent of global market share. Cinnamon grown and produced in Sri Lanka has acquired a long standing reputation in the international market due to its unique quality, colour, flavour and aroma.

Cinnamon differs physically and chemically to Cassia. Ceylon Cinna-

mon, referred to as sweet cinnamon and true cinnamon, is considered superior to the variety known as Cassia, a cheaper and inferior product. The method of processing and curing of cinnamon entices its characteristic flavour. The preparation of cinnamon quills involves a combination of art and skill unique to Sri Lanka and has been handed down from generation to generation.

"Lanka's potential..... Continued from page 25

... (EU) with a special emphasis on German and Dutch markets.

The publication has been structured to highlight the most important topics such as legal aspects, certifications, standards, packaging, labelling, logistics, risk management, intellectual property rights, and the European consumer.

Manager, Public Projects at AHK Sri Lanka, Marvin Woischnik-Lange

and Business Services Advisor at UNIDO, Sampath Senanayake outlined additional information and guidance available for exporters of agri-food and spice products after they are beyond the borders of Sri Lanka. The publication is available in digital and print formats and can be obtained from UNIDO or the AHK Sri Lanka webpage (www.srilanka.ahk.de).

Lankan SMEs ... Continued from page 25

...has run a comprehensive diagnostic for each SME, identifying improvement opportunities and providing detailed actionable recommendations.

The reports cover all aspects of their business such as quality, food safety, packaging, labelling, marketing, branding, corporate governance, strategic planning, management, sales, human resources, financial administration, business operations, environment and sustainability.

"Over 6,000 people were trained and over 60 action plans were developed and over Rs. 215 million was invested by SMEs to improve factories, production and services," Villamil-Diaz said.

The overview or summary is that with a comprehensive and holistic support (such as the one given by UNIDO with the financial assistance of the EU), Sri Lankan SMEs can successfully enter new markets, become more competitive, create value-addi-

tion for their products and services, and improve the quality of life of workers, customers and business stakeholders.

The EU-Sri Lanka Trade-Related Assistance project helped Sri Lanka to directly empower and to create a trade enabling environment for SMEs to make the most of potential opportunities resulting from the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+).

The project facilitated capacity building of entrepreneurs, particularly women and youth, in terms of mandatory (regulatory) and voluntary (standards) compliance for select value chains, namely for spices and concentrates and processed food and beverages (SCFPB) and information technology (IT), business process outsourcing (BPO).

To strengthen undergirding trade capacities that facilitate market access, such as modernising national quality infrastructure (NQI) services, the project worked in lockstep with

Money creation ... Continued from page 25

... and improving business sentiments according to the Central Bank. Positive sentiments fuelled by the Covid-19 vaccination drive and the impact of growth promoting policies are expected to support the economic revival over the short to medium term.

Given the low inflation environment, the Central Bank is in the process of actively supporting the Government's economic agenda focused on developing a production-based economy.

The regulator also noted that the exchange rate has recorded intermittent volatility, and the Central Bank has taken steps to dampen excessive speculation causing such volatility in the foreign exchange market.

The Sri Lankan Rupee depreciated by 4.5 per cent against the US dollar thus far this year following the 2.6 per cent depreciation last year.

Increased non-debt creating foreign exchange inflows are expected, supported by the measures intro-

duced by the Government and the Central Economic Research Department.

The Central Bank reaffirms its commitment to continue the current accommodative monetary policy stance. The Monetary Board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, at its meeting held on March 3, decided to maintain the Standing Deposit Facility Rate (SDFR) and the Standing Lending Facility Rate (SLFR) of the Central Bank at their current levels of 4.50 percent and 5.50 percent considering the macroeconomic conditions and expected developments on the domestic and global fronts.

The external sector performance is being closely monitored by the Central Bank. The trade deficit contracted by US dollars 2.0 billion in 2020 benefiting from the notable decline in expenditure on imports, which more than compensated the decline in earnings from exports.

The trade deficit is expected to remain compressed in 2021, support-

ed by appropriate measures taken by the Government.

Workers' remittances continued to increase steadily from mid 2020, recording an annual increase of 5.8 per cent, and a further growth of 16.3 per cent in January 2021, from a year earlier. "In spite of adverse speculation, all debt service obligations of the Government have been duly met thus far in 2021, and the Government remains committed to maintaining its impeccable debt service record in the future as well," the Governor said.

Monetary policy easing measures implemented since early last year have resulted in historically low interest rates. Reflecting the transmission of monetary easing measures taken by the Central Bank in the recent past, both market deposit and lending rates have declined substantially towards establishing a single digit interest rate structure. Many market interest rates have declined to historic lows.

However, certain market interest rates, such as yields on government

securities, have shown unwarranted volatility recently, which is not in line with monetary policy expectations.

The Central Bank reiterates that the high level of excess liquidity in the money market and the reduction in policy interest rates thus far are intended to result in a stable low interest rate environment, while providing a positive real return to savers.

The bank noted that credit to productive sectors remains crucial in ensuring a sustained economic recovery. Reflecting the expansion in domestic credit, the growth of broad money (M2b) continued to accelerate.

However, despite the substantial reduction in market lending rates, growth of credit towards productive sectors of the economy appears to remain inadequate.

"Discussions with the banking community and other stakeholders are ongoing to rectify deficiencies in extending credit to productive, growth-supportive, sectors," the Governor said.

Ideal Motors ... Continued from page 25

...all-purpose Maxitruck. The tailor-made truck to suit industry needs will comprise a 1.4 ton payload with around 35 local value additions.

The Ideal Motors, a subsidiary of the Ideal Group also will roll out the electric version of the KUV 100 Mahindra car this year.

The Mahindra Group in partnership with Ideal Motors launched an automobile manufacturing and assembly facility with an investment of Rs. 3 billion at Welipenna in 2019 and since then has been assembling the KUV 100 series cars at the state-of-the-art plant.

Welgama said Sri Lanka must take a cue from India and Malaysia which have made huge progress in automobile manufacturing from small beginnings in the early 1990s.

The automobile industry of Malaysia contributes around four percent to the country's GDP with the manufacture of around 500,000 units per year. India plans to increase its

contribution through the manufacture of automobiles from around USD 118 billion to USD 300 billion in the next four to five years.

He said Sri Lanka being in close proximity to India could partner with South Indian component manufacturers and be an original equipment manufacturer supplying to the vast Indian market.

"The move to promote SOPs by the Ministry of Industries must be expedited to support the automobile industry to get to the next level which will be a turning point in the vehicle assembly industry in the country," Welgama said.

The Minister of Industries will hold a meeting with local vehicle assemblers and manufacturers mid this month.

Minister of Industries Wimal Weerawansa recently said that Cabinet nod had been given to SOPs presented by the ministry as an alternative for the production, assembly, and manufacture of vehicles in Sri

Lanka to the ban on import of vehicles.

Several rounds of discussions between auto importers and the Minister were held in this regard as parent companies of certain importers of vehicles are keen to invest in the vehicle assembly industry in Sri Lanka.

"The move will help save the drain of foreign exchange through vehicle imports at a time foreign inflows through remittances and tourism have withered," Welgama said, adding that parallel importers of vehicles who oppose the SOP have mushroomed in the country resulting in a vast amounts of foreign exchange outflow each year.

Proponents of the SOP for vehicle manufacture and assembly said the move will boost local component manufacturing which is not yet up to the mark.

Ideal has created two OE manufacturing units in seats and Exide batteries.

Promoting... Continued from page 25

...and that such a source gap has to be filled with investment. In the colonial times, many of those countries that reached high per capita incomes, didn't fill the resource gap with investment.

They took the dubious step to conquer other countries and forcibly grab resources. By doing so, they were able to reach the prosperity levels that they are at today. But our two countries have not done it that way. That is how our countries have progressed and developed.

So let's see how we can do even better. To do that successfully, we have to make sure that we invest in each other's countries.

We have been mainly investing in the West for too long. We have invested in those countries based on the "credit

ratings" given by various Western credit rating agencies. Then, we get about a 1 percent return. But, when those countries' investors invest in our economies, we pay about 7 percent as interest, due to our supposedly "poor credit rating".

Have you ever wondered why when we lend money to the West, it is called an "investment", but when they lend money to us it is called a "loan"?

In accordance with that strange arrangement, we suffer from an interest differential of around 6 per cent on our reciprocal investments. On that basis, if we have forex reserves of 10 billion dollars and our market borrowings are higher than that, we will have a 6 percent up-front negative carry on our total reserves. That works out to about six hundred million dollars.

We need to think as to how we can cooperate with each other and in particular, as to where we can invest in each other's economies and countries. Your State Bank of Pakistan and our Central Bank of Sri Lanka should now be looking at ways and means by which we can cooperate in our respective forex investments. These are the big tickets that can make an impact in our cooperation.

That's a very important part where we can make a significant difference in the way we do business and investment between our two countries in the future. We must also promote trade within our private sectors.

Let's agree to work together to achieve that kind of a global outcome, which is essential for the continued growth of our countries.

Pakistan is a 300 billion dollar economy. We are a 80 billion dollar economy. In that context, I think if we can work out a scheme where our two countries have trade relationship of at least a billion dollars very soon. That would be a great outcome for both our countries. Let's also make our respective countries preferred destinations. Let's make Pakistan a preferred destination from Sri Lanka, and Sri Lanka a preferred destination from Pakistan. Let's visit each other's countries frequently. Let's play a little more cricket as well. Maybe some club teams, school teams, or over-50 cricket teams (I can also participate then), women's teams, can play each other. We can also have exchanges of students. We already have that happening.

I welcome the Pakistan Foreign

Minister's suggestion that we should now move from geo-politics to geo-economics, and why not? I think that's an excellent basis for future cooperation, when we are reshaping our respective economies. We must keep that in mind, because I think it would be an important factor when we push forward our own economies. In that regard, I must also proudly mention that Sri Lanka is today emerging from economic stagnation which dragged us down over the last five years. In fact, Sri Lanka has been able to go through the recent difficult period with the Covid pandemic, even while maintaining low interest rates and protecting the value of our Rupee.

Going forward, a continuous pipeline of investments would be a priority for us in much the same way that it will

be for you. So, come invest with us. In the same way, Sri Lankans could invest with you. We have the Port City which is an exciting value proposition. We have the Hambantota Industrial Zone. We would like you to consider making investments there too. I also know you have some great industries in Pakistan. You have the pharma industry.

Let's now promote a sustainable South-South dialogue and partnership. One of the best economists of our country in the 1980s, Dr. Gamani Corea who was the Secretary General of UNCTAD, was the man who first proposed the "South-South" cooperation. Unfortunately, that laudable concept didn't get enough traction at that time, but today would be a good day for us to take that initiative forward. That would be a tribute to that great man as well.

Intrapersonal skills for sales performance

by
Hemantha Kumatunga



Intrapersonal relationships or “within the self” skills are factors about self-awareness and controlling a person's own internal attitudes and emotions. Some experts refer to these factors as abilities, traits or, attitudes of an individual.

Whatever terminology is used to describe the term, these essential features play a significant role in determining success in personal selling and the overall performance of a salesman.

The five factors related to intrapersonal relationships are empathy, ego-drive, ego-strength, enthusiasm, and efficiency. The intrapersonal skills form the foundation to manage and navigate the salespersons’ ‘interpersonal’ relationships when interacting with customers.

This essentially important subject was first taught to me by one of my superiors in the early days of my sales career that spans over forty years. Since then, during the entire period in my career, I have always attempted to apply these skills in selling situations. In the later years, as a trainer, I have passed whatever I have experienced to thousands of participating salespeople.

Genuine interaction

When described in simple terms, empathy is someone's ability to feel others' emotions and behaviour. A salesperson with a good sense of empathy understands the reactions of a customer in the first few minutes of a conversation, whether it is face to face, over the telephone, or even written communication.

The salesman does not follow the pre-arranged sales track but functions in terms of genuine interaction

with the customer. This practice allows the salesman to adjust his pitch or make necessary modifications to a sales presentation or a discussion with the customer with a sincere approach.

Empathy builds trust in customers as they feel good when the salesman displays understanding. Naturally, when the customer feels comfortable that the approach of the salesperson, as an individual is genuine, they usually respond on equal terms. This allows the salesperson to ask more questions and obtain more information about the customers' needs.

When the salesperson approaches the customer with empathy and has a closer and more understanding dialog, the chances of defining the actual need can enhance tremendously and in turn, the solution also becomes more effective. Empathy can lead to a stronger bond and lasting relationship with the customer. The genuine rapport built with a customer is vitally important for repeat future relationships.

Ego-drive is the inner need to pursue a goal or a dream and treat the win as personal fulfillment. Ego-driven individuals treat winning as an intensely personal reward; hence do not give up the effort easily.

They usually are people with an overwhelming desire to succeed under every circumstance. Ego-drive is an extremely powerful enhancement of self-esteem that comes without being aggressive or ambitious. The ego-driven salesman needs successful achievement not only for material benefits but also for the feeling of satisfaction.

Motivated salesman

For example, in the field of selling, customers more often refuse to buy than accept a product or service offered by salespeople. However, a properly motivated salesman is mentally prepared to withstand continu-

ous rejections and keep on pursuing customers until they close a sale.

This is a fact that is experienced by any career salesman in his or her selling career. Ego-drive is the courage, interest, and enthusiasm of the salesperson to canvass the next customer, no matter that he was rejected by the last ten customers he approached.

The amalgamation of these two skills, empathy and ego drive, is essential to a professional salesman. A person with a high level of the ego-drive and low level of empathy and vice versa does not complete a successful sale.

Therefore, a well-balanced ego and empathy are required to derive the best result. When a salesperson intensely follows customers, he or she needs to be empathetic about all criteria concerning the customer to make him feel comfortable. If not, the customer may misread ego-drive as aggression. Hence, the balance of the two attributes is essential and that distinguishes a successful salesman and a mediocre one.

Resilience

A professional salesman most often takes a loss of a sale as a personal defeat. Hence, he or she needs resilience to bounce back from refusal or rejection and be more enthusiastic and motivated to make another effort. This characteristic is known as ego-strength. This inner strength makes them feel encouraged even if a sale is lost.

However, it must be noted that the salesman needs to strike a balance in ego-strength. Those with low ego strength will feel discouraged when confronted with rejections while those with too much ego strength will be unyielding and too rigid towards a customer. The correct level of ego-strength can help salespersons to maintain emotional stability and cope up with stress.

The commitment and the belief to his or her organisation's products or



The salesperson needs to strike a balance in ego-strength. Those with low ego strength will feel discouraged when confronted with rejections while those with too much ego strength will be unyielding. The correct level of ego-strength can help salespersons to maintain emotional stability and cope with stress

into a buyer, efficiency is the speed of the sales operation that determines how quickly the conversion takes place. The sales process which is efficient and effective can close sales more effectively and faster.

Improvement

In the modern era of selling, there are ways to improve efficiency. Most successful companies are already into specifying business goals and setting up key performance indexes.

This is one of the most important first steps that can be practiced to prevent arbitrary running around. Creating a standard and consistent sales process, providing training to sales and support staff, using a suitable software application to generate leads and monitor progress are some of the measures that can be taken to enhance sales effectiveness.

Intrapersonal skills are important ingredients for a professional salesman to succeed as they provide assistance to them to self-regulate. Strong self-regulation helps individuals to manage behaviour and emotions, face challenges with confidence and work toward goals regardless of distractions.

Some of these traits are natural to some people whilst others have to be educated and trained. The good news is that intrapersonal intelligence can be cultivated in people easily through coaching effectively. More importantly, intrapersonal skills are extremely useful not only in the selling profession but also for everyone to practice in day-to-day life.

JAT Holdings - Official Sri Lanka Cricket overseas team sponsor



From left: CEO, JAT Holdings, Nishal Ferdinando, Secretary, Sri Lanka Cricket, Mohan de Silva, Managing Director, JAT Holdings, Aelian Gunawardene, CEO, Sri Lanka Cricket, Ashley De Silva and General Manager, Marketing, JAT Holdings, Dilshan Rodrigo.

JAT Holdings (Pvt) Ltd has been appointed as the “Official Overseas Team Sponsor of Sri Lanka Cricket” for the 2020/2021 cricket season, until May 31, 2021. Having sponsored the Sri Lanka tour of South Africa and Sri Lanka's Home Series against England previously this year, the completely local and home-grown brand is also empowering the ongoing Sri Lanka tour of West Indies and the upcoming Bangladesh Tour of Sri Lanka.

CEO of Sri Lanka Cricket, Ashley de Silva said, “Cricket is all about partnerships and I'm sure this association will grow and develop, and that JAT will take this opportunity to harness their brand to become a global giant.”

Managing Director of JAT Holdings (Pvt) Ltd., Aelian Gunawardene said, “We are extremely honoured,

as a privately owned Sri Lankan company, to be the “Official Overseas Team Sponsor of Sri Lanka Cricket”. JAT Holdings constantly seeks for channels to give back to our community, and sports has always been an area of focus. This was even more evident when JAT became the only Sri Lankan company to sponsor the Kandy Tuskers cricket team at the LPL 2020.”

“True sportsmanship is a unifying language. It is undeniable that sporting events create complete individuals and bring together nations, ethnicities and religions despite their differences,” he said.

ITW Consulting, the Custodian of the ‘Official Overseas Team Sponsor of Sri Lanka Cricket’, for the period of 2020 – 2023 facilitated the JAT's engagement with Sri Lanka Cricket.

Huawei devices bring seamless connectivity

With the surge in Work From Home (WFH) and Learn From Home (LFH) scenarios, the demand for technology solutions have increased more than ever. Technology has overwhelmed every aspect of life, be it work, studies, entertainment and leisure while becoming an integral part of each household.

Huawei, the global smartphone manufacturer has pioneered this integration with its 1+8+n strategy which connects all Huawei devices under one ecosystem while the smartphone

acts as the central device. This pioneering connectivity solution is attached to Huawei's AI life scenario which aims to provide users an immersive and connected experience.

The smartphone and laptop or tablet combination allows the user to easily attend to smartphone's tasks via the laptop or tablet. The Nova 7i features a 48MP main camera, 8MP Ultra-wide camera, 2MP Macro camera and 2MP Depth camera that work in conjunction to produce professional-quality photos and videos.

Getting started in shares - Part 5

Which investor profile describes you best?

Financial professionals who manage investments on behalf of clients, profile their clients according to the way they perceive the client's willingness to take risks with funds invested.

Conservative risk profile: Aims for capital protection - takes very low risk

Your primary investment objective is to preserve your capital which is essentially the principal amount you have invested and to earn a predictable flow of income from your assets. This means you find it more reassuring to invest in products with fixed maturities and predetermined returns.

Defensive or moderate risk profile: Aims for gradual capital growth - takes low risk

Your principal investment aim is to gain a relatively stable and regular income. You are willing to take a moderate level of risk with assets you invest in. You aim to gradually increase the value of your portfolio over time.

Balanced risk profile: Seeks a balance between risk and return

Your main aim is to achieve capi-



tal growth over the long term. You seek relatively stable returns, but do not mind taking moderate risks. Nevertheless, you expect your asset to generate a nominal income.

Dynamic risk profile: Seeks long-term growth potential

You seek to grow the value of your portfolio over a long-term period. With the willingness to take a higher risk you intend to attract higher returns.

You are also aware of the short-term fluctuations in share prices and consider its temporary fall as a buying opportunity. In this case earning a stable income through an investment is of limited importance.

Growth or aggressive risk profile: On a determined quest for growth

Your priority is to generate capital gains. You are not afraid of speculating or going into what can be considered as risky economic sectors. You see a temporary market fall/setback as a buying opportunity.

Factors that affect a decision to sell shares

For many investors deciding to sell their shares can be more difficult than buying. There are many personal and market driven factors that can lead to a sell decision, including the risk profiles. Some factors to be considered are as given below:

The shares are no longer a good fit for your investment goals and risk tolerance

This might happen because your goals have changed over time. Sometimes an investor may find that the company he/she invested in does not appeal to him or her as a good investment any longer. This would mean that you would systematically start selling the shares that were intended to grow to the financial goal you had planned.

Reinvestment opportunities

This is when you have identified a company that offers better returns than of the shares you currently

hold. You can sell less advantageous shares in order to reinvest the funds in a better performing stock.

It is important to consider how your new purchase will fit into the rest of your portfolio and your strategies of investment.

Price movements

If a share price suddenly falls beyond a certain acceptable percentage, some investors consider this a ‘sell’ point, in order to eliminate the possibility of further losses. Keep in mind that you may need to have observed the price movements of a share and have some idea of the share's volatility to identify an untoward fall in the price.

Overvalued shares

You may plan to sell shares when they are pushed way past their true value. A share is considered overvalued if its current price is not justified by its earnings outlook and is therefore, expected to drop.

Overvaluation may result from an emotional buying spurt, which inflates the stocks' market price, or from deterioration in a company's financial strength.

Courtesy: The Colombo Stock Exchange

(Part 6 will appear next week)

Tourism industry stakeholders to be vaccinated

Tourism industry personnel are to be vaccinated in the coming weeks. Stakeholders of the tourism industry are now being registered. This includes all employees of the safe and secure certified hotels amounting to 12,503 people.

The 2,737 registered tour guides and 1,816 tourist drivers who play a significant role in the tourism industry will receive the jab. All staff members of the four tourism institutions and the Ministry of Tourism totaling 658 people have been added to the program.

With 17,714 people registering

for the vaccination, the revival of the tourism industry is not far long. Over 5,045 tourist arrivals were recorded by February this year, of which nine positive Covid-19 cases were found. Community spread was mitigated with the safety protocols in place and through this initiative not only will it safeguard and protect the tourism industry as a whole, but will bring Sri Lanka one step closer to being the safest country for tourists, a Tourism official said.

Chairperson, Sri Lanka Tourism, Mrs. Kimarli Fernando said, “The revival of the tourism sector

is our primary focus. In doing so, we proposed the special vaccination program, with the support of the tourism and health ministries we will implement the project. We aim to safeguard the stakeholders of the industry and work towards a fairly normal set-up.”

Director General, Sri Lanka Tourism Authority, Ms. Dhammika Wijesinghe said, “Attaining a normalcy of operating like pre-pandemic times and uplifting the industry will have a positive impact on the country's economy. The safety of our people is important, hence we look forward to working



Ms. Dhammika Wijesinghe

with the respective ministries and the stakeholders to successfully conduct this action.”

Business

CBL Group among Top 10 Most Admired Companies

The CBL Group, was named among the Top 10 Most Admired Companies in Sri Lanka for the financial year 2019/2020 by The International Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (ICCSL) and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA).

This accolade recognises 10 exemplary organisations across listed and unlisted companies who have shown exemplary financial performance, supported by the value created for stakeholders, customers, employees and society at large.

CBL, a name synonymous with some of the best-loved family brands of the nation, has been at the forefront of developing the food supply value chain in Sri Lanka and fuelling economic growth.

Through its agriculture operations, the group creates value for its network of 13,000 organic and conventional farmers aimed at improving livelihoods and maximizing land and resource efficiency towards a sustainable agriculture sector.

In its operations, CBL's workforce of over 6,000 employees support CBL brands to take food with purpose to

households everywhere through their distributor network nationwide.

"We want our everyday actions to make a positive impact on the lives of our consumers and stakeholders so we focus on delivering the best quality food products to our consumers to address their needs.

We believe that our success is best measured by the value we create in our consumers through our brands and products. We are humbled that our efforts have earned us Sri Lanka's admiration," said Chairman of the CBL Group, Ramya Wickramasingha.

The award also recognises CBL's resilience in times of crisis. As one of the first food manufacturers to begin operations during the lockdown, the agility of CBL's workforce enabled the group to adapt to the new normal and continue to support and strengthen the food supply chain.

Wickramasingha said, "At CBL we strive to live our core values and our CBL value is at the heart of everything we do. We made a decision that we would take every measure to ensure that every CBL employee had job security and fulfilment, so we are



Group Managing Director of CBL Group, Sheamalee Wickramasingha receives the award on behalf of CBL.

very proud that despite the immense challenges of this pandemic, we were able to continue operations under every safety protocol, ensure zero layoffs and fulfil increments,

bonuses and promotions for all." The CBL Group is home to leading Sri Lankan brands Munchee, Ritzbury, Tiara, Revello, Samaposh, Nutri-line, Sera and Lankasoy.

Vehicle importers plan to meet President

The Vehicle Importers Association of Sri Lanka has called for a meeting with President Gotabaya Rajapakse to discuss the challenges facing the industry due to the ongoing ban on the import of motor vehicles. The import ban, which has been in force since March 2020, has gravely impacted vehicle importers and all related industries, a media release from the Association said.

Excerpts of the release:

Vehicle importers and related service providers are facing severe difficulties maintaining their business premises and paying off bank loans, rent and the salaries of their employees. There are a large number of importers in the country who are without a single vehicle in their showrooms and are struggling to survive and to pay their employees.

If the ban is to continue further, they will be forced to close down their business and make all their employees redundant. VIASL calculates that around 100,000 direct and indirect employees will be made redundant.

Some vehicle importers and government permit holders have opened letters of credit prior to the import ban, and should be provided with the opportunity to import these vehicles. Since all circulars regarding clearing of imported vehicles from Sri Lankan ports were published on a retrospective basis, there are several permit

holders and importers who are struggling to import the vehicles they have ordered and confirmed legally through a valid letter of credit.

Local manufacturing and assembling has been mooted as a solution to the foreign exchange issue, but VIASL believes it's not the solution as the process does not add any value to the country's economy and is merely designed for tax evasion and higher profit margins for a few companies. The local assembling companies mainly import an almost finished product and add minimal value to it.

The ultimate victim in this process is the public who are forced to purchase a low quality product, which lacks adequate safety and emission standards, at an inflated price. Most of these products are of extremely poor quality and there have been instances where they have not been allowed to be run in their respective manufacturing countries.

VIASL hopes to discuss the creation of a reasonable survival plan that would enable them to meet their financial commitments and employee remuneration overheads. As veterans in this industry with years of knowledge and experience, VIASL wishes to present the various proposals they have prepared that would allow importers to survive while controlling the outflow of foreign currency, the release further added.

Advertorial

Cargills embarks on ambitious agriculture modernisation project 'Sarubima'

INDUNIL HEWAGE

Empowering farmers is a commitment that embodies the heart and soul of Cargills (Ceylon), which runs Sri Lanka's biggest supermarket chain.

With this in mind, Cargills has embarked on an ambitious agriculture modernisation project, 'Sarubima', to create a positive impact on the local farming community and environment which they operate in.

Cargills Sarubima is a totally dedicated, efficient modern Agriculture project which ensures better yields, higher income through protected cultivation, and saving in water, labour and fertilizer cost.

Apart from all this, the project is an ideal platform to find solutions for key challenges to Agriculture sector growth in Sri Lanka which include regional disparity, dwindling interest of youth in agriculture, overuse of agro-chemicals, limited export potential of local produce, volatile weather conditions and field harvest losses.

Speaking on the concept behind Sarubima Project, Cargills Agri Business-Deputy General Manager Haridas Fernando said,

"We at Cargills are all set and committed for the Sarubima project, first of its kind in Sri Lanka. Moreover, we actively engage with our farmers in order to improve their productivity and reduce waste in a big way.

Cargills Sarubima is a fund established by Cargills (Ceylon) PLC in 2008 in Thanamalwila where the Company initiated a concept of giving-back 50 cents for each kilogram of vegetables purchased from the farmers in the community to be utilized for community empowerment.

We provide them with extension services, technical input, guidance on best practices such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to improve their access to the market."

GAP certification is issued by the Audit Department of the Agriculture Department and is monitored by the Agri Business Division of the Agriculture Department. "Moreover, we have taken our farmers on overseas visits and introduced them to modern farming techniques which enabled them to build their own model farms. Fernando said

"In addition, Cargills Bank has come forward to extend its support to farmers in order to boost Agricultural production by disbursing



loans at a concessionary interest rate," Fernando said.

Moreover, Cargills sources fruits, vegetables and fresh milk directly from a network of over 10,000 farmers, through its collection centres and sends it to its chain of supermarkets.

"We buy over 120,000 tonnes of fresh vegetables and fruits and close to 150,000-160,000 litres of milk on a daily basis. Currently, this project has been extended to 10 selected areas. And we hope to extend this to several other

areas in the near future," Fernando said.

Under this project, Cargills has helped Sri Lankan farmers to obtain high yields with low input with support from Jain Irrigation Systems of India.

"We worked with Jain Irrigation Systems of India to introduce proven practices to reduce manpower and the use of agri-input," Fernando said.

Cargills organised a farm visit to the Hanguranketha area where the farmers who benefited from the program had the opportunity to

share their experiences with *Daily News Business*.

"Water scarcity in this area has had a huge impact on our vegetable cultivation. Because of that we used to depend on rain water when it comes to growing vegetables. Due to lack of water resources in this area, we grew vegetables once a year. Now with the Cargills Sarubima project, we have benefited from modern agricultural practices such as drip irrigation and fertigation and now make a better living in a productive and cost effective way. Now we grow vegetables two to three times a year."

Also, since we have adopted drip irrigation and dedication the application of weedicides, fertilizer and cost of production has dropped drastically. Earlier, we used approximately 200-250 Kg of fertilizer for growing vegetables and now with this modernization project it has reduced to 15-20 Kg," farmer W.G. Swarnathilake said.

"We're happy to be a part of this great initiative. Thanks to Cargills Sarubima project and the knowledge and input provided by Cargills

team, we have been able to obtain better yields and higher income.

And with this project, our farmers have been able to improve the quality of the produce. The use of nets and new irrigation and fertilization methods have drastically reduced pre and post-harvest losses.

Farmers now grow vegetables targeting the global export market with their Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification. More importantly, youth in this area have shown keen interest in taking up agriculture under GAP to obtain a better price in the future." Farmers Nishantha Sri Nishshanka (44) and Chandrika Kumari Wijethilake (49) said.

Drip irrigation is a key farming technology used under the Cargills Sarubima project and

Drip irrigation is the most efficient water and nutrient delivery system for growing crops. It delivers water and nutrients directly to the plant's roots zone, in the right amounts, at the right time.

The use of nets is another farming technology used under this project. According to the farmers, the use of nets has helped minimize damage to crops by pests.

In addition to that, plastic mulch is used to retain moisture, suppress growth of weeds and unwanted plants. The use of plastic mulch also improves soil texture, conserves water in crop production and deters some pests.

With the Sarubima Agriculture Modernisation Programme, Cargills makes a responsible commitment to the well-being of the local farming community. And this is a big step towards sustainable agriculture to ensure food safety and contribute to an enhanced national economy.



Highlights of the Sarubima Agriculture programme. Pictures by Saliya Rupasinghe.



Business

DFCC Bank remains committed to support SMEs



A critical importance has been placed in the advancement of DFCC Bank's digital product offerings which are also in line with the expectations of SME customers.

DFCC Bank has introduced various products and services to specifically cater to the needs of SMEs.

These products complement the gamut of existing services such as term loans, leasing facilities, hire purchase facilities, guarantee facilities and consultancy, workshops



and advisory services to SMEs and budding entrepreneurs.

One such example was the launch of the 'DFCC Sahanaya' concessionary loan scheme aimed at providing relief to SMEs in the export-related sector.

Under the scheme, the bank disbursed loans and permanent working capital loans at a low annual interest rate of 9 percent, providing immediate relief to export-related businesses.

It also aimed to assist exporters who failed to obtain low-cost funding under the Central Bank's Saubhagya COVID-19 Credit Scheme due to limited availability.

DFCC Bank is also among the preferred banks to on-lend Asia Development Bank's (ADB) funds to SMEs.

Under the ADB-funded Emergency Response Working Capital Loan Facility for



Covid-19 affected SMEs, the Bank has been disbursing loans to SMEs up to Rs 10 million at 4.75 percent interest rate with repayment period up to three years including a six-month grace period.

DFCC Bank engages with SME customers in a very hands on manner. The bank goes through the business plan of the customer and even analyses cash books to create a financial framework.

DFCC Bank will continue to add value to its SME clients by identifying potential customers in growth sectors, cultivating relationships, and spreading insight through seminars and workshops.

Amāna Bank assets cross Rs 100 b mark

Amāna Bank crossed the Rs. 100 billion mark in total assets as at YE2020, bearing evidence to its accelerated growth, which comes in a context where the Bank has completed only nine years in banking operations.

In the face of the Covid-19 pandemic related challenges, the Bank has showcased strong resilience especially during the first three quarters of the year and has bounced back in Q4 with 51% growth in pre-tax profit recording Rs. 372.1 million in comparison to Rs. 246.2 million in Q4 2019. Post-tax profit stood at Rs. 213.3 million.

In comparison to Q3 2020, the Bank's pre-tax and post-tax profits grew significantly by 168% and 167% respectively in Q4 2020. As a result of its resurgent Q4 performance, the Bank, for the 12 months of 2020, reported Rs. 761.4 million as profit before tax and Rs. 463.7 million as profit after tax. It is noteworthy that the profit after tax of 2020 is higher than the Rs. 460.9 million reported in 2019. Maintaining a healthy financing margin of 3.7%, the



Chairman Asgi Akbarally

Bank's Net Financing Income grew 9% YoY to close at Rs. 3.45 billion, while achieving Rs. 1.13 billion during Q4 alone, demonstrating a growth of 53% against Q4 2019. Despite import control having an adverse impact on trade related fee income, the Bank reported a Net Operating Income of Rs. 3.72 billion for 2020.

Having curtailed operating expenses, as a result of the continued focus on cost containment, the Bank recorded an Operating Profit Before VAT, NBT and DRL of Rs. 1.15 billion for 2020. The Bank's aggregate tax contribution of LKR691 million accounted for 60% of the Bank's Operating Profit before all taxes. The Bank continued to maintain a strong growth

momentum in customer deposits closing the year with a portfolio of Rs. 83.6 billion which reflected a significant YoY growth of 17%. This growth was achieved while also improving the Bank's CASA ratio from 39% in 2019 to 45% by end 2020, a testament to the strong emphasis the Bank has placed throughout the year to promote its CASA proposition.

The Bank recorded an 8% YoY growth in customer advances, surpassing the country's private sector credit growth in 2020, to close the year at Rs. 62.6 billion.

The Bank continued focus on prudent portfolio management and timely customer engagement resulted in containing NPA well industry average with Net NPA and Gross NPA ratios recording 1.4% and 4.0%.

Owing to the steady balance sheet growth and effective implementation of the strategic plan, the Bank's total assets grew by 16% YoY to close at Rs. 100.2 billion.

Sohantha Wijesingha – Head of Corporate Banking at DFCC

Sohantha Wijesingha was appointed as Senior Vice President Corporate Banking and Head of Corporate Banking at DFCC Bank on January 4.

Wijesingha, a career banker with three decades of experience, possesses knowledge encompassing branch banking, trade finance, payments and cash management, institutional and commercial banking.

Earlier he worked at HSBC Sri Lanka, where he held senior management positions.

In his new role as Senior Vice President



Sohantha Wijesingha

Corporate Banking and Head of Corporate Banking, Wijesingha will oversee the various integral factions of corporate banking at DFCC.

CIC Poultry Farms widens chicken distribution

CIC Poultry Farms has widened the distribution of CIC Besto chicken islandwide and is available in three packs.

CEO, CIC Poultry Farms Ltd., Ajith Weerasinghe said, "Today chicken is the cheapest available protein for Sri Lankans and CIC chicken is the least human handled product in the country. Our processing plant is a state-of-the-art automated plant equipped with modern technology. We have automated many areas in chicken processing and use advance technology to retain high quality and safety of chicken meat."

Everything from chicken feed to broiler chicken is made within the company. Therefore, the company has a high level of traceability, he said.

No producer uses hormones in the production of chicken and it is practically not possible. Therefore, there is no reason to fear consuming CIC chicken. The cost of hormones is higher than chicken meat prices, Weerasinghe said.

As a result of technological improvements and advancement of science, today broiler chicken grows to 2.2 kg in five weeks by consuming 3.5 kg of quality feed. CIC Feeds (Pvt) Ltd has its own feed production facility, breeding farms and hatcheries to produce day-old-broiler chicks.

Broiler produc-



tion is done under environmentally controlled houses where light, temperature and air flow is regulated. Following all international standards pertaining to food safety, the company has obtained ISO 22000 and HACCP certifications, he said.

NOTICE



We, LAPP Trading Ceylon (Pvt) Ltd wish to inform all our valued customers and suppliers that Mr. W. M. Nadeesh Manoj Bandara (NIC 813050048V) of No:92, Captain Sumudu Rajapaksha Mawatha, Off Hill Street, Dehiwala has resigned from LAPP Trading Ceylon (Pvt) Ltd, and is not authorized to represent or act on our behalf.

LAPP Trading Ceylon (Pvt) Ltd will not be responsible for any business dealings entered in to, with Mr. W. M. Nadeesh Manoj Bandara in the future.

Management

LAPP TRADING CEYLON (PVT) LTD
(Member, Penthouse Group - Sri Lanka)

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MASSIVE VEHICLES AUCTION SALE

12th of March

MIHILAKA MEDURA, BAUDDHALOKA MAWATHA, COLOMBO 07

BMICH

On View- 08th to 11th March 2021
(Between 9.00 am - 5.00 pm (Vehicles cannot be inspected on the day of Auction))

- NO. 162, MAIN STREET, AMBALANTHOTA - KAVINDU 0475118080
- NO. 42/5, GOTHATHUWA GAMSABHA RD, GOTHATHUWA - MAHESH 0773493535
- NO. 260, GRANDPASS RD, COLOMBO 14 - HASITHA 0767951865
- NO. 98/1, AVISSAWELLA RD, MAHABUTHGAMUWA, WELLAMPITIYA - JAYANTHA 0773242324
- NEAR THE PEOPLE'S BANK, WUNYA MARATHA, MATHUGAMA - PRAMODA 0775634245
- NO 472 F, MALAWA, KURUVITA - ISHANKA 0772752097

(Please refer the Daily News On 08th of March 2021 For the Full List Of Vehicles)

14th of March

GALWETIYAYA ROAD, SAMPATH WATTA, DAMBULLA

HOTEL GOLDEN RAY

On View- 09th to 13th March 2021
(Including salvage Cabins)

- ETHARENDIWEENA ROAD, THALAKRIVAGAWA, DAMBULLA - CHAMINDA 0695118181
- NO 223, KANDY ROAD, AMPARA - SAMANTHA 063-5740880/881
- NO 163, MANNAR ROAD, VEPPANKULAM, WUNUYA - THIMOTHY 0766582329
- NO. 161 A, KEPPETIPOLA ROAD, BADULLA - LAHIRU 0554549948

(Please refer the Daily News On 08th of March 2021 For the Full List Of Vehicles)

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Ministry of Plantation

Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka

Talawakelle

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

DEVELOPMENT AND INTRODUCTION OF A MOTORIZED SELECTIVE TEA HARVESTER FOR TEA LANDS IN SRI LANKA

The Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka is the apex body mandated to generate and transfer scientific knowledge and technologies for the stakeholders to improve productivity and quality of Sri Lankan tea in a most profitable and sustainable manner.

The mechanization of tea harvesting has been identified as an urgent need to ensure sustainability of the tea industry, due to manual harvesting of tea being the most labour intensive and expensive field operation. The diminished workforce available has further aggravated the problem leading to loss of production.

However, the exalted position held by Ceylon Tea as high quality tea in demand, is largely due to selective harvesting of the green leaves. This advantage cannot be compromised in the adoption of any mechanized harvesting operation.

Proposed Project

The TRI proposes a collaborative project of three years, with local/foreign partners to develop a motorized selective tea harvesting machine, suitable for local terrain, growing conditions and processing.

TRI Inputs

- Access to all background information
- Access to information on prior work by TRI,
- Facilitation for discussion with industry stakeholders,
- Critiques on concept designs,
- Facilities of testing of the prototypes developed and field testing facilities
- Funding assistance on negotiated basis with successful applicants

Primary features/performance of the machine as a minimum

- Leave behind minimum 80% of immature shoots (known as *arimbu*) present in the plucking table
- No damage to harvested and *arimbu* shoots by the machine
- Suitable for use during wet weather conditions including rain
- Single operator use, including female workers
- Target Productivity: 25kg/hr and coverage of 0.5 ha per day
- User friendly, robust and ergonomically designed requiring minimal training
- The power source adequate for continuous operation in the field over minimum six hours without refreshment

Developer Responsibility

- Conduct background research on applicable terrains and growing conditions
- Obtain stakeholder views and desired attributes
- Develop design concepts for discussion and MOU for continuation of project
- Construct and test prototype models
- Formulate commercial launch in consultation with the TRI
- Finalize long term collaboration agreements

Process of Selection and Steps in Development

1. Short listing of EOI received
2. Evaluation of responses to detailed Request for Proposal Issued to shortlisted applicants
3. Preliminary award to successful concepts leading to MOU for continuation
4. Final long term collaboration agreement

The short listing will be done based on the adequacy of the responses to the information and details required as listed in the web portal of the TRI; www.tri.lk

The EOI in the format could be submitted to reach the undersigned either by registered post or email (director@tri.lk) on or before 21.03.2021.

Any clarification needed can be obtained from Dr M A Wijeratne, Head, TRI Low Country Regional Center, Ratnapura, Tel 045 2228851-2, Email: madawalawije@yahoo.co.uk

The Director
Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka
St. Coombs, Talawakelle,
Sri Lanka.

Advertorial

BOC General Manager chairs APRACA meeting

APRACA's (Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association) 73rd EXCOM and 22nd General Assembly meeting took place with the participation of twenty four member countries from the Asia Pacific region. Indian Minister for Agricultural and Farming Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar addressed the forum as the key note speaker and the Bank of Ceylon's (BOC) General Manager Mr.D.P.K. Gunasekera Chaired the Forum which took place on 4th and 5th March 2021.

APRACA is a non-government

international organization involving central banks, agricultural and development banks, commercial banks, apex organizations, federations of financial institutions and rural development institutions in the region who are involved directly in agricultural credit and rural development. Its headquarters is situated in Bangkok, Thailand.

This year's APRACA's EXCOM and the Regional Policy Meeting took place on virtual space discussing on several key initiatives that affects the region on "Development Support to

Promote Agribusiness clusters and Credit enhancement"

Taking an inherent keen interest to promote financial inclusion in the country through contributing to develop MSME sector with special focus on rural and agricultural based businesses, BOC made a significant contribution to the successful implementation of initiatives decided on the forum in supporting the APRACA platform to guide members of Asia-Pacific region to develop innovative strategies to ensure financial stability and fiscal sustainability.



D.P.K. Gunasekera

AIA Insurance congratulates Sri Lanka's Most Admired Companies

AIA Insurance congratulated the winners of Sri Lanka's Most Admired Companies 2020, for being recognized not just for their financial performance but also the value they create for their shareholders, customers, employees and the wider community. AIA commended the 25 companies that were awarded this esteemed accolade for proving their mettle with consistency, authority and sustainable growth, creating excellent business performance. This was the third consecutive year that AIA was the Platinum Sponsor of the Awards, organized by the International Chamber of Commerce Sri Lanka (ICCSL) and other affiliated sponsors.

AIA CEO Nikhil Advani said, "As part of Asia's leading insurer and Sri Lanka's Best Life Insurance Company for the 2nd consecutive year (awarded by the Global Banking and Finance Review) AIA's core philosophy is doing the Right Thing, in the Right Way and with the Right People. We take pride in being associated with this event, which recog-



nizes business excellence and ethics - essentially doing the right thing, the right way for the right results. We place honesty and integrity in the highest esteem and are delighted to celebrate reputed companies that share our values in generating value for their shareholders, customers and the community."

Director and Chief Officer Legal and Operations for AIA, Chathuri Munaweera said, "As a company

with over three decades of experience doing business in the country, AIA is deeply rooted in Sri Lanka's corporate culture. We recognize companies for their contributions to the country's economic growth and also appreciate their sustainable and ethical value creation. We are delighted therefore to be a part of honouring such companies for their strong business ethics and contribution to the local economy."



ICCSL Chairman Dinesh Weerakkody said, "ICCSL values its professional relationship with AIA and were happy to have had them on-board as Platinum Sponsor for the third second year running.

As a sponsor, AIA could not contest for the awards but as a company AIA most certainly upholds the values of excellence required to be associated with an event of this nature."

Colombo City Centre presents 100th apartment

Colombo City Centre Residences celebrated the 100th handing over in February 2021, having commenced handing over their apartments in August 2020. CCC Residences were the first to do so from the high-end development projects in the heart of Colombo during the year 2020, and are currently found to be one of the safest investment options in Sri Lanka. It is noteworthy to mention that Colombo City Centre Residences also recorded the highest number of sales amongst the residence projects in Colombo during the peak of the pandemic, and only a few smaller units are now available for purchase.

"Despite losing many working days due to the numerous lockdowns, isolations and closures we were subject to over the past year, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, we at CCC made every effort, adhering to all health guidelines, protecting our staff and stakeholders, whilst making the dreams of our home owners come true, in enabling them to move with ease into their new luxury living space in the heart of the city," said Hirushka Fernando, Director Sales of Colombo City Centre.

Valdene Fernandopulle, Customer Relations Manager of Colombo City Centre, said. "The quality fittings and



finishes coupled with user-friendly internationally renowned home appliances installed in the apartments certainly adds glamour to the living spaces and have indeed been the x-factor in our success of being able to hand over 100 apartments in such a short span of time.

Aviator and Pentacool fans from Usha International

Usha International, a leading fans brand, with a keen focus on the Sri Lanka market offers the Pentacool and Aviator fans among its robust and diverse range of fans. Both the fan models come packed with the high-performance features and innovative technology.

The high-speed Aviator fan comes with a two-star energy rating and an SLS certification. It has an efficient 16-pole motor that consumes less power and promises a higher air delivery of 250m³/minute.

The fan has a speed of 290 rpm, and its rust-resistant aluminium blades and safety wire at both ends of

the down-rod pipe make it durable, and a compelling buy for consumers. Usha Aviator fans are competitively priced.

The five-blade Pentacool Smart-Pro fans boast a smooth and silent performance. Elevating the décor of any room they are placed in, the Pentacool fans are available with a 7.5-hour timer, and come with an LED display and a remote.

Usha offers a wide and diversified range of fans in Sri Lanka that includes ceiling fans, lifestyle fans, table and pedestal fans, exhaust fans, wall fans, specialty fans, and fans for the industrial segment.

Allianz Lanka supports Negombo General Hospital

Donates equipment to strengthen capacity of blood bank

Allianz Insurance Lanka Limited (Allianz Lanka), one of Sri Lanka's leading insurance providers, extended its support to the District General Hospital, Negombo with a donation of air conditioning equipment to the blood bank.

Air conditioning is essential to helping blood banks maintain the quality of their service. Strengthening the capacity of the Blood Bank, the equipment is set to help the facility deliver greater levels of care and support to its patients and donors.

Gany Subramaniam, Chief Executive Officer, Allianz Insurance Lanka Limited, dedicated the machines to the hospital in the presence of Mangala Bandara, Chief Marketing Officer, Allianz Insurance Lanka Limited; Samantha Gunawardena, Assistant General Manager - Market Management, Allianz Insurance Lanka Limited; and several other representatives from Allianz Insurance Lanka Limited. Dr. Luxshman Edirisinghe, Director, National Blood Transfusion Service; Dr. Nir-mala Loganathan, Director, District General Hospital - Negombo; Dr. Asha De Alwis, Consultant Transfu-



sion Physician, District General Hospital - Negombo; and Dr. Nimesh Pathirane, former Medical Officer In-charge - Blood Bank, District General Hospital - Negombo were also present on this occasion.

"At Allianz, we are committed to upholding our values of caring, integrity, excellence, and respect, and working closely with the communities that we operate in. It is our privilege to extend our support

to the District General Hospital - Negombo, a key local healthcare facility that is also involved in treating COVID-19 patients.

We look forward to seeing this equipment deliver greater care, support and comfort to the large number of patients and donors visiting the hospital's blood bank," said Gany Subramaniam, Chief Executive Officer, Allianz Insurance Lanka Limited.

Arpico Insurance appoints Kelum Senanayake as CEO

Arpico Insurance PLC, has appointed Kelum Senanayake as its Chief Executive Officer from March 1.

He holds a Diploma in Business Management from Worldview Institute and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Western Sydney, Australia.

Senanayake brings to the table a wealth of experience & exposure spanning almost forty years, from both local as well as international insurance industries.

Senanayake started his career in 1982 at Mercantile Credit, which was the principal agent for the National



Insurance Corporation prior to privatization. Thereafter he joined Union Assurance and rose to the rank

of Assistant General Manager where he served until 2009, after which he joined Eagle Insurance as General Manager - Life Operations.

In 2013 he was promoted to Director - Operations, where he was put in charge of an extensive repertoire of functions and responsibilities.

He makes history becoming the first and only CEO in the Sri Lankan Insurance industry to hold the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) status earned in 133 days.

Group Chairman of Richard Peiris & Company PLC Dr. Sena Yaddhegige said, "I am confident that he will take the Company to the next level."

CK unveils new fragrance

Inspired by the authentic and youthful-minded, who are unconstrained by boundaries, gender norms and definitions, CK Everyone bursts with endless possibility.

A tribute to individuality and the freedom of self-expression, the CK Everyone campaign is fronted by an inspirational collective of multi-hyphenate models, artists, musicians and creatives who illustrate the many sides of themselves and redefine boundaries to proclaim:

I am one, I am many.

I love everyone of me.

Master perfumer and creator of the iconic CK One fragrance, Alberto Morillas crafted a gender-neutral fragrance exuding clean freshness using 79% of naturally derived ingredients ignoring the traditional signifiers of gender as reflected in the non-conformity of both the scent and campaign.

CK Everyone will be available in Sri Lanka from February 2021.



DP Logistics opens freight forwarding office in Colombo Fort

DP Logistics (Private) Limited (DPL) recently opened its new freight forwarding office in Colombo Fort.

Strategically located in the centre of the commercial capital at 1st Floor, Hemas Building, No. 75 1/1, Bristol Street, Colombo 1, the new office offers a gamut of freight forwarding services.

A member of the David Pieris Group of Companies, DP Logistics provides a full range of logistics and supply chain management solutions, including Transportation, 3rd party logistics including warehouse management and freight forwarding. Customers also have access to a variety of supply chain solutions.



David Pieris Group and DPL officials at new office opening

Homelands and Homelands Skyline relaunch Negombo branch

Homelands and Homelands Skyline relaunched its Negombo office recently.

The oil lamp was lit Nalin Herath, Mrs. Harshani Herath, and General Manager Mrs. Lanka Jayasinghe, General Manager - Branch Operations - Mr. Sudath and CEO Yavas L. Pathiranage and members of senior management.

This new office will bring Homelands and Homelands Skyline, their development arm, under one roof.

This enables customers in the area to not only be able to visit and look over the available portfolio of plots available in prominent locations around Sri Lanka.



Chairman and Managing Director of Homelands and Homelands Skyline, Nalin Herath, Directress Mrs. Harshani Herath and General Manager Mrs. Lanka Jayasinghe open the branch.

SPECTRUM

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MARCH 7, 2021

Poetry:

A platform for women empowerment

BY METHLINI HEWAGE

Poetry is a beautiful form of writing that helps one express what one struggles to express or cannot express, through speech. Since ancient times, people used poetry as their voice to express their feelings towards a certain issue or to express their ideas regarding different aspects of life.

Gender based violence and injustice is something that women in almost every country are not strangers to. An increasing number of women speak up regarding the gender-based violence that they fall victim to.

Women's voices for equality are enabled when women voicing their opinions and standing up for their rights with the progression of the global society.

However, in the past, women did not have the ability to openly speak about their opposition or general feelings towards the oppression and injustice that they faced in society. Many of these oppressed and silenced women resorted to communicating these ideas and repressed feelings through poetry and other forms of writing.

Women's issues

As 2021 International Women's Day is just around the corner, the theme that this day will be celebrated under, "Choose to challenge" must be highlighted and brought to attention of the public. This theme prompts the society to challenge and voice their opinions regarding the issues women face around the world. Challenging and voicing one's opinions does not necessarily have to be done through speech. Many women poets have proved that poetry is a strong tool to express oneself and one's personal views, or struggles.

Much like the moving and influential work by Sri Lankan women poets, such as Vivimarie VanderPoorten and Yasmine Gooneratne, the Indian poet, Kamala Das who wrote under the pen name, Madhavikutty is an example of the way in which women poets used poetry to express the burdens they face and their inner anguish regarding the ways in which women are and have been victimised in society.

Through her poem, "An Introduction", Das describes her mental and emotional state as she aged and pushed back against patriarchal society. Within this poem, she highlights the issues associated with the culture and unjust societal norms of conservative countries, such as India. Writing about unfair social pressures that burden young girls, such as child marriage and the way in which they are forced to grow up and take on adult roles while not being able to enjoy their young lives, she incorporates her experiences of her childhood and innocence being robbed from her due to the detrimental societal norms as seen through the lines,



Kamala Das

*"I was child, and later they
Told me I grew, for I became tall,
my limbs
Swelled and one or two places
sprouted hair.
When I asked for love,
not knowing what else to ask
For, he drew a youth of sixteen into
the
Bedroom and closed the door,
He did not beat me
But my sad woman-body felt so
beaten.
The weight of my breasts and womb
crushed me.
I shrank pitifully."*

Not only does Das bring out the issues she and many other girls face through her poem, but also highlights the effects that gender-based violence has on girls and women.

*"Then ... I wore a shirt and my
Brother's trousers,
cut my hair short and ignored
My womanliness.
Dress in sarees, be girl
Be wife, they said.
Be embroiderer, be cook,
Be a quarreller with servants.
Fit in. Oh,
Belong, cried the categorizers.
Don't sit
On walls or peep in through our
lace-draped windows."*

She explains through these lines that the fate that was forced upon her caused her to feel shame regarding her gender and feel uncomfortable being herself, encouraging the harmful thought of wanting to be a different person. These lines are an expression of the way in which social stigma of certain societies force girls and women to conform to a pre-conceived idea of what a woman should be and how she should act. These is-

suess girls and women face due to conservative and regressive views and actions of societies are challenged by Kamala Das through her work of poetry, as we walk through her mind and understand her opinions based on her experiences.

Voice against injustice

Poetry being the perfect tool to challenge and speak up against injustice and address and shine the light on unfair social stigma and social standards, is also proved by the young, modern poet Rupri Kaur. The Indian-born Canadian poet rose to fame by posting her poems regarding current issues faced by different people and communities, on social media platforms.

Many of her works of poetry focus on the issues faced by women. Kaur uses her poems as a form of challenging the objectification of women and the sexual injustice and violence that women undergo. This challenging and voicing of the stigma that oppresses women through her poetry is evident through Kaur's short poem on society's view on a woman's body, in which the following lines are mentioned,

*"It is okay to sell what's
between a woman's legs
more than it is okay
to mention its inner workings
the recreational use of
this body is seen as
beautiful while
its nature is
seen as ugly"*

Here, the poet mentions the unfair way in which women are objectified and are expected to accept these views and the abuse that comes along with it. This short poem is one of the many poems by the poet that conveys the power of poetry. Kaur is an ideal role model for the youth and the rest of society, as she sets the example that



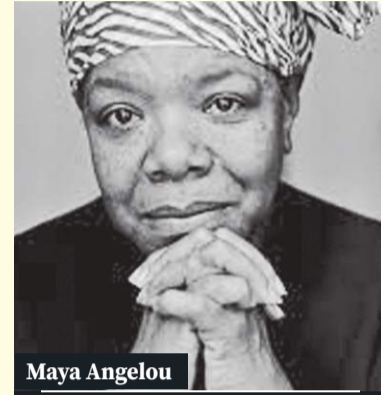
the words one writes and the thoughts and feelings that one puts on paper can make a difference and inspire others.

The topic of inspiring women poets who changed the world cannot be discussed or written about without mentioning the timeless poetic genius of Maya Angelou. She was an American poet, memoirist and civil rights activist. Her poems regarding feminism and the issues faced by women are largely, poetic works of empowerment. Women empowerment is an important aspect of feminism that should be encouraged and developed in society to establish equality and justice for women.

Exemplary Poet

Maya Angelou was an exemplary poet who carried society forward through her progressive poetry that empowered women to embrace their womanhood and the greatness that comes along with being a woman. Through her poetry, Angelou chose to challenge the discouraging shame and insulting views society held regarding women's bodies and personalities that cause them to feel self-conscious, unworthy or undeserving of self-love and self-confidence.

Through her poetry, she taught women how they should respect themselves and embrace everything they are born with, be it physical or personality wise, despite anything society hurls at them to make them feel less



Maya Angelou

WOMEN POETS HAVE PROVEN TO THE WORLD THAT WOMEN ARE OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO SOCIETY AND THAT SPEAKING UP AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND THE UNFAIR TREATMENT AND JUDGEMENT OF WOMEN ALL OVER THE WORLD CAN BE ACHIEVED NOT ONLY THROUGH SPEECH BUT ALSO THROUGH WRITING AND CREATION OF EMPOWERING LITERARY WORK

than or inferior.

Maya Angelou's poem, "Still I Rise" is an example of the way in which she used poetry as a tool to empower women by teaching them to embrace themselves and their gender and to stand up for what they believe and deserve.

*"Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down
like teardrops,
Weakened by my soulful cries?
Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin' in my own backyard."*

These lines express the attitude of not letting judgement about one's personality, affect oneself. Angelou attempts to inculcate the confidence within women that as a woman, one should never bow down to what society dictates one is worthy of.

These ideas and views that Angelou attempts to establish within the society through her poetry are also brought out through her poem, "Phenomenal Woman", which expresses the way in which, self-confidence and self-respect are two essential qualities for women to possess to know

what they are worth in society and to stand up against oppression. This is evident through verses from this poem such as,

*"Men themselves have wondered
What they see in me.
They try so much
But they can't touch
My inner mystery.
When I try to show them,
They say they still can't see.
I say,
It's in the arch of my back,
The sun of my smile,
The ride of my breasts,
The grace of my style.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me."*

*Now you understand
Just why my head's not bowed.
I don't shout or jump about
Or have to talk real loud.
When you see me passing,
It ought to make you proud.
I say,
It's in the click of my heels,
The bend of my hair,
The palm of my hand,
The need for my care.
'Cause I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me."*

These inspiring lines express the message that Angelou attempts to convey to women that, women are an essential part of society and they hold the society in the palms of their hands. Although the rest of society underestimates women, women should learn to know their worth and realise their ability to transform and uplift society.

Women poets have proven to the world that women are of utmost importance to society and that speaking up against gender-based violence and the unfair treatment and judgement of women all over the world can be achieved not only through speech but also through writing and creation of empowering literary work, such as the poems.

This year, while we celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, we must all consider the fact that putting our pens to paper and expressing our feelings, views and ideas could inspire women all over the world. We can all do our part in reducing oppression and injustice against women globally by choosing to challenge through writing.

Snow White can't be tarnished by time or cynicism

BY R.S. KARUNARATNE

Out of all the creations of Walt Disney, 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' is a unique and memorable animated movie. Some of us can even rattle off the names of the seven dwarfs: Doc, Dopey, Sleepy, Sneezy, Bashful, Grumpy and Happy. However, in Grimm's 19th century fairy tale, the dwarfs had no names. Even if you have not read the fairy tale, you may have seen Disney's film which remains one of the most popular movies in history. The film had its premiere in 1937. Since then over 500 million people have watched it. It was one of the films shown simultaneously in over 60 countries, including Russia and China.

'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' received rave reviews. When it was shown in the United States, the New York Times editorial urged people to "look at those seven dwarfs again." It said, "Snow White cannot be tarnished either by time or cynicism."

Walt Disney (1901-'66), the creator of 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs', was an American cartoonist and producer of animated films. He left school at 16 and later studied at art schools in Chicago and Kansas City. In 1923, he began to produce animated motion pictures in Hollywood with his brother Roy O. Disney. Disney produced a cartoon series, "Oswald the Rabbit" in 1926 and after two years, he produced "Steamboat Willie." In this film, he introduced his most popular and enduring cartoon character Mickey Mouse.

He began to produce feature-length cartoon films with "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" (1937) and followed it with "Pinocchio" (1940), "Fantasia" (1941) and "Bambi" (1942).

Comic strips

In the 1950s and '60s, Walt Disney Production Ltd became one of the leading producers of films for theatres and television. The company also published books and comic strips for children. Most of them featured lovable characters, such as Donald Duck and Pluto the dog. In 1955, his company opened an amusement park known as Disneyland in Anaheim, California. The park had historical constructions, displays and rides.

It soon became a popular tourist destination. The company also produced documentaries, such as "The Living Desert" (1953) and "Secrets of Life" (1956). The company began to produce action films, such as "Treasure Island" (1950), "Robin Hood" (1951), "The Shaggy Dog" (1959), "The Absentminded Professor" (1961) and "Mary Poppins" (1964). Animated features of this time included "Peter Pan" (1953) and "The Sword in the Stone" (1963).

Walt Disney became well known when he produced "Mickey Mouse, Goofy, Silly Symphonies" and "Three Little Pigs." However, they were not commercially successful cartoon films. As a boy, Disney had seen the silent version of "Snow White" starring Marguerite Clark. He realised that the story had all the ingredients for a full-length



A scene from Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

film. There were the prince and princess for romance and the seven dwarfs as comic characters. What is more, there was an old witch as a villain. He decided to produce an animated film. However, the film industry analysts in Hollywood predicted that such a film would be a disaster.

Being a man of sterner stuff, Disney discussed the new project with his team of 40 artists and explained to them how to portray Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs to entertain the audience. His art director Ken Anderson said, "It was a shock because we knew how hard it was to do a short cartoon, but Disney's performance inspired us."

Definite personality

Being a capable film director, Disney wanted each of the dwarfs to have

IN 1939, "SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS" WON A SPECIAL ACADEMY AWARD AND SEVEN MINIATURE OSCARS FOR HAVING CHARMED MILLIONS AND PIONEERED A GREAT NEW ENTERTAINMENT FIELD FOR THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY. THE FILM REMAINS AN ALL-TIME BOX-OFFICE HIT

a definite personality. As all of them looked similar, their differences had to be shown through their gestures, voice and name. He called the leader of the dwarfs "Doc" as he had known a domineering doctor. His creative

animator Ollie Johnston made "Doc" stand on his heels with his wrists pressed on his hips to convey pompousness. "Grumpy" was given a slight hunch and swagger. He looked somewhat pugnacious. "Sneezy" was made to look like a serious and responsible citizen.

Hollywood's leading sneezer Billy Gilbert lent his voice to "Sneezy." Pinto Colvig, the voice of "Goofy" and "Pluto" spoke for both "Sleepy" and "Grumpy." Otis Harlan, Scotty Matraw and Roy Atwell were cast as "Happy, Bashful" and "Doc." However, "Dopey" was not given a voice. In the film "Happy" tells "Snow White," "This is Dopey. He don't talk none." "Snow White asks," "You mean he can't talk?" "Happy" says, "He don't know."

Disney used Adriana's voice for the princess. Harry Stockwell's voice was used for the prince. Frank Churchill and Larry Money were the composer and lyricist for the film. Disney rejected some of the songs but selected a few of them which still linger in our minds.

Wicked queen

Disney had a clear vision as far as the characters were concerned. The wicked queen was created from salient features found in William Shakespeare's Lady Macbeth and the Big Bad Wolf. Her beauty was sinister, mature. She had plenty of curves. Lucille La Verne lent her voice for the queen and the witch.

At every point, Disney's experience made its way into the film. He gave

each dwarf a different snore. For instance, Grumpy listens to others snoring. Bashful snores in low moans. Happy's snores end in long whistles. Doc rumbles and gargles. Sneezy snores like a buzz saw. Dopey whimpers.

The film was produced at a time when technology was not so developed. As a result, certain animated scenes required about 2,000 drawings. The whole film required about two million drawings. In the course of the production, Disney ran short of money and banks did not want to lend him any more money. However, he did not give up his ambitious project. Finally, he received a big bank loan and completed the film.

Academy Award

Disney's efforts were not in vain. In 1939, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" won a special Academy Award and seven miniature Oscars for having charmed millions and pioneered a great new entertainment field for the motion picture industry. Today, the film remains an all-time box-office hit. After the film's premiere in 1937, the "Time" magazine predicted, "Snow white is a combination of Hollywood, the Grimm Brothers and the sad searching fantasy of universal childhood."

It is an authentic masterpiece to be shown and loved by new generations long after the current crop of Hollywood stars are sleeping where no Prince's kiss can awaken them."

karunaratners@gmail.com

Features



Seqenenre Tao's mutilated body being retrieved by his Queen and eldest son at the battlefield, painted by Winifred Mabel Brunton (South African, 1880-1959). From Hutchinson's History of the Nations, published 1915.

Seqenenre Tao II, a warrior Pharaoh king

BY CHAMARI SENANAYAKA

Egypt may have had the most advanced civilisation on our planet. As the technologies advance, archaeologists find older pyramids and mummies, proving that even 5,000 years ago they had such advanced technologies while most of the world was in primitive stages.

There is a lesser known name of one of its oldest Pharaohs. His face speaks a thousand words although not much is known about him. His face has massive cuts at various places and completely disfigured if not for the skilled embalmers who had performed almost a plastic surgery on the dead man and put most of his face in place. Every documentary stated that his remains are in poor condition, with bones mangled and the head detached from the rest of the body.

Historical evidence

Seqenenre Tao II had reigned over Southern Egypt 3600 years ago, between about 1558 B.C. and 1553 B.C. and was famous for battling with the Hyksos, which some call as 'immigrants' which had taken over the Nile Delta. Not much is known about this Pharaoh but his mummy was discovered more than hundred years ago. X-ray photos were taken of his skull in the 1960s. Recently, after conducting CT scans which produced 3D images of Seqenenre's body, archaeologist Zahi Hawass and radiology professor Sahar Salim believe (just as one of the old theories) that this King was brutally injured in the battlefield when he has led his soldiers against the Hyksos, risking his life and later executed in front of the enemy King.

We already know about brave war-



Seqenenre Tao's mangled body showing signs of his last agonising moments. Egyptian Museum in Cairo

rior Kings, such as Ramses II who had led his troops against enemies in many battles, but this is the first mummy found with fatal injuries that were inflicted on him on his last day. His coffin was also not so elaborated, but next to his name was mentioned 'The Brave' as he had risked his life in the battlefield rather than sending his troops to fight and commanding from behind.

Weapons

According to Dr Hawass and Prof Salim, Hyksos weapons that are preserved in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, including an ax, spear and several daggers showed compatibility with the wounds on Seqenenre Tao II. Painfully, they were all on his face. He has a seven centimetres cut across his forehead, which is visible despite skilled embalming. Researchers say it would have been delivered from an ax or sword stroke from above. This wound alone could have been fatal, but the enemy had not stopped there, as another potentially fatal slice above the pharaoh's right eye was 3.2 cm long and possibly made with an ax. More cuts on the nose, right eye and right cheek came from the right and from above and may

have been delivered with an ax handle or blunt staff, the researchers added.

Someone in front of the king seemed to have swung a sword or an ax at the pharaoh's left cheek, leaving another wound. From the left, probably a spear had penetrated the base of his skull, making a 3.5 cm wound. Years ago when Smithsonian channel made a documentary on him, it mentioned that this spear blow, possibly could have made the King fall on the battlefield from his chariot.



His deformed mummified hands, bounded hands as he was injured and taken as a prisoner in the battlefield

The mummy

The mummy looks hastily prepared, as his body must have been rapidly decaying when retrieved from the battlefield. His brain was not removed like in the usual practice sending the soul to afterlife, but embalmers had done commendable work on his face concealing some of the wounds which only became visible during the recent experiments using computed tomography (CT) technology. The pharaoh's desiccated brain was also stuck to the left side of his skull, suggesting that someone laid him on his side after his death, or his body was on that position for a long duration on the battlefield, rotting, after his enemies executed the King.

According to the two researchers' publication on the 'Frontiers in Medicine', there was no intracranial resin or other evidence of other embalming materials. The cribriform plate is intact with no CT evidence of attempt of brain removal and no amulets or jewellery was found on the body. His body was left to rot in the battlefield

or 'elsewhere' by his enemies as the 19th-century archaeologists who found the mummy had reported a foul smell when they unwrapped it.

His deformed hands indicate that Seqenenre's hands were tied behind his back, preventing him from defending himself as the researchers had found this evidence leading to the conclusion that he was captured in the battlefield, while fiercely fighting with his soldiers against the enemy risking his life and brutally injured, weakened and taken as a prisoner to the Hyksos King, where he was executed by enemy soldiers possibly while others watched and cheered. His mummy was discovered in the Deir el-Bahari cache in 1881, was examined for the first time at the time, and was studied by X-ray in the 1960s.

Family

The story of the brave Pharaoh does not end there. A text on a carved rock slab in Thebes recounts that Seqenenre Tao II's son and immediate successor, Pharaoh Kamose, also died in battle against the Hyksos at a young age. National Geographic states that he also died just three years into his reign, as Pharaoh Kamose sought to extend his rule northward over all of Lower Egypt. This apparently was met with much opposition by his courtiers, as these princes in Thebes had achieved a treaty to divide power with Hyksos rulers.

According to the Carnarvon Tablet, Kamose went north to attack the Hyksos, bravely like his father saying, "My wish is to save Egypt and to smite the Asiatic." Only his coffin and some artefacts remain. His mummified body lost forever, as some sources say that this young Pharaoh did not even have the time to create an elaborate Tomb or a funeral for himself while he was bus-



Fatal blows to his head with bladed weapons can be seen, a scan of the mummy's skull and missing eye. EPA

ily fighting the enemy during the short period he ruled.

After the battlefield death of Pharaoh Kamose, Ahmose, the second son of Seqenenre Tao II, became the next king at a young age, leaving his mother, the brave Seqenenre Tao's Queen to defend the country until he came of age. Ahmose later became known as a great king, the one who chased the Hyksos to what is known as Gaza today.

Ahmose's reign laid the foundations for the New Kingdom, under which Egyptian power reached its peak between the 16th and 11th centuries B.C. Seqenenre Tao II died in the battlefield fighting for his country brutally hit on the face and head with many weapons and lost the battle, but his tragic death paved the way for his eldest son to go further and his second son to finally achieve great victory for his nation.

Less known myths of Kotte Kingdom

BY ISURU THAMBAWITA

Sri Lanka better known as the "Pearl of the Indian ocean", being comparable to the incomparable, rays to the Sun, beams to the moon and fragrance to the lotus, has allured the world with its natural beauty.

Not only its unrivalled beauty but also its golden history have enchanted everyone's eyes and hearts. When speaking of the history of Sri Lanka, it can be noted that in the 3rd century BC, the Sinhalese kingdom was established in Anuradhapura and later during the 11th century A.D. it was established in Polonnaruwa due to the invasions of foreigners. As the time passed, the Sinhalese kingdom is proven to have moved to the southwest part of the country beginning from Dambadeniya to Gampola.

The kingdom of Kotte founded as a fortress to avoid the advances of south India by a minister named Alakesvara during the reign of Vikramabahu III, had flourished during the 15th century. History revealed that gigantic and strong swamps and ditches had been built to protect the kingdom of Kotte.

Parakramabahu VI

Parakramabahu VI said to have been the king of Raigama in 1412, made Kotte his capital in 1415. The

king, being a warrior, had brought the divided country under one flag. After his demise, Parakramabahu IX of Kotte moved the capital to Kelaniya in 1509.

We, though familiar with this local parlance, like the Portuguese went to Kotte, are not aware of the one who went to Kotte. It was none other than "Fernado Cutrim" who was made to go to the Kingdom of Kotte via a long and tortuous route. It is believed that the ancient Sinhalese had deceived the Portuguese team to avoid their invasion. But sadly, the Sinhalese failed to keep on cheating them because those in the ships had fired the canons so that the deserted Portuguese team could find the correct route.

Vijayabahu Kollaya

Back in 1521, Vijayabahu VII's three sons, after slaying their father, took the control of the kingdom and divided it into three kingdoms, such as Kotte, Sitawaka and the Principality of Raigama. Kotte was ruled by Bhuvanekabahu VII, Sitawaka was ruled by Mayadunne and the Principality of Raigama was ruled by Pararajasingha. As noted by the historians, the most powerful kingdom was none other than Sitawaka ruled by Mayadunne. The king of Kotte by the name of Bhuvanekabahu VII received aid



from the Portuguese to defeat Mayadunne. However, in 1597, Dharmapala handed over the Kotte Kingdom to the throne of the Portuguese, marking the end of the glorious kingdom.

The golden era of Sinhala literature

It was during the kingdom of Kotte Sinhala literature had flourished and prospered. The giant pillars that had brightened and elevated Sinhala literature to the peak are Ven. Thotagamawe Sri Rahula Thera, Ven. Wattawe Thera and Ven. Weedagama Maithree Thera. The poems penned by these scholarly bikkhus in praise of the glory and beauty of the country had added aesthetic values to the country's history.

The first "Sandeshaya" (the errand poem) is the "Monara Sandeshaya" (the Peacock's errand). The other "Sandeshaya" written in this era, are: Kokila Sandeshaya, Paravi Sandeshaya, Gira Sandeshaya, Salalihini Sand-

eshaya, Hansa Sandeshaya and Nilakoba Sandeshaya.

Sri Rahula Thera

History revealed that Thotagamawe Sri Rahula Thera whose layname was Jayaba, was conceived in the womb of Seelawathie at Dematana in the Kegalle District in 1408. He was an infant when his mother breathed her last. Father's name was Wickramabahu. Jayaba, having received his education from his grandfather Uthurumula Rahula Thera and his uncle Wilgammula Thera, was ordained under the name of Vachissara Rahula Thera according to the traditional Buddhist rituals.

Saraswathi oil

Sri Rahula Thera, being a mischievous novice bikkhu, is believed to have drained a bottle of medicinal oil called "Saraswathi oil" in one breath which had been hidden by Weedagama Maithree Thera knowing about Rahula's mischievousness. Even though Rahula Thera drank the whole bottle of oil, the prescribed amount was only a drop. It is said that novice bikkhu Sri Rahula, after having over drunk the oil, fainted and fell. The parrot that had witnessed the incident had flown through the window

and informed Ven. Weedagama Maithree Thera of what happened in the temple.

Ven. Weedagama Maithree Thera is believed to have brought the novice monk back to consciousness with the help of Ayurvedic Medicines. According to the folk-tales and beliefs, "Saraswathi oil" had empowered Thotagamawe Sri Rahula's long-term memory.

Siddaloka Rasaya

It is said that the "Sidualurasaya" or known as "Siddaloka Rasaya" was an Ayurvedic medicine made by Ven. Sri Rahula Thera. Ven. Thotagamawe Sri Rahula Thera had consumed this medicine when he had stayed in the Indurugiri cave. It is surmised that the body of Ven. Sri Rahula Thera would remain intact without decomposing until 4230 AD due to the effect of the "Siddaloka Rasaya".

All we cherish have to perish :-

In Buddhism, the truth instilled into our minds, blood streams and hearts is the Impermanence. Even Thotagamawe Sri Rahula Thera is not an exception.

Having rendered a great service to illuminate the lamp of Sinhala literature, Ven. Thotagamawe Sri Rahula Thera passed away in the Indurugiri cave at Ambana, Galle in 1491.

Myths and legends revolve around the demise of Sri Rahula Thera. History reveals that the remains of Sri Rahula Thera were taken to Goa by ship under the guidance of St. Francis Xavier.

Glory of Kotte

In the historical sites of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa, there can be observed the ruins of the giant Buddhist statues in which the deepest tranquility depicts through their ruggedness and the gigantic temples supported by the tall stone columns and the edifices adorned with the delicately chiselled carvings and flower motifs that enable anyone to visualise the glory and magnificence of our history. But unfortunately in the kingdom of Kotte, there cannot be seen such ruins that bear testimony to a golden history.

It is still controversial as to why there cannot be found the remains of the ancient temples and the castles in Kotte except for the ruins of Alakesvara's palace, the ruins of Beddagana Veherakanda and Kotte Raja Mahaviharaya.

However, it is certain that the hidden and buried glory of Kotte Kingdom which can eclipse even the rays of the Sun will emerge to fulfill the prevailing void. On that day Sri Lanka will become the diadem of Asia as if through a miracle.

Sri Lanka Air Force celebrates its 70th anniversary

Faith was kept, fight was fought and glory theirs



Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana

By
Nirosha
Rajapakse



The faith was kept and the fight was fought, the glory theirs, the duty ours. Right throughout last week, the powwow of the dutiful Sri Lankans was centered on the 70th anniversary of the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF). In view of its 70th anniversary, the SLAF demonstrated a special air show from March 03 to 05 at 5.00 pm at the Galle Face Green along with Indian Aerobatics teams.

With a humble beginning as the Royal Ceylon Air Force with its establishment running back to March 02 1951, with barely 06 officers and 21 airmen, the revolutionary transformation of the SLAF into a formidable and masterly force, with a present capacity of nearly 34,000 officers and airmen and currently scattered into 20 branches de-

serves a true and lavish acclaim.

At a time where the SLAF celebrates its 70th anniversary, the remarkable and gallantry contribution done by it for the preservation of the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the island nation is undisputable.

From the possession of the modest chipmunk aircraft to the acquisition of vigorous jet fighters in the caliber of the Kfir and F-7, over the years the SLAF's ability of unwaveringly evolving into a greater force bears testimony to its smart professionalism maintained within the security establishment of Sri Lanka.

The SLAF is well known as a trusted force which is technically advanced and empowered. As the island was engulfed and ravaged by the heinous atrocities committed by terrorism that spanned into three decades, the bravery demonstrated by the SLAF with their capacity of combat prowess was of enormous degree which contributed considerably for the eradication of terrorism.

Within a seven decade, the SLAF has been able to win the hearts of the Sri Lankans as the nation's trusted air

and cyber force.

Dynamic technological capabilities which the SLAF possess make it a powerful force standing above the level of its foes. Nearly 800 officers and airmen have sacrificed their lives, arms and limbs in restoring peace in the country.

In retrospect, the name of Air vice Marshal E. R. Amarasekara, a Ceylonese officer during the Second World War goes into the history book as the first Sri Lankan Air Chief.

During the span of seven decades the SLAF had been commanded by 17 far-sighted commanders and the present commander Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana is its 18th.

Under his strategic leadership the Air Force is determined to achieve four main objectives which include the enhancement of fighter attack, air interception and air support capabilities, increasing the strength of maritime surveillance and maritime disaster management capabilities and enhancement of its air power and technical competencies in which the SLAF would be armed in facing any threat to the nation.



BY R.S. KARUNARATNE

An apology is an act of saying sorry. When we have to apologise we need to do it sincerely. However, it takes a great deal of strength of character to apologise quickly out of your heart rather than out of pity. It is always good to have a deep sense of security in fundamental principles and values to genuinely apologise. You may have already noted that those who have no internal security cannot apologise sincerely. They fear that others will take advantage of their weakness. In addition, they usually feel justified in what they did.

According to Eastern wisdom and culture, if you are going to bow, you have to bow low. Christian ethics says, "Pay the uttermost farthing." An apology should not only be sincere but also be perceived as sincere. Leo Roskin said, "It is the weak who are cruel. Gentleness can only be expected from the strong."

All humans are liable to make mistakes, but only a few people are willing to admit them. Sensible people will forgive mistakes because mistakes are usually of the mind, mistakes of judgment. However, they will not easily forgive the mistakes of the heart, the ill intentions, the bad motives, and the prideful justifying cover-up of the first mistake.

Strict disciplinarian

If you are a quick-tempered person, you will get plenty of opportuni-

ties to make apologies. In one of my earliest memories I can still remember my boss telling me, "Don't look at the ground when you say 'I'm sorry.' Hold your head up and look the person in the eye, so that he'll know you mean it." Before my transfer to his office I was warned, "You're going to work under a strict disciplinarian." No doubt he was a martinet. He maintained discipline in the office and we began to respect him.

He thus conveyed the first principle of a successful apology. It must be direct. You must never pretend to be doing something else in the name of apology. Some people apologise while leafing through a sheaf of correspondence or talking to a client. Sometimes, you will be obliged to apologise to a subordinate after blaming him for a mistake that turned out to be your fault. It is useless apologising to a hostess whose guest of honour you had insulted, by sending flowers the next day without mentioning your bad behaviour.

One of the most important factors of an effective apology is your readiness to accept responsibility for your blunder or rudeness. Do not make excuses while making an apology because it will dilute the whole purpose. When you give excuses, the other person may not forgive your action. If you wish to be magnanimous, make no excuses while offering an

apology. After an apology both parties should feel better about themselves.

Embarrassing incident

It may be that you are partly responsible for some embarrassing incident. When you take the responsibility for your action, it will encourage others to come forward and assume their share of the blame. Sometimes you will be blamed for an action committed by a group of people. When you come forward and apologise, others too will get the courage to do the same.

During the visit to a friend's house, I accidentally knocked against a beautiful vase of flowers. The vase shattered on the floor and my friend said she bought it as a souvenir when she visited a foreign country. In such a situation sincere remorse is not enough as there is material damage. I

didn't want to say, "May I pay for it?" It would serve no purpose. Although she asked me to forget the whole incident, I managed to get a similar vase through another friend of mine. When I presented it after a few days, her face beamed with happiness. In such delicate situations words alone will not suffice to make amends.

In most situations, the damaged item cannot be repaired or replaced. At a dinner party a friend of mine got drunk and damaged the glass door of a cabinet. When he recovered from his drunken stupor, he offered his apologies. After returning home he sent a note to the hostess saying, "I know there is no excuse for my behaviour last night. Although it is my fault, I had no intention to damage your glass cabinet. I am sending a workman to replace the glass and your cabinet will look nice again. In addition, I'm sending a bottle of your favourite perfume as a token

of friendship." She was pleased and they renewed their friendship.

Timely apologies

It is unfortunate that we do not make timely apologies in our most intimate relationships. Sometimes, you shout at your spouse for no fault on her part. But you never take the trouble to apologise. We do not seem to think that we owe our loved ones the same courtesy we would routinely accord our friends.

I know of a husband who used to make derogatory remarks about his wife in public. On every such occasion he used to send flowers, usually roses. One day she decided to leave him for good. Before doing so, she left a garland of thorns on his pillow. By doing so she reminded him that he never wanted to change his ways. The heart of any apology lies in the intention not to repeat the mistake or bad behaviour.

Human life is full of unpredictable situations. Sometimes, you may have to apologise even if you are not at fault. They are called peace-keeping apologies. When you have an argument with your boss, you tend to use some harsh words. You are 100 per cent correct in your argument. However, if you do not apologise, what will happen to your job? Therefore on such occasions you have to

apologise to make peace with people.

Valid reasons

In marriage and other relationships constant arguments will occur from time to time. When an over-worked husband returns home, his wife will question him as to why he got late.

Even when he gives valid reasons, she will not believe them. Therefore, it is advisable for the husband to apologise for his delay in coming home. This will help maintain peace at home. If you are adamant that you are not at fault, you will have endless trouble in your marriage.

Accepting apologies is as important as delivering them. A mother I know always gives her children extra hugs and kisses when they apologise. She wants to bring them up in the correct way, so that they will be ready to apologise for their faults.

It is a tragedy that most people find it difficult to apologise. They are either too proud to do so or are not aware of the benefits of an apology. Very often people say, "Why should I apologise when I am not at fault?" By offering an apology you do not stand to lose anything.

A sincere apology is a small symbolic gesture that will cement the bond of forgiveness. If you were hurt by someone's remark, do not shout at them. By doing so, you will be making another potential enemy. In our short stay on this beautiful planet we need to spread compassion and make friends wherever we happen to be.

karunaratnes@gmail.com

The art of apology



Meet the family

SARAH'S BIGAMY



-The
Devastation
Revealed-



BY SANTHOSHYA JAYAMALI SENEVIRATNE

Sarah and Nicolas, the soon-to-wed couple bring Samara across the border to Canada, hidden in their vehicle as she's wrongfully accused of carrying illegal drugs. At the border, they pretend to be married although they aren't, and Sarah is arrested for carrying an ornamental gold pagoda in her handbag. She's bailed out the following day and a court case is filed. She wonders why Nicolas and Samara don't turn up to inquire after her, and learns later that they're in a secret affair and they've betrayed her. She attends the court case alone, pays a fine and faces a suspended sentence of six months imprisonment. The following week, she flies to a city far away, finds employment there and settles down. She follows a university course to become a teacher. She coincidentally meets a young man (Sherman) and falls in love with him. He suggests Sarah to be his niece's home-visiting tutor.

Episode 8

So passed a few more months with sweet rendezvous, until Sherman really decided to introduce Sarah to his family. And one evening, he did. His sister, two brothers, and little niece were ready to welcome her.

They lived in an ordinary house, but Sarah viewed it like a mansion. She walked in there with Sherman; however, for some reason she tried to relate the bail prison she spent one night in, to the manor she just entered. She weighed her thoughts between the two lodgings. She marvelled the first one, the bail prison, and the second was yet another question. It was palatial and enormous. Anyone could hide there without being seen for a few days. Sarah thought that there could be many hide-outs there. It looked mysterious.

"This is my sister, Kumberlin, my two brothers Sidney and Jerad, and my little niece Kristina", Sherman said, doing a formal introduction, "and this is Sarah."

Soon the two brothers vanished into their own work and so did Sherman to the interior of the house and Sarah and Kumberlin were left alone in the living area with little Kristina.

And so, it happened. The host and the guest had their eyes meet, and it took them both to a long-ago past. Sarah wasn't sure if it was a quick travel to the past, but it was clear. She identified it in no time. They both had forgotten some catastrophic incident, no matter how apparent it was in their eyes. Sarah felt uncomfortable.

She wished she could run away, but she felt trapped. She felt as if there had been a major conspiracy involving the two of them, whatever it was. She couldn't move away. She felt stuck to the ground and weak. She stopped making any effort as it took her nowhere, but only made her weaker; it made her feel in a bigger trap.

Also, she identified the familiarity in her face well, although it was to a negative effect. Kumberlin was definitely a middle-aged lady. Sarah thought that her short hair suited her face well. She didn't know that Kumberlin disliked maintaining long hair in her attempt to look younger.

Whether her attempt was successful or not was left for the individual, however. She was a lady with average height. And her weight didn't have much burden on her.

Sarah had her eyes linger around her, trying to bring her into memory but she failed. Nevertheless, she knew it was a brilliant encounter. At least she was fortunate that way.

Her knowledge was nothing but an excellent one, and obviously she was tensed as a matter of fact. Kumberlin gave a triumphant smile.

She was delighted that she was having her turn of preying the girl, although she didn't know it, and also she didn't remember the reason for it. She was captured by sadism at her first glance at Sarah. In a way, it was reasonable, most certainly, in her eyes.

"Hello Sarah, nice to meet you." She muttered under her breath.

"Nice to meet you too." Sarah said.

Sarah put up a smile on her face in spite of her uneasiness. Kumberlin noticed it. She enjoyed Sarah's present discomfort; it gave her pleasure for the time being.

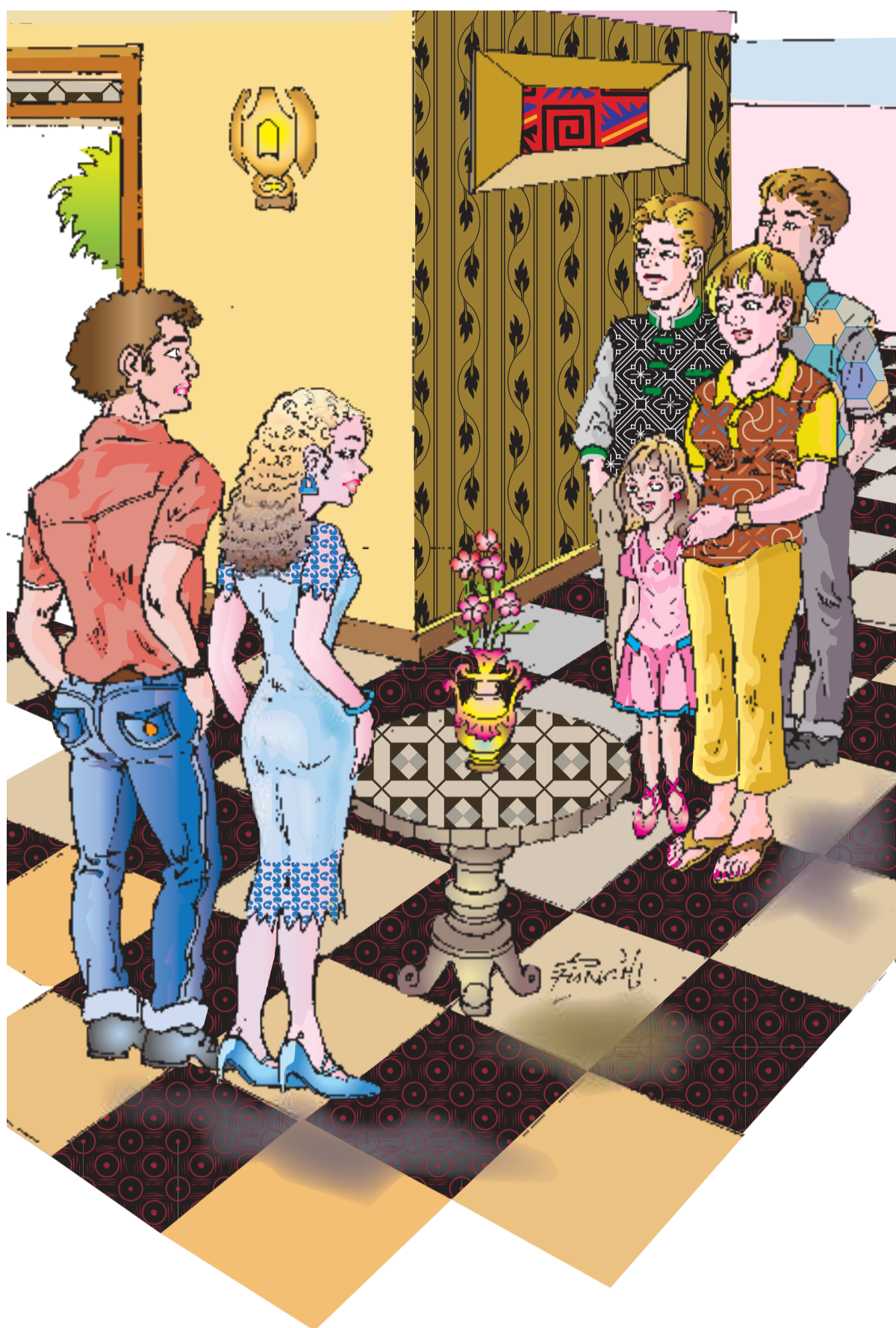
Now there was quite a distance between the two parties. In her uneasiness, Sarah made sure she maintained considerable space, although she felt she had no way out; it was evident. Both ladies examined each other for some more time. Each envied in embracing the other.

They were indeed happy that they both had met again to bring their incompleteness to an end. But they were unsure if they would be successful, at least this time, if it would come to an end. They weren't even aware of the inner-working of their minds and they quickly came back to themselves.

"You're exactly the same dear girl I expected." Kumberlin said, scrutinizing her face much deeper.

Sarah smiled in her anxiety and Kumberlin felt even more triumphant. Sarah's most apparent fretfulness brought nothing but delight to Kumberlin. She simply liked to see Sarah fret, even if she was in a greater agony.

She hardly felt her own heartbreak; it was a thing to be ignored now. She had a pastime in hand. A wonderful one: Making Sarah feel



uncomfortable and be happy about it!

"I was very happy that Kristina's having a home visiting tutor and when Sherman said you're a university student of Education, I knew you were the ideal teacher for her."

Sarah looked at little Kristina while listening to Kumberlin and the little girl gave her a smile, a genuine one. She looked as if she was very pleased to have Sarah as her tutor.

Soon all three of them were taking a walk in the garden; it was quite a large one in comparison with the house. There was an orchid yard, a large pond with beautiful fish and three well-grown trees that Sarah couldn't identify.

"Do you know what this tree is?" Kumberlin asked, pointing at one.

"No." Sarah gave a brief answer.

"That's an avocado tree."

Sarah scanned into the tree, captured some fruit with her eyes and tried to identify them.

"But just because there're avocados there, don't think that's an avocado tree!" Kumberlin muttered.

Sarah was confused to hear her words, and she quickly looked at her trying to understand her. How can a tree that bore avocados, not be an avocado tree?

And why would Kumberlin make such weird comments? Kumberlin burst out laughing to see Sarah in confusion. She enjoyed seeing her puzzled. Sarah faintly smiled, knowing that Sherman's sister was just trying to tease her.

She looked down so that she couldn't see Kumberlin anymore. She was uncertain of the probability of her existence before and after she was apparent, as she disappeared from her sight when she looked down.

Sometimes she desired to investigate its form, but it brought her disappointment as she failed in understanding it. Really speaking, her disappointment had nothing to do with the appearance and the disappearance of the lady who she was taking a walk with now, but it had everything to do with form.

In a while, she directed her eyes

at Kumberlin and noticed that she had become silent while aiming her eyes at Sarah. What a rightful prey Sarah was to her! Sarah suddenly began to see her fall. She could see her shadow. There was no change in it. Sarah was puzzled.

Can the shadow be still when the real fact moved? It was a good question. Sarah didn't enjoy this collapse, but she couldn't help it. It was real. The little partitions that she was made with held her tight, however, just as they did with Sarah. Nevertheless, the triumphant smile on her face didn't fade away. It was there just like it was.

They walked back inside. "Come here love!" Sarah woke up from her thoughts with one call from Kumberlin.

She walked towards her.

"Turn your head! I'm just admiring your hair."

Sarah smiled while taking a seat. She turned her head around so that Kumberlin could have a proper look at her hair.

Kumberlin began to feel Sarah's

hair with her fingers, trying to break her natural curls, and Sarah felt uncomfortable.

She liked to maintain curls. She thought that it brought her true appearance. Her present experience of someone trying to undo her curls wasn't a good one. It wasn't possible to undo them, anyway, as they were natural curls. The more Kumberlin tried to break them, the more they went back to their original position.

"You have pretty long hair. Why not just put it down without hiding it in curls? Let your hair be! It suits you." Kumberlin said in the same low voice.

Sarah was in utter discomfort but she spoke contrary to what she thought.

"Yes, I know. Hair should be natural."

"Exactly." The confirming words came from Kumberlin.

The contemporary nature of her wording was very clear when she spoke. True, Kumberlin was middle-aged, but her words were clear and the tone of her dialect was well updated. Sarah tried to go hand-in-hand with her, although it wasn't necessary.

Her effort of trying to change Sarah's hair was irritating, but she was still tolerating it when Jerad, one of the brothers, went past them with a slight gesture. He drove off in his car and Kumberlin made her remark.

"He's sometimes a playful little monster. Gets late to come home, so I have asked him to see me as soon as he comes. Then I know the time he's home."

It was a quick explanation and Sarah gave out a brief laugh. All what she could see in Jerad was nothing but lightheartedness. She liked it. It was something new to her. She hadn't seen this easy-going nature earlier. She was happy that she was going to see more of it, obviously. She still had her eyes, following him when Sherman called them to the table.

The table was well arranged with supper and they all sat. It was Sarah, Sherman, Kumberlin, Kristina, and Sidney at the table as Jerad had just left. They started serving themselves.

Sarah was methodical in what she was doing, but, of course, nervous. In addition to her nervousness, she was overwhelmed by uneasiness in front of Sherman's sister. Kumberlin's vigilant eyes watched Sarah carefully.

She enjoyed Sarah's uneasiness. She not only didn't know the reason for it, but she also didn't bother trying to find any reason; it simply made her day.

She started having her supper seated at her special spot. There was a little table that helped her when she preferred taking meals in her own bedroom, otherwise, she joined the family in the dining hall.

While having the meal, they discussed about the forthcoming tuition that needed to be started for Kristina. According to Kumberlin it had to start very soon.

It was a very important need and a necessity. Leaving alone the present sadism she enjoyed with regard to Sarah, teasing her and making her feel uncomfortable, she was happy that she had found a tutor.

And of all, in addition to the unknown reason, there was another clear reason for her sadistic attitude, which sprang from one unfortunate incident that nobody knew.

It was the reason for the death of her husband, Christus. No one really knew the cause of his death except Kumberlin herself.

To be continued next week
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Moving sands: One of nature's many splendid phenomena

BY METHLINI HEWAGE

Towering over the desert like ocean waves frozen in time are great mounds of shifting sands known as dunes. Forests, farms and even entire towns are smothered by these constantly moving mountains, which account in total for about 5 million square miles which is about 13 million square kilometres of the Earth's surface, an area twice the size of the United States of America.

The dunes are blown by the winds, sometimes in violent sandstorms that scrape the paint from cars and slice through telephone lines. The sands move fast and far, depending on the strength and direction of the wind.

Of the two main types, crescent-shaped dunes form when the wind blows only in one direction, while "sief" dunes resemble the surface of a rough sea. Some dunes are shaped like elongated mounds, running in parallel lines and separated by rocky corridors; they may even stretch for 100 miles (160 km) or more.

The shallow troughs of the Sahara, known as 'ergs', have some of the largest of all dunes. Winds from many directions deposit their sand in great star-shaped heaps, sometimes more

than 1000 ft (350 m) high. These huge peaks stay put for many years, serving as landmarks for desert travellers.

Dunes on the move

Most dunes, however, are constantly on the move. A dune creeps forward as sand blown up the gently sloping upwind side, spills over the crest and builds up at the top of the unstable steep slope. When this slope reaches a steep angle, the sand cascades down its face.

With crescent-shaped dunes, sand on the flanks moves faster than that in the centre, the sickle shape emphasised by higher wind speeds along the outer edges of the dune.

As long as the wind is blowing, the process continues. This continues to the extent that dunes can climb a slope to form a ramp leading up to a high plateau. The sand grains themselves are rounded and move easily in the wind.

Even deserts have "seasons", since the formation and movement of sand dunes is dependent on seasonal wind patterns.

In the Wahibah Desert of Oman, a group of scientists found that sand movement is greater in the summer when the south-west monsoon winds



blow the sand towards the north-east at a rate of about 10ft (3m) in ten days.

When the sand moves, it does not go piecemeal: instead, entire dunes retain their valleys and ridges and move in one great mass. In winter and spring, when the winds blow from different directions, the dune crests form

and re-form, moving along at a rate of about 3ft (1m) each day.

Island of sand dunes

In some places, the sand is stopped in its tracks by a natural obstruction. Witsand, in the Kalahari Desert of

THE DUNES ARE BLOWN BY THE WINDS, SOMETIMES IN VIOLENT SANDSTORMS THAT SCRAPE THE PAINT FROM CARS AND SLICE THROUGH TELEPHONE LINES. THE SANDS MOVE FAST AND FAR, DEPENDING ON THE STRENGTH AND DIRECTION OF THE WIND

southern Africa, is an island of white sand dunes, six miles (10km) long and two miles (3km) wide, in a sea of red sand. A row of quartzite outcrops of rock in an otherwise featureless landscape has trapped the sands blowing from the Kalahari and a range of low sand mountains has gradually accumulated.

Water, trapped in the quartzite and seeping up from it, bleaches the sand white or a grey-blue colour that contrasts with the oxide-rich sands of the surrounding desert.

Local superstition has it that the white sand will not mix with the red. The magic is enhanced by the presence of curious stalagmite-like formations. They occur where lightning has struck the sand, fusing the sand par-

ticles together into misshapen tubes known as fulgurites.

Sand dunes are not always the products of hot deserts. Coastal dunes made from rocky fragments, ground into a fine sand by the action of the sea may be pushed back from the coast by onshore gales.

The legacy of glaciers includes wind-blown fragments of shattered rock sculpted by cold winds after the Ice Age, into huge dune fields like those along Lake Michigan in North America and in parts of Germany and the Netherlands. A storm in 1775 buried the church of Skagen on the northernmost tip of Jutland in Denmark in sand, leaving only its tower poking through. In the hotter parts of southern Europe, dunes up to 100 ft (30m) high are sometimes swept up into the sky, burying green forests and ancient buildings all alike.

Dunes also make mysterious sounds. The sands squeak, rumble and roar. The sounds are created when accumulated heaps of unbaked sand break up and tumble down the steep face of a dune. When sand grains are analysed under powerful electron microscopes, scientists have discovered that those from "booming" dunes or "singing" sands are more polished than those from other dunes.

MONTAGE

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

MARCH 7, 2021

Soul Windows

The eyes are the windows to the soul

Soul Windows the second solo exhibition by Shanaka Kulathunga will be held from March 12 to 14 at the Lionel Wendt Art Gallery.



By Anuradha Kodagoda



Soul Windows the second solo exhibition by Shanaka Kulathunga will be held from March 12 to 14 at the Lionel Wendt Art Gallery. Shanaka Kulathunga is a skillful, self-taught artist, specialised in portrait painting who gained inspiration from the techniques of the Renaissance masters mostly. The human body has been his subject as well as his muse behind his creativity since adolescence which later led him to find his artistic soul and his professional career in life as a physician.

Soul Windows is his second solo exhibition ready to be unveiled at the Lionel Wendt Gallery from March 12 to 14 this year. *Soul Windows* is a synonym for 'eyes' and a person's eyes are the windows of the soul. *Soul Windows* will unfold Shanaka's latest collection of soulful portraits of 'the known and the unknown'.

In an interview with the *Sunday Observer*, he recalls the love for painting that grew in him from a very early age. However, being studious from his schooldays, his parents always encouraged him to choose career-driven subjects. 'Arts' was not in their vocabulary. Passing the GCE (Ordinary Level) examination with bright colours, although he chose to study Bio Science at Royal Collage, Colombo, he soon became popular in school for his artistic talents. "I have been an average student in the Bio class, but my unique identity always relied and shined as an artist. I feel more like myself when I'm in front of a canvas."

Shanaka identifies himself as an 'outsider' to the local art fraternity; however, he learned the basics of the human anatomy at the Vibhavi Academy of Fine Arts and was trained by prominent artist Dr. Chandraguptha Thenuwara. Throughout his career as an artist, Shanaka received appreciations for his art and won many awards and appreciations locally and internationally. His work has thus far been part of many group exhibitions, including, the annual Sri Lankan Art exhibition organised by the George Keyt Foundation.

The use of colours in Shanaka's paintings is unique and interesting. Each portrait is allowed to keep its own visual space within his palette, and his artistic ability to work with vibrant colours such as the blues, reds and greens together but separately on the surface is something captivating. Elaborating his point of view of the use of colours Shanaka says, "I am totally in love with the use of primary colours. I think the strength of red, blue and yellow and the contrast they create gives a great liveliness to the image. Besides, I always like to experiment, therefore, although my most comfortable choice of medium is oil and acrylic, I also try to work with pastel and charcoal. Sometimes even with no colours at all."

Speaking about his process of work, Shanaka spends more time on thinking and visualising about the realistic qualities of the portrait before he starts to work with the model. As an artist driven by practising the traditional, accurate techniques as much as possible in his paintings, for him the paramount goal with any portrait is its concept which consumes a lot of thought and energy to decide. "I always believe that drawing a portrait is not just what I see, but what

I want others to see through it. Therefore, in every portrait I pay more attention to one detail and develop the concept of that person based on that," he said.

For a patient observer of Shanaka's paintings, his well-disciplined brushwork, texture, value compression and colour harmony is quite obvious. His keen attention

on correct hues, values, proportions and so on are visible in every painting of his.

"I love to paint in many layers and try to anticipate the effect one layer has on subsequent layers. It's quite a strenuous process but exciting and definitely keeps me on my toes," Shanaka says.

As Shanaka reveals, he never restricts the time he spends with models to one or two sittings but each portrait takes at least six to eight sittings. Although he photographed many poses of a model, he tries to rely on live drawing as much as possible. "The paintings in this exhibition, *Soul Windows* were retouched from the start to the finish many times until I was satisfied. I'm no longer able to whip out a painting every couple of week, but this process is much more fulfilling to me as an artist."

Any portrait painting can be intended as a reflection on the mystery of life. Shanaka's pictorial style can certainly be defined as a realist or hyperrealist where the level of detail in his paintings is quite phenomenal. His obsession

for details has undoubtedly sharpened and moulded his specialty in portrait painting. "The more I represent details, the more I continue to want to reveal them. It means for me to get as close as possible to reality and have the illusion that what I am creating can at some point take life and reveal a soul.

Therefore, in every portrait I do I want to reproduce an image with a strong visual impact as much alive as possible."

Shanaka invites all art lovers to visit his exhibition which marks another milestone in his artistic journey.

THE USE OF COLOURS IN SHANAKA'S PAINTINGS IS UNIQUE AND INTERESTING. EACH PORTRAIT IS ALLOWED TO KEEP ITS OWN VISUAL SPACE WITHIN HIS PALETTE AND HIS ARTISTIC ABILITY TO WORK WITH VIBRANT COLOURS SUCH AS THE BLUES, REDS AND GREENS TOGETHER BUT SEPARATELY ON THE SURFACE IS SOMETHING CAPTIVATING



Art News

Satyam Sivam Sundaram

The Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Colombo and the High Commission of India, will present a classical

Bharatha Natya recital under the title of "Satyam Sivam Sundaram" by Dr. Subashini Pathmanatha, on March 11, 2021 at 6

pm, with elaborate illustrations to mark the Maha Sivarathiri festival.

The viewers can watch the program on the Face-

book Live stream of the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Colombo: [www. Facebook com / ICCR Sri Lanka](http://www.facebook.com/ICCR Sri Lanka)



Retro reviews: Cinema of yesteryear

Gunmen from Laredo

By Dilshan Boange



In this 24th and final instalment of the weekly 'Retro Reviews: Cinema of Yesteryear' series, I spotlight a Hollywood Western with a Sri Lankan connection which many younger Sri

Lankans today may not know of.

Gunmen from Laredo is a movie released in 1959 directed by Wallace McDonald. The movie has as its leading lady former Sri Lankan beauty pageant queen from the pre-republican (British dominion or Ceylon) era, Maureen Neliya Hingert who appeared in numerous international cinema productions, such as *The King and I*, *Gun Fever* and *The Rawhide Trail* to name some. Hingert who is 'Ceylonese' by birth and of Dutch Burgher descent, is an old girl of Holy

GUNMEN FROM LAREDO IS A MOVIE RELEASED IN 1959 DIRECTED BY WALLACE MCDONALD. THE MOVIE HAS AS ITS LEADING LADY FORMER SRI LANKAN BEAUTY PAGEANT QUEEN FROM THE PRE-REPUBLICAN (BRITISH DOMINION OR CEYLON) ERA, MAUREEN NELIYAHINGERT WHO APPEARED IN NUMEROUS INTERNATIONAL CINEMA PRODUCTIONS, SUCH AS THE KING AND I, GUN FEVER AND THE RAWHIDE TRAIL

Family Convent, Colombo. She won the title of Miss Ceylon in 1955 and became the 2nd Runner Up at the Miss Universe beauty pageant in 1955.

Damsel in distress

In *Gunmen from Laredo*, Hingert, who is credited in the cast by her Hollywood screen name Jana Davi, plays the role of Rosita, a young and beautiful damsel in distress who is rescued by Gil Reardon, played by Robert Knapp, a prison escapee on the run from the law. Rosita who is of Mexican and Native American descent and is the captive of the chief of a Native American tribe at the point Reardon chances upon her after breaking out of prison.

After freeing her from the tree, she is tied to, Reardon faces the wrath of her captor who soon appears on the scene. The fight that ensues results in the inadvertent death of the Native American aggressor and that forges the way for the thrust of the story which is preceded by the events that lead to the vendetta that Reardon is out to settle with the unscrupulous Ben Keefer, his brothers and their posse of gunslingers who show scant respect for the law.

Reardon is sentenced to prison for shooting one of Keefer's men in cold blood in a bar saloon in Laredo.

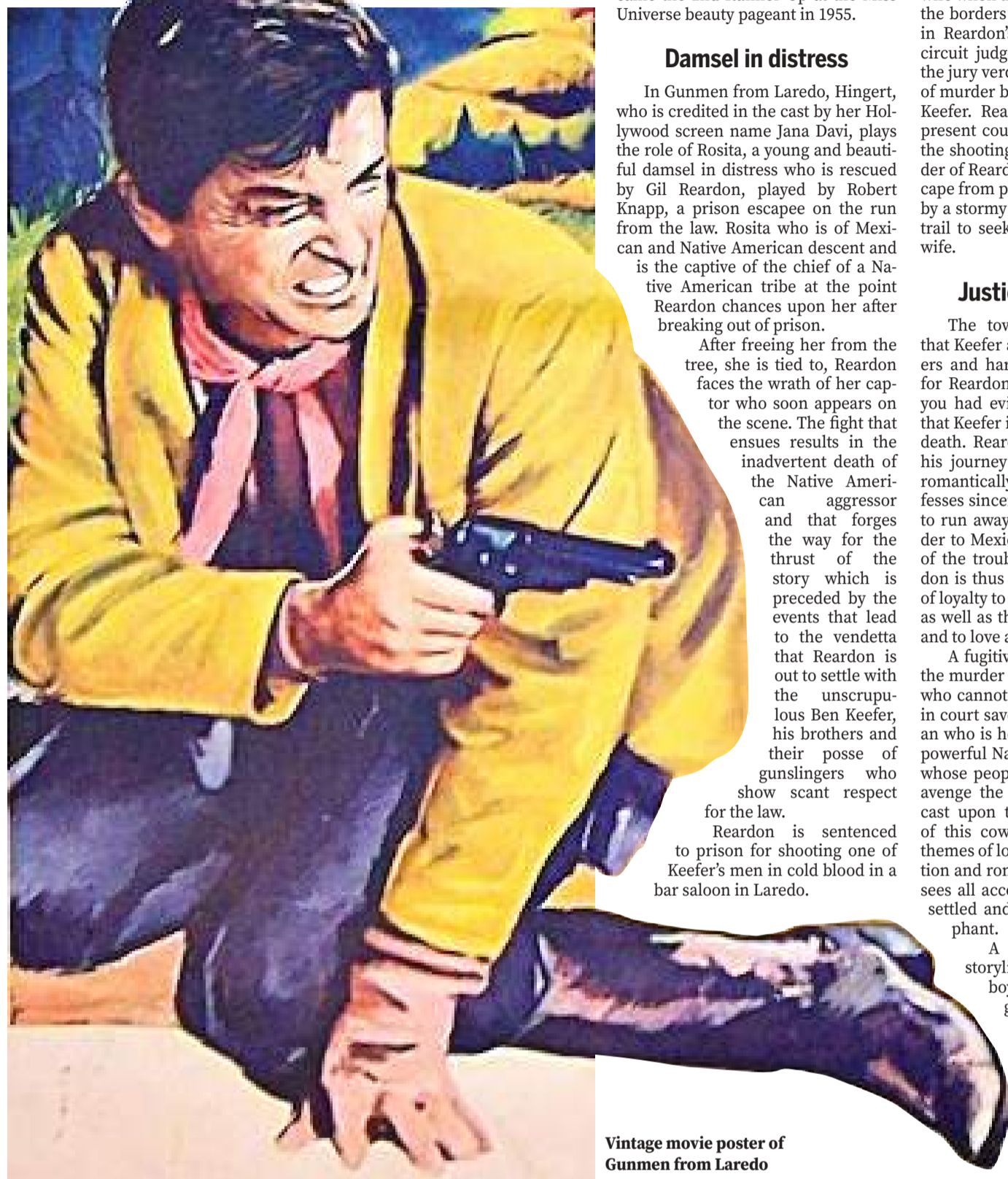
The incident occurs following an attack made upon Reardon and his wife when they were travelling outside the borders of the town which results in Reardon's wife getting killed. The circuit judge who holds court hands the jury verdict of 'guilty' to the charge of murder brought against Reardon by Keefer. Reardon has no evidence to present court that Keefer was behind the shooting that resulted in the murder of Reardon's wife. However, his escape from prison on a dark night beset by a stormy gale puts him back on the trail to seek justice for his murdered wife.

Justice and romance

The town's U.S Marshall knows that Keefer and his men are lawbreakers and harbours secret sympathies for Reardon to whom he says 'I wish you had evidence' on the accusation that Keefer is responsible for his wife's death. Reardon thus in the course of his journey for justice finds himself romantically bound to Rosita who professes sincere love for him and yearns to run away with him across the border to Mexico where they can be free of the troubles that trail them. Reardon is thus caught between his sense of loyalty to avenge his murdered wife, as well as the opportunity of freedom and to love again.

A fugitive of the law out to avenge the murder of his wife by lawbreakers who cannot be brought to face justice in court saves a beautiful young woman who is held captive by the son of a powerful Native American tribal chief whose people are now on the trail to avenge the dishonour that has been cast upon their tribe form the crux of this cowboy western woven with themes of love, honour, vengeance, action and romance. The end is one that sees all accounts of conscience being settled and the worthy being triumphant.

A movie with a fast paced storyline that makes up a cowboy western with all the ingredients that unfold an engaging narrative, *Gunmen from Laredo* is a cinematic creation that can be applauded and celebrated as a retro classic that will not disappoint viewers.

Vintage movie poster of *Gunmen from Laredo*Miss Ceylon of 1955, Maureen Hingert aka Jana Davi as 'Rosita' in *Gunmen from Laredo*Maureen Hingert as 'Rosita' in *Gunmen from Laredo*

Curiosity is the secret to a happy life

Engaging with the unfamiliar can keep mind and body fit

BY MARKHAM HEID

Anyone who has spent time around children knows that their young minds are powered by curiosity. The average child probably asks more questions in 10 minutes than the average adult does in 10 days. Children are curiosity personified.

But as people age, their reservoirs of curiosity tend to dry up. Studies have found that, on average, a person's openness to new experiences and new sensations declines steadily with age. At the same time, apathy increases. While plenty of older adults buck these trends, there's some truth to the cliché of the narrow-minded, novelty-averse fogley who rigidly adheres to his time-worn routines and opinions.

Curiosity and cognitive processes

For years, mental health researchers have noted this age-related dip in curiosity. They have also noticed that high levels of curiosity often correlate with many different measures of mental health and vigour. One 2018 paper from the journal *Neuroscience and Bio behavioural Reviews* found evidence that maintaining curiosity in old age is protective against cognitive and physical decline.

Compared to the incurious, older adults who score high in curiosity tend to perform better on tests of memory and general cognitive functioning. The authors of that study stated that curiosity activates brain areas that are involved in other high-level cognitive processes and over time, this increased activation could help explain some of curiosity's brain benefits.

In people young and old, research has found that high and consistent levels of curiosity correlate with mental well-being and life satisfaction. Curious people also seem protected from depression.

The more that experts examine curiosity, the more they find evidence to suggest that it's the secret sauce in a happy, fulfilling life. "If you take the fundamental things that people tend to want out of life — strong social relationships and happiness and accomplishing things — all of these are highly linked to curiosity," professor of Psychology at George Mason University and author of *Curious* Todd Kashdan said

New knowledge or experiences

What exactly does it mean to be curious? "If you go by the typical dictionary definition, curiosity is simply a desire to seek out new knowledge or experiences," Kashdan said. While this definition is a useful starting point, he said curiosity also involves a willingness to engage with complex, unfamiliar and challenging concepts or endeavours.

Kashdan has helped develop two widely used scientific models for measuring curiosity. The newer of these models breaks curiosity down into five different categories or "dimensions." He terms the first of these "joyous exploration". It heeds closely to the dictionary definition of curiosity. The second and third dimensions have to do with a person's level of focus and commitment when confronted with the uncertainties that newness breeds. "When you explore new terrain" — whether it's an exercise class



STUDIES HAVE FOUND THAT, ON AVERAGE, A PERSON'S OPENNESS TO NEW EXPERIENCES AND NEW SENSATIONS DECLINES STEADILY WITH AGE. AT THE SAME TIME, APATHY INCREASES. WHILE PLENTY OF OLDER ADULTS BUCK THESE TRENDS, THERE'S SOME TRUTH TO THE CLICHÉ OF THE NARROW-MINDED, NOVELTY-AVERSE FOGLEY WHO RIGIDLY ADHERES TO HIS TIME-WORN ROUTINES AND OPINIONS

you've never attended or a dinner date with a new friend — "you'll probably be exposed to feelings of stress and anxiety," he said. While these states tend to be thought of as negative, he

said curious people are not easily deterred by them. In other words, they display resilience or "grit" (to use the buzzword du jour) when exploring new concepts or scenarios.

"The fourth dimension is thrill-seeking, which is a willingness to take financial or social or personal risks in pursuit of new experiences," he said. He said thrill-seeking could take the form of extreme sports, experimenting with psychedelics, or starting a new business venture. The fifth and final dimension is "social curiosity," he said, which is taking an interest in other people's views and opinions.

Happiness or fulfillment

People who score high on some or all of these five measures of curiosity almost transcend questions of happiness or fulfillment. "When you lose yourself in the exploration of things that are new and that you find interesting, you're not stopping to ask yourself if you're happy or depressed," Kashdan said.

There is evidence that the relationship between curiosity and happiness is bidirectional, meaning one fuels the other. A 2019 study in the *Journal of Personality* found that on days when people experience positive emotions, such as happiness, they also tend to display more curiosity than on days when they aren't happy. These sorts of findings have led some researchers to hypothesise that positive emotions may exist in part to help encourage curiosity and the fruitful exploration it encourages.

"There's the 'broaden and build' theory that says positive emotions have a lot of function. One of them is to get us to engage in things we wouldn't normally do," said David Lydon-Staley, first author of that study and a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Bioengineering at the University of Pennsylvania. Curiosity can lead to new relationships, new

skills, or new areas of knowledge that enrich a person's life at many levels, he said.

Is it possible to pump up one's levels of curiosity? Lydon-Staley's research found that exercise seems to promote curiosity — perhaps by improving a person's mood. The mood-elevating effects of exercise are well established.

Kashdan said having strong personal relationships also seems to feed curiosity. "Having secure attachments is like having a home base in a game of tag," he said. "They allow people the freedom to be less inhibited and to explore."

Aversion to the unfamiliar

But by far the best way to feed curiosity is to engage with new people, new places and new points of view. Kashdan said an aversion to the unfamiliar — or what he calls "premature closure" — stifles curiosity. But novelty, even if uncomfortable or scary at first, acts like curiosity fertiliser. "The more you interact with new experiences or information, the more you realise you don't know, which makes further exploration more attractive," he said.

At the same time, engaging with something new tends to drain it of its power to cause anxiety. "The highest level of anxiety you feel is always during the anticipation of something new," he said. "Stick it out and you see that the anxiety is manageable and can even be enjoyable."

There may be safety and security in the familiar. But there's evidence that curiosity and the novel experiences that nourish it may pave the way toward a more meaningful and fulfilling life.

Experimenting with narcotics leaves lasting health impact

Risk of Covid-19 highest among those with a diagnosis of substance use disorders - Study

By Carol Aloysius



Reports of large hauls of illegal drugs entering the country have revealed that new and more dangerous drugs have managed to bypass the sentries at entry points. Drugs such as ICE, Ecstasy, smokeless cigarettes and toffees containing drugs, smuggled by drug mafia target mostly young persons wanting to experiment with anything new. Not only do these tainted products have drastic consequences on health, they create a growing community of drug dependent persons who become a burden to their parents, society and the State. Ending this dangerous trend is thus the need of the hour and the present government is currently throwing its fullest weight to eradicate the rising drug menace in Sri Lanka, vowing to end it within the next few years.

The *Sunday Observer* spoke to Senior Prof of Forensic Medicine, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Ratmalana, and Emeritus Prof of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo who was also the Chairman of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, Prof Ravindra Fernando on the health impacts of drug usage, how they could be reversed with early detection and treatment and what he thought about the focus on rehabilitating offenders.

Excerpts:

Q. Recent raids by the police and Anti-Narcotics personnel have discovered large quantities of illegal drugs entering the country, such as, heroin, cannabis, smokeless cigarettes, ICE, Ecstasy, and tobacco containing drugs. What are the most commonly used drugs in Sri Lanka at present?

A. They are cannabis (ganja) and heroin.

Q. Have you seen an increase in the use of harmful drugs in the past ten years? If so what age groups are most likely using them? Why?

A. Yes, there is an increase in the use of harmful drugs. In drug dependence, it is always young people who are mainly involved, and experiment with drugs.

Q. What are the harmful effects of drug abuse on the human body in general?

A. All drugs are chemicals that affect the body and the brain. The

effects depend on the type of drug. Some effects of drugs include long-lasting and permanent health consequences. The tragedy is that all kinds of drug abuse affect the brain. They cause large amounts of dopamine, a neurotransmitter that helps regulate our emotions, motivation and feelings of pleasure, to flood the brain and produce a 'high.' Eventually, drugs can change how the brain works and interfere with a person's ability to make choices, leading to intense cravings and compulsive drug use. Over time, this behaviour can turn into a substance dependency, or drug addiction.

Q. Any other adverse effects?

A. More deaths, illnesses and disabilities are associated with drug abuse than any other preventable health condition. People suffering from drug and alcohol addiction have a higher risk of unintentional injuries, accidents and domestic violence incidents.

Q. I understand that each of the drugs mentioned has a specific impact on the health of the user. Can you elaborate by discussing these specific impacts separately?

A. I will discuss the two common addictive drugs, heroin and cannabis.

Heroin is a drug that comes from the opium poppy and is in the class of drugs called depressants, because it slows down the brain and the central nervous system. It is one of a group of very strong pain-killing drug called narcotic analgesics or opioids. As soon as heroin enters the brain, the person experiences a surge of the pleasurable sensation known as a 'rush.' When heroin enters the brain and crosses the blood-brain barrier, it is converted to morphine and quickly binds to opioid receptors, producing that euphoric feeling.

Users usually experience dry mouth, a warm flushing of the skin, and their extremities begin to feel heavy. Sometimes, users can experience nausea and vomiting.

After the initial, short-term effects of the drug, users can feel drowsy for several hours, due to heroin's effect on the central nervous system.

In heroin overdose, breathing can slow to the point of being life-threatening.

Cannabis is a herbal drug made from the Cannabis sativa plant. It contains chemicals called cannabinoids, which affect the central nervous system - the brain and nerves. Cannabinoids are found in the highest levels in the leaves and flowers of cannabis.

Cannabis containing large amounts of Tetrahydrocannabinol can cause anxiety, psychosis, heart attack and irregular heart rhythm. Using cannabis for at least 1-2 weeks can also lead to dependence. People with cannabis dependence might experience

withdrawal after stopping cannabis use. Symptoms of withdrawal include nervousness, shaking, difficulty in sleeping, decreased appetite, sweating, headache, and depressed mood.

Q. ICE, Ecstasy and smokeless cigarettes are relatively new drugs. Tell us how they impact on the health of the users.

ICE is crystal methamphetamine, a stimulant drug, which means it speeds up the messages travelling between the brain and the body.

ICE usually comes as small clear crystals that look like ice. It can also come as white or brownish crystal-like powder with a strong smell and bitter taste.

ICE is generally smoked or injected, and sometimes swallowed or snorted.

Methylenedioxy-methamphetamine (MDMA) or ecstasy is a synthetic drug that alters mood and perceptions. MDMA was initially popular in nightclubs and at all-night dance parties ('raves'), but the drug now affects a broader range of people.

MDMA increases the activity of three brain chemicals:

Dopamine - produces increased energy/activity and acts in the reward system to reinforce behaviours
Norepinephrine - increases heart rate and blood pressure, which are particularly risky for people with heart and blood vessel problems
Serotonin - affects mood, appetite, sleep, and other functions. It also triggers hormones that affect sexual arousal and trust.

Other health effects include nausea, muscle cramping, involuntary teeth clenching, blurred vision, chills and sweating
Alternative tobacco and nicotine delivery products : Examples of alternative tobacco and nicotine delivery products include E-cigarettes or 'vaping', Smokeless tobacco and Waterpipes, in various forms, size, and flavour. Alternative tobacco products contain harmful chemicals and toxins that have health risks. The chemicals and toxins may cause serious health problems, including cancer.

Q. Withdrawal symptoms: If drug users withdraw from his habit of drug dependence, what are the symptoms they are likely to experience during this period of withdrawal?

A. Symptoms depend on the type of drug. For example, heroin withdrawal symptoms may last only a week or so, but symptoms can be serious. They include nausea, abdominal pain, sweating, shaking, agitation, depression, muscle spasms and cravings for the drug.

Q. Do these adverse effects occur in short term or long term users?

A. It can occur if a person is a



Prof Ravindra Fernando

drug dependent, usually a long time user.

Q. Are they reversible?

A. The effects may disappear after a time.

Q. Can drug abuse be cured? Is it correct that cocaine abuse leading to perforated nasal septum, keratitis of the eyes, dental erosions, heart muscle disease, coronary artery disease and liver disease are not reversible?

A. Yes, cocaine abuse can be very harmful and can cause all the above effects.

Q. Does it affect one's vision?

A. There are many articles on effects on eyes due to cocaine. In most cases the main mechanism are central retinal artery occlusion. The vision impairment may develop from three to 10 hours after the cocaine use, and the outcome, despite the intensive treatment is usually poor. All doctors should keep in mind the possibility of cocaine users developing sudden and painless vision loss.

Q. Some drugs I understand cause skin rashes. Is this correct? How do you identify them from normal skin rashes?

A. Skin rashes caused by drugs vary in appearance. For example, meth, crystal meth, or methamphetamine is perhaps the most well-known drug on the list for causing some serious issues on the skin. Commonly referred to as meth sores, the open sores caused from regular meth use are often the result of a number of different psychological and physical side effects that come from regularly using this highly dangerous drug.

Q. What drugs lead to unpredictable or violent behaviour?

A. Studies show an unequivocal, causal relationship between aggressive behaviour and cannabis, cocaine,

heroin and methamphetamine use.

Q. What about alcohol? Does it fall into the drug abuse category?

A. Yes, alcohol is a drug of abuse.

Q. Is there a safe dosage of alcohol one can take? Some doctors recommend a pint of beer or ale or red wine as good for the heart. Is this a good thing?

A. According to the WHO, approximately three million people die every year due to alcohol consumption. Some experts suggest various safe levels but people who drink do not stop at safe levels.

Q. What about smoking? A cigarette contains many harmful ingredients that can impact the lung. What are they?

A. Some of the chemicals found in tobacco smoke include Nicotine (the addictive drug that produces the effects in the brain that people are looking for), hydrogen cyanide, formaldehyde (embalming fluid!), lead, arsenic and benzene.

Q. Has there been a rise in smoking in recent years?

A. There is no correct statistics to comment,

Q. What about second-hand smoking? Can it affect a non-smoker? How?

A. Second-hand smoke is the combination of smoke from the burning end of a cigarette and the smoke breathed out by smokers. Second-hand smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals. Hundreds are toxic and about 70 can cause cancer.

Q. Can smoking cause those with respiratory conditions like asthma to aggravate?

A. Yes.

Q. Is there a link to illegal drugs and pre-existing diseases such as, diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease?

A. Abusing substances can have negative effects on the heart. If someone has cardiovascular disease and begins or continues to abuse substances, their condition could worsen rapidly.

Smoking cannabis may also increase the risk of heart problems such as heart attack and abnormal heart rhythm.

Alcohol addicts have increased risks of irregular heart rate, heart attack and difficulty in pumping blood (congestive heart failure).

Alcohol abuse can raise blood pressure (hypertension), which is a major contributing factor to many heart conditions.

Q. Does taking illegal drugs interfere with one's sexual life?

A. Researchers have found that drug abuse negatively affects sexual performance in men even after years of abstinence.

Q. We are now in the midst of a Covid-19 pandemic. How vulnerable are drug users to this highly infectious virus and its new variants that pose fresh threats?

A. Studies have shown people with substance use disorders are significantly over-represented among those with Covid-19. Risk of Covid-19 was highest among those who had received a diagnosis of substance use disorders within the past year.

Q. Rehabilitation of drug abusers has been given high priority by the present government. What are the recent interventions made in this direction by the Drugs authorities?

A. Drug rehabilitation is the process of medical or psychotherapeutic treatment for dependence on substances such as, alcohol, prescription drugs, and drugs such as cannabis, cocaine, heroin or amphetamines. The general intent is to enable the patient to confront substance dependence, and cease substance abuse to avoid the psychological, legal, financial, social, and physical consequences that can be caused. Treatment includes medication for depression or other disorders and counselling by experts.

Q. Any gaps in making Sri Lanka a safe country free from the menace of drugs? How would you like to see them rectified?

A. There should be more concentrated effort by everyone involved in rehabilitation to make Sri Lanka a safe country.

Q. The present government has pledged to wipe out this drug menace in the next few years. Your comments?

A. It is a great commitment to eradicate the drug menace from Sri Lanka. However, so far the efforts taken are not adequate. There should be more concentrated effort by everyone involved in rehabilitation to make Sri Lanka a safe country.

Q. Your message to all those especially vulnerable youth leading risky lives?

A. Stop experimenting with drugs of abuse. Avoid friends who are using drugs. Drugs are not essential for your health. In fact taking a non medical illegally smuggled drug for even a short time can leave lasting health impacts mentally and physically for life.

Family Time Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15								18		
17						19				
		20		21		22				23
24	25	26				27			28	
29				30				31		
32				33				34		
35			36					37		
		38				39		40	41	42
44						45		46		
47								48		
49						50			51	

DOWN

- (K) Fired a weapon
- (K) Neck part
- Alpine goat
- Story told by Jesus
- (K) Acquire
- (K) Very dry, as a desert
- Heart regulatory device
- (K) Tall, powerful building
- (K) It involves plane flights
- Any hymn that comes from the Bible
- (K) U-turn from new
- Congested-sounding
- (K) It makes beef less lean
- Bad breath
- (K) Seriously require
- Herringlike food fish
- (K) It's made up of atoms
- (K) It goes up and down in a modern 8-Down
- (K) Firetruck color
- (K) Like many modern cameras
- (K) Our major star
- (K) Maximum or minimum
- First occurrence, as of a symptom
- Any large reference book
- Pear-shaped instrument of yore
- Arabia's Gulf of ____
- (K) Home for an oriole
- (K) Baby's sleep break
- (K) Tell a whopper

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15								18		
17						19				
		20		21		22				23
24	25	26				27			28	
29				30				31		
32				33				34		
35			36					37		
		38				39		40	41	42
44						45		46		
47								48		
49						50			51	

ACROSS

- (K) Quick little cut
- (K) Tight space between here and there
- (K) Mexican snack food
- Cuban dance that's in duple time
- (K) Shape for a racetrack
- Like "The Magic Flute" performances
- (K) Strong breeze
- Massive southern state
- (K) Beat, as an opponent
- Scrooge said what?
- (K) President Van Buren's first name
- Be old-style suspicious (3 words)
- (K) Cooler contents
- (K) Shovel's creation
- Albania's basic monetary unit
- Big name in pineapples
- British pub drink
- (K) Injured and taken off the field
- God-fearing
- Tractor trailer
- (K) Isn't able to
- City in Italy
- (K) Brownie pieces
- Quiet, peaceful seclusion
- Gel-filled soothing plant
- (K) Copies someone's actions
- Humorously forward
- (K) Word before "what I mean?"
- Advanced, as cash

Sudoku 7

Have fun with this highly addictive logic-based number placement puzzle, the objective of which is to fill the 9x9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 sub-grids that compose the grid contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. The solution to the puzzle will appear next week.

		6				9	8	4
		7	9					
		8		6				
9			6	2		5		
2	7						1	8
		3		8	7			9
				3		8		
						9	2	
3	4	9					1	

Can you find the answer to this riddle within the solved puzzle?

Riddle:

Hunting cap?

Last week answer: 38-Down) FORE

Last week solution

4	9	1	5	6	2	3	7	8
2	7	3	4	1	8	9	5	6
6	5	8	3	7	9	1	2	4
1	3	2	9	5	6	8	4	7
5	8	7	1	4	3	6	9	2
9	6	4	8	2	7	5	3	1
3	1	6	2	9	4	7	8	5
7	2	9	6	8	5	4	1	3
8	4	5	7	3	1	2	6	9

Feature

Carved in stone

They proclaimed the island's proud history

—Text & Pix by—
Mahil Wijesinghe



Buddhism was first introduced to Sri Lanka in 3rd century BC by Indian missionaries under the guidance of MahindaThera, the son of Emperor Asoka in India.

Prior to the introduction and proliferation of Buddhism, the indigenous population of the island lived in a world of superstition. Along with Buddhism, religious art and Buddhist architecture were also introduced. These art later spread across the country and the kings used this knowledge to build marvelous creations that stand tall as testimony to a proud history in the island.

Rock-cut Buddha statue at Budupatuna

At the outset, Mihintale was the cradle of Buddhism that depict fine examples of early Sinhala art, even today.

Having travelled to many parts in the country, I have had the chance to view several magnificent creations of rock-cut Buddha statues. These statues have been built during different eras in history and by several kings who reigned in the island.

Ancient creations

In this photo essay, I present some of the important Buddha statues, carved completely out of rock, in several provinces of the country. These ancient creations lay claim to unparalleled genius in art and simply cannot be surpassed in their beauty by any modern sculptures.

In the Moneragala district, is the colossus Maligawila Buddha statue. Situated near Buttala, this 7th century statue is over 34 feet in height and 10 feet across the shoulders. Carved out of a mammoth rock, the statue is set up on a pedestal of appropriate proportions. The limestone statue had been broken into three pieces by treasure hunters and was restored to its former glory by former President, the late Ranasingha Premadasa and declared open to the public in 1991.

On the border of the Kurunegala district, close to Migalewa, in Kudakathoruwa, is a rock-cut Buddha statue called Sasseruwa Buddha. It is 39 feet and five inches in height, and is carved out of a living rock on top of the hill.

The Avukana Buddha, five inches less in height in comparison, is close to the bank of the Kala Wewa, in close proximity to Sasseruwa. Avukana is finely carved out of a rock that lies overlooking the Kala Wewa. Both statues were built by King Datusena, and are considered masterpieces of Sinhala stone sculptors.

Another colossus is at Buduruwagala, three kilometres from Wellawaya. The Buddha image in the centre, is 51 feet in height and is unique in that it stands in between two Bodhisatva images, most remarkable of the Mahayana sculptures of Sri Lanka. The central figure stands alone on a great boulder and is accompanied by two Bodhisatvas on either side.

The Bodhisatva to the right is attended on either side by two figures, one male and the other female. The Buddha figure is in high relief and some of the details have been com-



Attaragollewa Buddha statue



Rambadagalla Buddha statue



Buddha statue at Maligawila



Samadhi statue at Anuradhapura



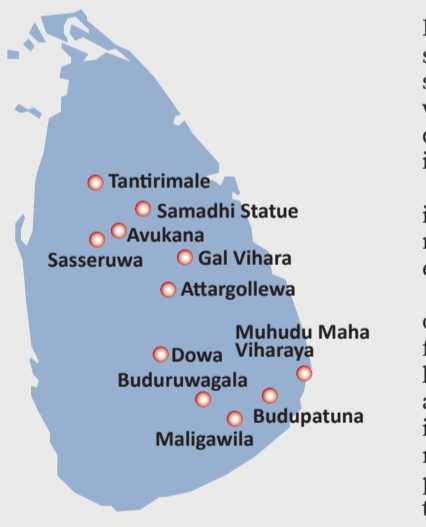
Tantirimale Samadi statue



THE SAMADHI STATUE AT THE MAHA - MEVUNA UYANA IN THE ANURADHAPURA SACRED CITY IS DEPICTED IN THE POSITION OF THE DHYANA MUDRA

Gal Vihara at Polonnaruwa

Sasseruwa Buddha statue



pleted in stucco and paint, traces of which are still visible. The site is isolated from human habitation and the impression created is one of great majesty and grandeur.

On the East coast, close to Pottuvil, there lies another rock-cut Buddha statue at Muhudu MahaVihara. This is part of the numerous stone ruins buried in the sands along the Arugam Bay beach. Over 15 feet in height, this Buddha statue was carved on limestone and later brought to this site. The statue was restored by the Department of Archaeology some time back and is believed to be the place where Queen Vihara Maha Devi landed from the sea and later married King Kawantissa of Ruhuna.

Another lesser known reclining Buddha colossus lies in the jungle site at Bakamuna, in Elahera. This site is also called Attaragollewa, where an unfinished rock-cut Buddha statue similar to Gal Vihara lies in the jungle.

The place is archaeologically important, considering the ancient ruins scattered around, with some even still buried in the earth. Budupatuna is another mysterious and lonely spot where a rock-cut figure of the Buddha and two Bodhisatvas are symbols of the Mahayana school of Buddhism, lying deep inside the Lahugala-Kumana forest reserve. All three figures stand on pedestals. The Buddha himself in the centre, occupies a lotus pedestal,

while the other figures stand on two layered plinths. Rock-cut statues have been damaged badly, dug and blasted by treasure hunters. In Bandarawela, on the Badulla main road, is a beautiful temple called Dowa Raja MahaVihara where a half finished Buddha statue is carved out of a huge boulder on the slope of the mountain adjoining a rock cave temple.

Forty kilometres from Anuradhapura, bordering the Wilpattu National Park, are another series of rock-cut Buddha statues in an archaeologically important place called Tantirimale, situated on a huge rock boulder, under a thick forest cover. This 3rd century BC temple complex

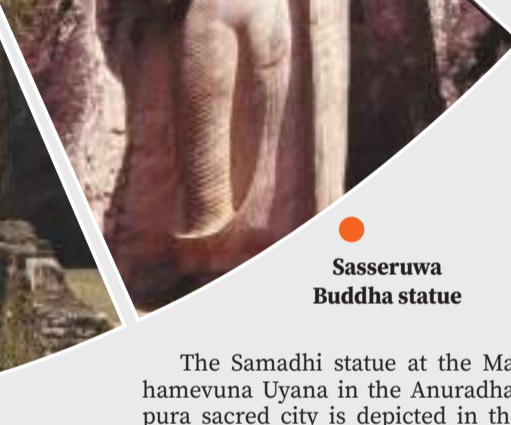
was built by King Devanampiyatissa. The most magnificent sight at Tantirimale is the Samadi and reclining Buddha statues, carved on two separate rock boulders. Gal Vihara, a series of rock-cut Buddha statues in Polonnaruwa, was constructed by King Parakramabahu the Great (1153-1186), the builder of Polonnaruwa. Gal Vihara statues, ambitiously conceived and gloriously perfected according to the oriental canons, on an abrupt boulder of dark granite about 27 metres in length and 10 metres high, are at the centre and slope of the boulder, and are still in perfect preservation with their irresistible charm and sublime beauty.



Samadhi statue at Anuradhapura



Tantirimale Samadi statue



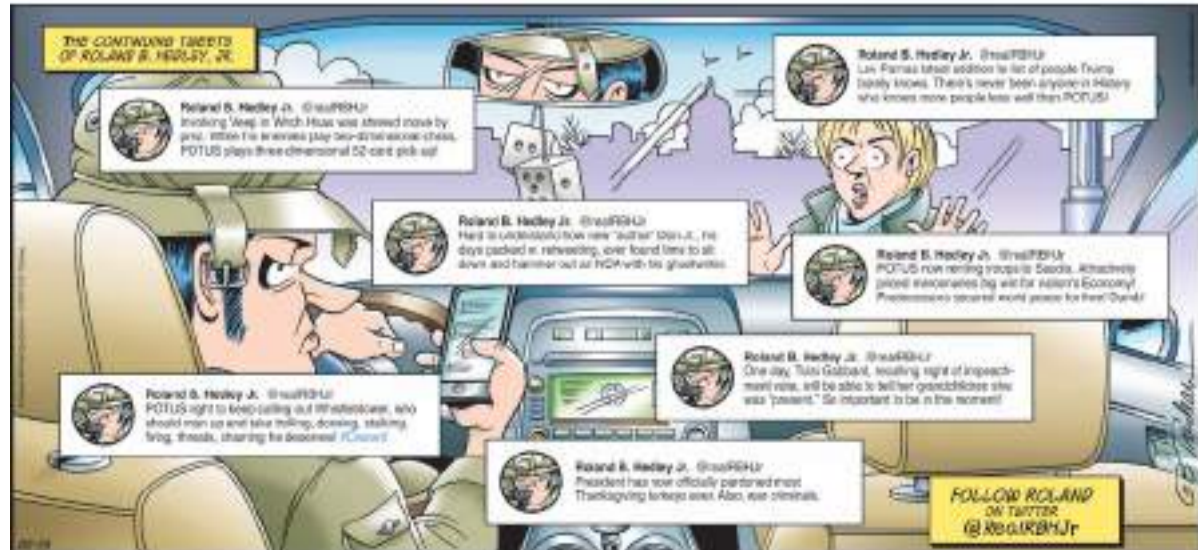
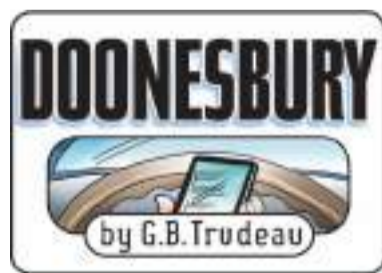
Sasseruwa Buddha statue

The Samadhi statue at the Maha-Mevuna Uyana in the Anuradhapura sacred city is depicted in the position of the Dhyana Mudra. In the Dhyana Mudra, the Buddha sits crossed-legged with his upturned palms placed one over the other on his lap.

This position is universally known throughout the Buddhist world, and this statue is therefore one of the most typical pieces of Buddhist sculptures.

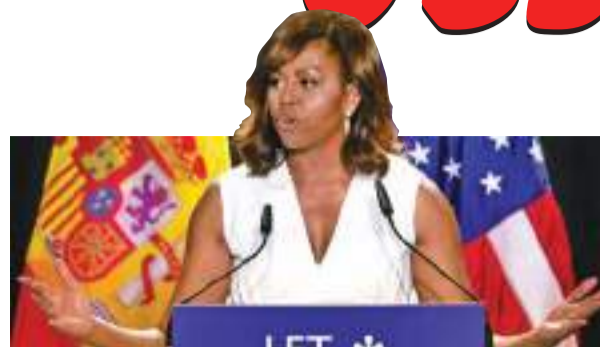
This statue is eight feet in height and is considered as one of the marvels of rock-cut statues in the country. In modern day, a massive rock-cut seated Buddha statue has been carved out by Indian sculptors in living rock at RambadagallaVihara, Moneragala in Kurunegala.

The 67 feet high Rambadagalla Buddha statue was ceremonially opened on April 30, 2015, and is the largest sedentary Buddha statue carved out of granite.



OBSERVER EDUCATION

MARCH 7, 2021



HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE RULES THE WORLD **PAGE 42**



IIHS STRENGTHENS SRI LANKA HEALTHCARE... **PAGE 43**



HNB BANKING FACILITIES FOR KDU... **PAGE 43**



CA SL PEN MOU WITH SABARAGAMUWA... **PAGE 44**

Middlesex Uni. study shows personal data change during COVID-19 pandemic

THE RESEARCH FOUND 61% OF PEOPLE WERE WILLING TO SHARE PERSONAL DATA SUCH AS AGE, LOCATION AND MEDICAL DATA COMPARED TO JUST 14% BEFORE THE PANDEMIC

A significant number of people who wouldn't normally share data are happy to disclose personal information if it helps to save lives during the COVID-19 pandemic, a new study has found.

The survey of more than 1,000 people in Ireland by the PRIVATT Research project discovered the attitudes of people towards privacy and sharing personal data have changed amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Researchers found 61% of people were willing to share personal data such as age, location and medical details to the country's COVID-19 tracker app compared to just 14% before the virus emerged.

Dr Ramona Trestian, a Senior Lecturer in Computing at Middlesex University who was part of the research team, said, "People are changing their attitudes towards privacy in the interest of saving lives.

"If the data is helping to save



lives, then people are willing to share the data".

In total 62% of participants said

they have used or are using the Covid tracker app.

The project's principal inves-

tigator Dr. Irina Tal said results show "that the people are using the app out of a community sense, for

the greater good".

This research found however that 13% would be extremely concerned and 41% would be moderately concerned about how their data is used.

Approximately 30% of the respondents would be worried "the app will be used as a tool of surveillance beyond the scope of Covid-19", and worried about "the implications this app will have on (their) privacy and data protection".

Responses highlighted a lack of trusts in Governments and Institutions managing the data asides from Ireland's Health Safety Executive.

"There are still concerns that apps will use this data outside the scope of COVID-19," added Dr. Trestian who took her PhD at Dublin City University which led the research.

"These are general concerns around the world and not just in Ireland with people wondering

how long will this data be stored and whether it will be destroyed after the pandemic.

"Another concern is the efficiency of the app, and the lack of information.

"People are being encouraged to download these apps but if more details were provided about the app's efficiency then more of the population would engage.

"Performance statistics will help people engage because they know it is working and having a positive impact".

The PRIVATT project is funded by Science Foundation Ireland, Lero - the Irish Software Research Centre and the ADAPT Centre.

The research team also includes Dublin City University professors Dr. Irina Tal, Dr. Edoardo Celeste, Dr. Rob Brennan and Dr. Malika Bendecheche.

Find out more about studying computing and IT at Middlesex University log onto www.mdx.edu.uk

"It is our duty to create a structure for children finish their education early"

- Minister of Education Professor G.L. Peiris

Minister of Education, Professor G.L. Peiris said that the ministry would act considering the creation of a structure for the children to complete their education without any interruption as a prime duty.

Minister made these observations during an inspection tour to KurunegalaMaliyadeva Model Vidyalaya to inspect the arrangements made at the examination centres for the G.C.E. Ordinary Level Examination. This year there are six hundred and twenty two thousand (622,000) students sitting this G.C.E. Ordinary Level Examination in 4,513 examination centres throughout the country.

Minister said that all arrangements have been made to conduct the examination especially obtaining the opinion and support of the health authorities paying full attention to the health security of the students and during the observation of these examination centres, it has been observed that all arrangements are being made through a planned programme.

Minister pointed out that forty special examination centres have been set up throughout the country as a precaution if there is an emergency situation regarding health



security with the prevailing covid pandemicand the Ministry of Education has provided Rs. 50 million for that. Minister also expressed his gratitude to the teachers, principals, other education officials and the security forces, health authorities and the transport providers for the support extended to conduct this examination smoothly.

Minister said that the results of this Ordinary Level Examination will be released in June this year and he expects to start the Advanced Level classes for these students in July this year and emphasized that under any circumstance the government would not allow the learning period of the children to get wasted. He also said that the results of the

Advanced Level Examination held in late last year will be released in April this year and by that the gap of one and half years that prevail between the release of advanced level examination results and the university entrance would be definitely reduced. He also said that all provisions will be made to admit the students who obtain entrance to the universities in September based on the results released in April this year.

There are four examination centres at the Maliyadeva Model Vidyalaya in Kurunegala and after the inspection of those examination centres the minister engaged in a dialogue with the invigilators regarding the conduct of the examination.



Admission of students to intermediate classes for year 2021 in National Schools

Admission of students to intermediate classes in national schools for year 2021 has been closed on 28.02.2021. Therefore the Secretary to Ministry of Education has informed

that no one should submit any requests or come to the Ministry of Education regarding any such admission or use any influence through outsiders regarding these admissions.



CEYLON - GERMAN TECHNICAL TRAINING INSTITUTE



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- Weekend (Sundays and Holidays)
- Successful candidates will be awarded the National Diploma in above technologies.
- The medium of this diploma program is English. Please note that the lectures, demonstrations, assessments and final examinations will be conducted in English.
- Please note that the applicant will have to sit for an interview and written test to get selected for limited intake of best qualified individuals. **Application form and instruction can be downloaded from the CGTTI website (www.cgtti.lk) closing date of this application will be 31st March 2021.**
- Please send the duly completed application to the address given below indicating clearly the course applied for on the top left-hand corner of the envelope enclosed with a deposit slip for the applicant processing fee of Rs.500/= which may be obtained from any Bank of Ceylon branch to credit **Ceylon German Technical Training Institute, Account Number 681541, Bank of Ceylon, Idama, Moratuwa.**

Registrar
Ceylon German Technical Training Institute,
No. 582, Galle Road,
Mount-Lavinia.

Advertorial

CASL's initiatives to strengthen Public Financial Management through Public Sector Wing

BY V. KANAGASA-BAPATHI

MPA (Harvard), CPFA (London), FCA, FCMA President, Association of Public Finance Accountants of Sri Lanka

Introduction

Public Financial Management is a system by which the financial resources are managed economically, efficiently and effectively ensuring transparency and accountability. The Parliament delegates the authority to the Government and the public sector manages the affairs through the public servants. It is the public servants who are ultimately responsible for managing public finance and discharge accountability. Financial management involves managing finance in an orderly and efficient manner through proper planning, budgeting, accounting and reporting under effective internal control environment to secure adequate return on investment (benefits to the people).

Public sector in Sri Lanka is very large diverse and complex. It plays a dominant role in the national economy, contributing 50 to 60 percent of the national income. Provision of essential services such as Education, Health, Water, Electricity and other Welfare Services to the general public are directly handled by the public sector. Public Sector entities include Ministries, Departments, Provincial Councils, local Authorities, Statutory Boards, State Owned Enterprises and so on. While the demand for public expenditure has been on the increase, the available resources are limited becoming more difficult to make both ends to meet. In the circumstances the role of the public sector plays a crucial role in managing public resources and to deliver public services.

Need for Strengthening Public Financial Management

Public financial management is a key ingredient for economic development. However the Financial Man-

agement in the public sector has been very weak. Particularly the emerging economies and developing economies suffer due to lack of professionalism. Very few finance professionals work in the public sector. Many countries are still adopting cash based accounting although the studies reveal how the accrual system of accounting leads to better management of financial performance and position. Some countries are in transition from cash based accounting to accrual based accounting. Consolidated accrual based balance sheet in the public sector are very rare. Progressive countries are moving away from traditional input control conformity and compliance, to performance management focusing on results, outputs and outcome. IT development, emerging requirements in internal controls and audit and risk management practices are some of the major challenges faced by the Accountants and Auditors in the Public Sector. Reform minded countries like New Zealand has shown to the entire world how financial management reforms can boost economic development.

Further the COVID 19, the global pandemic has made dramatic impact on our economy. The challenges faced by the economy are unbearable. Increasing demand has been put on the Government finance functions due to drastic measures taken by the Government by way of various relief measures. In addition, the revenues are dropping, loans are maturing for repayment, tourism and export industry are very badly affected, rupee is depreciating gradually and managing public finance has become a major challenge for the government. The public sector needs high professionalism to handle this situation.

Need for the hour is to maximize the utilization of national resources so that its benefits will have trickle down effects at grassroots level to meet the expectations of the people. As a premier national Accountancy body we have a prime responsibility to work closely with the Government to overcome the current situation. There is an urgent need to revamp the Government financial



management system by simplifying the cumbersome procedures, bringing in the international best practices to meet the current need for accelerated development of the economy. Introduction of Public Finance Act and the revision of Financial Regulations have been a long felt need to streamline the financial management practices.

CA Sri Lanka's initiatives to cater Public Sector needs

World over the Professional Accountancy Organizations (PAOs) had been catering the needs of the private sector until recently. Although International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants (CAPA) are committed to protect public interest encouraging the PAOs to extend their activities into the public sector focusing on high quality financial management only very few PAOs have been able get involved with the public sector.

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), London, the only International Professional Accountancy body globally dedicated to public financial management has joined hands with several accountancy bodies in promoting professionalism in public fi-

management. We are proud to say that CA Sri Lanka, the premier national accountancy body has taken the lead in joining hands with CIPFA London to professionalise the public sector financial management personnel in Sri Lanka under an MOU signed with them. In addition, it has set an example by creating a model for the other PAOs to follow by establishing a Public Sector Wing (APFASL).

Establishment of the Public Sector Wing (APFASL)

APFASL, the Association of Public Finance Accountants was established as a Public Sector Wing of CA Sri Lanka in 2012 with a vision to lead excellence in Public Financial Management. All of its members are public servants serving in Government Ministries, Departments, Provincial Councils, Local Authorities, Statutory Boards and State Owned Enterprises.

APFASL is managed by a board of management consisting of 15 members appointed by the Council of CA Sri Lanka including 7 ex-officio members namely the President and Vice President of CA Sri Lanka, Auditor General, Director General of State Accounts, Director General of Public Finance, Director General of Public Enterprises, Commissioner General of Inland Revenue and eight independent members.

The main objectives of the APFASL are as follows:

- Launching a professional qualification for the Public Sector
- Introducing Public Sector Accounting standards and improving financial reporting
- Capacity building through seminars, workshops, conferences, training programs throughout the island
- Provide a platform for public finance Accountants to develop their leadership and skills.
- Conduct CPD programs to its members.
- Professionalise and strengthen Public Financial Management practices in the country.

APFASL has three levels membership as follows:

- Associate Public Finance Accountants (APFA) - Accountants, Auditors and Inland Revenue Officers from Public Service who meet the eligibility requirements in terms of the Articles of Constitution are admitted as associate members.
- Fellow Public Finance Accountant (FPFA) - Associate members having 10 years of unblemished records are elevated as fellow members
- Chartered Public

Finance Accountants (CPFA) - This qualification is offered to our members on merit basis as well as on examination basis. Initially this qualification was offered on merit basis to senior Public Servants possessing master's degree in finance related subjects with 10 years' executive experience and others follow the examination route.

APFASL's Initiatives in Strengthening Public Financial management

CA Sri Lanka has taken several initiatives through the APFASL to strengthen public financial management practices in the country. Some of them are as follows:

- Launched a new professional qualification, Chartered Public Finance Accountancy (CPFA) for the Public Sector in collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountancy (CIPFA) London. This qualification was introduced by CA Sri Lanka as a core qualification to the public sector to enhance the knowledge, skills and status of the Public officers. CPFA members are recognized for membership from CIPFA, London as a dual qualification under the MoU signed with them.
- Introduced Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards (SLPSAS) based on International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and conducting awareness programs to facilitate implementation of these standards to improve financial reporting. So far 20 standards have been formulated, adopted and published in three volumes jointly with the Ministry of Finance.
- Holding Best Annual report and accounts competition annually and awarding the winners.
- Conducting series of capacity development programs by way of seminars, workshops and conferences.
- Publishing a Bi-annual Newsletter containing articles and news relating to Public Financial Management

APFASL has also introduced a new system of accounting and reporting supported by a simplified uniform accounting standard based on SLPSAS for the Local Authorities at the request of the Ministry of Provincial councils and Local Authorities.

Currently the Association is in the process of Launching a Master's Degree in Public Financial Management for which a comprehensive proposal has been submitted to the Ministry of Higher Education for approval.

It is with pride and privilege APFASL has celebrated its 4th Best Annual Reports and Accounts Awards ceremony for the public sector institutions and the awarding of Certificate of Membership from CIPFA London at the Bandaranayake Memorial International Conference Hall on 22nd February 2021.

This was initiated with the intention of bringing excellence in financial reporting in the public sector which has resulted in substantial improvement in the quality of annual reports and accounts. While congratulating the winners of the Best Annual Report and Accounts Competition and the awardees of the Membership Certificates from CIPFA London at this ceremony, we encourage wider participation to make full benefits from the services rendered by the association.

HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE RULES THE WORLD

By Vasana Abeynayake



"If you educate a girl you educate a whole nation. This should be our goal in life; we have to strive for it as girls are mothers, teachers and doctors. If we want the next generation to live a better life, education is the key".

Education is the backbone of a nation. The prosperity of a country mainly depends on the education of her population. About fifty percent of the total population of a country is females. A country cannot expect her prosperity avoiding this large part of population. A man or woman, without education leads the life of an inferior being. Every child has a right to learn and get a good quality education, regardless of gender, where they live or their circumstances. There are often legal, religious and traditional practices that discriminate against girls having the chance to get an education. Girls are four times more likely to be out of school than boys from the same background. The poorest girls also have the least likelihood of completing primary school. Each educated girl by one way or another makes some positive changes in society. She turns into a motivation for different young ladies just as young men too. She can provide a better generation to the country. An educated girl comprehends her duties, and she works for the government assistance of each person in the public arena.

In current days, girls and ladies are adding to each field, including science, clinical, engineering, legislative issues, protection, social assistance and numerous others. It has become reliable simply because of the education of females. With an education, girls will understand their rights, have a greater sense what is needed to support health and wellbeing and they will have greater opportunities to be employed in a fulfilling way and achieve their full potential. According to International Labour Organization report, "Educating girls has proven to be one of the most important ways of breaking poverty cycles and is likely to have significant impacts on access to formal jobs in the longer term".

It is not possible to do everything in life only by men. They need the help of women. In that case, female education is necessary in many ways. Firstly, women have some special tasks and duties. Education is very necessary to do their duties properly. Without education all their prospective faculties will be crippled. Secondly, every woman is a potential mother. Education of a child greatly depends upon his mother. In that case, an educated mother would be able to bring up her child better than an uneducated mother. Thirdly, social responsibilities should also be shared between men and women. In marital life a woman can help her husband. For

ESPECIALLY WITH THE FALL OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY TOMORROW THE NECESSITY OF BRINGING THE FEMALE CHILD A FURTHER STEP SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IMPORTANT. GONE WERE THE DAYS THAT FEMALES WERE TO BE KEPT NEAR THE HEARTH.

this purpose, a woman has to be educated. Otherwise she would not be able to understand her responsibilities of family. Besides, women of present society are much neglected. To avoid this disgraceful position and lead a worthy life women should be educated.

There are some people who are strongly opposed to the female education. They think that women's only duty is to do household affairs, rearing children and ministering to the comforts of their male partners. For this reason, they say that it is useless to educate women. Nevertheless our main objective should be to educate the females.

That does not mean to have letters behind their names. The traditional system of education for girls should be changed. Cooking, sewing, child rearing, home economics and nursing should be introduced in the curriculum of their studies.

Besides, early marriage is one of the obstacles of female education in specific countries. For this reason, they cannot be educated. So this system should be removed from the society.

Female education is really an important term right now for the entire world. From the very beginning, people used to neglect female education; as a result, women are so much behind according to research. Educating girls and women is especially effective because when we educate them, the benefits are felt throughout the whole community. An educated female population increases a country's productivity and fuels economic growth. It's a magic multiplier in the development equation. Especially in the fall of International Women's Day tomorrow the necessity of bringing the female child to a further step should be considered important. The times have changed so as the attitudes of people with the ever changing world. Gone were the days that females were to be kept near the hearth. It's currently accepted that the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. We cannot think of the progress of our country avoiding our females. Hence, all necessary steps should be taken to encourage female education for the survival of the nation. It is a matter of joy that our government has already taken different steps for the expansion of female education.



University of Kelaniya
Centre for Distance and Continuing Education

Bachelor of Commerce (Special) Degree Second Examination
(External) - 2015 New Syllabus

Bachelor of Commerce (Special) Degree First, Second, Third, fourth Examinations
(External) - 2015 Old Syllabus

Bachelor of Commerce (Special) Degree Part I, Part II, Part III Examinations
(External) - 2015 Old Syllabus

The above examinations are scheduled to be commenced on 16th March 2021. Examination time table & admissions can be downloaded from our official website.

<http://www.cdce.kln.ac.lk>

(Examination admissions will not be sent by post)

Registrar,
University of Kelaniya,
Kelaniya.

011-2987000
011-2987001
011-2987005
011-2913865

IIHS strengthens Sri Lanka healthcare industry

GRADUATES OVER 400 HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

Acclaimed for single-handedly transforming Sri Lanka into a regional educational hub for nurses, the International Institute of Health Science (IIHS), Sri Lanka's premier healthcare education institute, conducted another milestone graduation for 426 nursing professionals recently. Among the nurses who graduated, over 300 are from the Government sector.

The Healthcare graduates had followed programmes in nursing, physiotherapy, bio-medical science and health administration etc.

In a landmark achievement, 26 Maldivian students, who attending the event virtually, graduated with Bachelors in Nursing Science from the Open University of Malaysia (OUM) together with Sri Lankan nurses who had completed their Diploma in General Nursing for the first time. Other graduates included students who had obtained an MBA in Healthcare Administration (AeU), Master of Nursing (OUM), Executive Master of Science in Healthcare Administration (AeU), Bachelor (Hons) of Education (OUM), Bachelor (Hons) of Nursing Sciences (OUM), Advanced Diploma in General Nursing, Advanced Diploma in Physiotherapy, Advanced Diploma in Biomedical Sciences, Diploma in General Nursing, Foundation in Biological Sciences and Foundation in Arts and English.

Commenting on the graduation, Dr. Kithsiri Edirisinghe (MBBS, MSc, MD (Medical Administration), Founder, CEO, Director Academics, strategy and International Af-

fairs, IIHS, said, "We are extremely proud that as a groundbreaking institute, we are able to contribute much needed qualified nursing cadre to strengthen the healthcare sector. With our core mindset of 'adding goodness to the community' we ensure that education offered is at an affordable cost together with high quality programmes, improving accessibility especially for youth in the rural areas".

While keeping with all the necessary health guidelines, the Graduation took place at the BMICH and was attended by a host of dignitaries, industry professionals and family members and friends of graduates.

The Graduation was held during two sessions. The morning session was graced by State Minister Dr. Seetha Arambepola, State Minister of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation as the Chief Guest.

During the proceedings, IIHS launched its groundbreaking 'Hela Hediyan' (Lankan Nurses) programme which aims at empowering Sri Lankan youth mainly those living in rural areas. Soft loans are to be provided for rural youth to obtain these international nursing education and qualifications with assurance of local and international job opportunities.

Addressing the audiences, Dr. Seetha Arambepola said, "I congratulate IIHS for the upcoming project 'Hela Hediyan' in order to provide well-trained and knowledgeable professionals to the country and the world. Based on His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa's vision 'Vistas of

Prosperity and Splendour', the importance of vocational training education is understood. Action is being taken to reach rural youth and those in other parts of Sri Lanka and provide local and international job opportunities. Vocational training provides education and training to help up skill the students and overcome challenges. This project's ability to link vocational training education with the Government and Private sector is commended".

In the afternoon session, Dr. Nalaka Godahewa, State Minister of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness was the distinguished Chief Guest.

Dr. Godahewa said, "The Ministry of Urban Development is pleased to support IIHS on this journey of developing Sri Lanka as South Asian education center. We are happy to note that as a recognized degree awarding institute, IIHS in the Gampaha District have so far assisted over 2,000 Healthcare Professionals in obtaining degrees. Many of them are already working abroad. Today our nurses are employed in England and Germany earn Rs. 7-8 lakhs a month. We are working to further expand these opportunities to our youth. I also congratulate IIHS's expansion and launch of its 'IIHS multiversity' concept which is commendable even during challenging times for our nation".

The Institute's new 'Multiversity concept' with an objective of attracting foreign students to Sri Lanka was unveiled during the graduation. Through this project, IIHS intends to support Sri Lanka's growth as a South Asian educational hub was nursing qualifications.

Additionally, at the event, IIHS's unique brand '800+' was launched. This programme signifies IIHS pioneering initiative and immense contribution in producing over 800 working nursing professionals and 2000+ healthcare professionals for the healthcare industry.

Venerable Muruththettuwa Ananda Thero, the Chief Incumbent of the Abhayarama Temple and President of the Public Service United Nurses Union was the Guest of Honour during the second session.

Supporting this noble calling and raising the standards of the nursing profession further, IIHS also launched its novel 'Heda Nema Waduma' project. The objective of this

programme is to further develop the skill set of Sri Lankan public sector nursing professionals through an internationally recognized Bachelor's programme thereby enhance nursing care provided to citizens.

Addressing the gathering, the Ven. Thera said, "The history of 'Heda Nema Waduma' can be traced back to 2010 when IIHS began its journey of supporting local nurses. The institution has proved its commitment by not only producing one

batch, but several batches with Masters and also PhDs related to healthcare. They also offer students programmes that are affordable, linked with work, research and technology".

Ven. Thera added, "This is a good example of how the Government, the Private sector and the Trade Unions should work together to develop working healthcare professionals. Government nurses are provided with free courses to upgrade their

qualifications through skills by IIHS and therefore this reflects that IIHS is not profit-based but dedicated to ensure the welfare of Sri Lankans".

All these pioneering initiatives are IIHS's long-term contribution to the Government's Policy framework 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour' which aims to support economic growth by adding more female participation and providing additional employment opportunities for women as paid caregivers.



HNB banking facilities for KDU University Hospital opened

Expanding its ability to serve an even broader spectrum of customers, Sri Lanka's largest retail bank HNB PLC opened a specialized banking unit at the newly established University Hospital Kotelawala Defence University (UHKDU), Werahera.

A special ceremony hosted at the premises to celebrate the launch of the new banking unit was attended by senior officials from HNB and UHKDU including KDU Vice-Chancellor Major General Milinda Peiris, University Hospital Executive Director Dr. Jayan Mendis, University Hospital - Director Administration Brig. Jayantha Balasooriya, University Hospital - Director Medical Services Brig P.S. Thilakarathne, University Hospital - Internal Auditor Brig. D.W.C. Perera, University Hospital - Deputy Director Medical Services Captain A.H. Mullegama, Senior Consultant Oncologist Prof. Jayantha Balawardena, HNB Deputy General Manager - Retail and SME Banking Sanjay Wijemanne, HNB Head of Network & Business Development Supun Dias, HNB Head of Personal Financial Services Kanchara Karunagama, and HNB Regional Business Head - South Western Region, Mahinda Seneviratne.

"While we have been aggressively broadening our digital banking services, we are equally aware of the importance of maintaining a well distributed network of customer touch points. Our specialized UHKDU banking unit will embody this hybrid approach to banking that blends sophisticated digital services with deeply personalised and friendly customer service. In this manner we will offer healthcare workers, students, and visitors the best banking services in the country", HNB Deputy General Manager - Retail and SME Banking, Sanjay Wijemanne said.

In recognition of the invaluable services provided by healthcare workers, HNB will offer a range of special banking services and packages to in-housing and visiting doctors at UHKDU, including personal loans, leases, and housing loans

at special interest rates. As the nation's most preferred bank, HNB will also offer emergency loans and related financial support facilities to the patients at the hospital complex, through the installation of paying wards.

Additionally, HNB will also ensure that special prominence is given to education loans to cater to the needs of the medical students enrolled at the UHKDU. This initiative is aimed at enhancing the ease with which students can pursue higher education and finance their training at the University Hospital.

Improving the banking experiences of customers in the area, the new Customer Centre will also feature an expansive scope of financial and digital banking solutions, including cash operations, clearing, personal lending and the issuance of credit cards. Open for business every working day from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m., the state-of-the-art branch is designed to offer a new paradigm in banking convenience for customers in the area.

Located in Werahera, facing the Colombo-Horana main road, the University Hospital at Kotelawala Defence University is a contemporary hospital complex featuring the latest in technological medical practices.


With 252 customer centres across the country, HNB is one of Sri Lanka's largest, most technologically innovative banks, having won local and global recognition for its efforts to drive forward a new paradigm in digital banking. Over the recent past, the bank was ranked among the World Top 1,000 Banks list compiled by the prestigious UK-based Banker Magazine. HNB has a national rating of AA-(lka) by Fitch Ratings (Lanka) Ltd.

HNB was also declared Best Sub-Custodian Bank in Sri Lanka at the Global Finance Awards 2020. The Bank further won the Award for the Best Retail Bank in Sri Lanka for the 11th time at the Asian Banker Awards 2020, in recognition of its sustainable growth and continuous improvements in processes, products and services amidst a challenging macro-economic environment.



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One day seminar series for Construction Industry

Seminar Name	One day Seminar on Construction Planning Execution & Monitoring	One day Seminar on Preparation of Tender / BID Document	One day seminar on Who Creates Delays, Disputes, Issues, Claims, Corruption Clauses, Unlawful Clauses, Impracticable Specifications in Government & Private Sector Contracts	One day Seminar Good Engineering Practices on Air Conditioning & Installation Maintenance	Online Seminar Cost Effective Houses
Date	16.03.2021 (Tuesday)	19.03.2021 (Friday)	26.03.2021 (Friday)	30.03.2021 (Tuesday)	23.03.2021 (Tuesday)
Resource Person	Eng. K M T B Ganegoda Chartered Engineer, BSc (Eng), MSc (CPM), C.Eng.MIESTL	Mrs. Indra M Rajapaksha F.I.Q (SLS), MRICS (UK), FCIOTB (UK), Arbitrator Chartered Quantity Surveyor, Chartered Builder	Eng. (BRIG) K.D.A. Perera (Retd.) C.Eng. MIE (SL), C.Eng (INDIA), FIE (SL), FIE (INDIA) REGISTERED ADJUDICATOR, ICTAD, IESL AND CONSULTING ENGINEER, RESOURCE PERSON FOR IESL, CIDA AND CHPB ON CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION, POST GRADUATE CERTIFICATE COURSE IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT	Eng. Chandrasiri Wikramasinghe M.Eng., C.Eng., MIE (SL), MASHRAE (USA), M.S.O.E.M.I., Plant E (UK)	Eng. W P R D Weerasinghe IESL, Principal Research Engineer NERD
Other Details	Fee for each seminar : 4,000/- (Including Certificates, Meals & Seminar material) Mandatory CCD Points for CIDA registered contractors : 10 Points (per person subject to a maximum of 50) Note: Payment is not refundable, Certificates issuing to the persons from company/institutional is subjected to the settlement of payment. All CHPB Programmes will be conducting under the Covid -19 Health Guidelines				
Time Duration	8.30 am - 4.00 pm				

For further details please refer - www.cida.gov.lk (CCD Programme) / FB page : [cida.chpb](https://www.facebook.com/cida.chpb)
 Program Officer: 011-2787661, 011-2785712 Fax: 011-2785629 Viber/Whatsapp : 070-2372373



State Ministry of Rural Housing and Construction & Building Materials Industries Promotion



Advertorial



CA Sri Lanka pen MoU with Sabaragamuwa University Faculty of Management Studies



The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CA Sri Lanka) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Faculty of Management Studies of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (SUSL) to offer a 'Gold Medal Award' to the most outstanding student specializing in Financial Management during the annual convocation of the SUSL. The MoU was signed by the President of the Institute of CA Sri Lanka, Manil Jayasinghe and the Vice-chancellor of the SUSL, Professor Udaya Rathnayaka.

The MoU will be in force for an initial period of two years and may be renewed by mutual agreement between the parties valid for five years from the date of execution. CA Sri Lanka has agreed to offer a Gold Medal Award to the best performing student of the degree programme;

BSc. Honours in Financial Management and further scholarships to undergraduates of Faculty of Management Studies to follow the CA professional programme. The MoU facilitates the University and the CA Sri Lanka by granting opportunities for the lecturers of both institutions to participate in seminars, workshops, and conferences conducted on accounting themes and topics, subject to payment of fees levied from all participants. Further, CA Sri Lanka may offer their eminent personalities driving Academic and Professional activities.

MoU amplifies the knowledge base allowing the lecturers of the Faculty of Management Studies to access the CA Sri Lanka library and create immense opportunities for joint research work on the accounting discipline.

Moreover, CA Sri Lanka contributes to revising the curriculum and finding training opportunities for undergraduates of the Faculty of Management Studies, SUSL. CA Sri Lanka and the Faculty of Management Studies will collaboratively be developing the forum for contemporary Issues and be hosting the Inter-

national Accounting Day.

The Vice-Chancellor of the SUSL, Professor Udaya Rathnayaka stated, "in today's fast-paced world, we need beneficial partnerships to encourage creativity, leverage experience, and maximize resources that can help to solve a business solution as quickly as possible".

Commenting on the collaboration, Professor Athula Gnanapala, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies of the SUSL, stated that "we are delighted to join hands with the national body for accounting to enhance the professional competen-



cies of students who are related to both accounting and non-accounting. I believe that the Academic Institutions should join hands with Professional Institutions for the betterment of the future leaders of the country".

President of CA Sri Lanka, Ma-

nil Jayasinghe said that the MoU between the Sabaragamuwa University and CA Sri Lanka was both a historic and an important event as it unites the Academic and Professional fraternities in the country.

"Therefore, the coming together of the Sabaragamuwa University and CA Sri Lanka is important to ensure greater collaboration between Professionals and Academia as well as assist in the further development of the accounting profession in Sri Lanka", he said.

The Vice-chancellor of the SUSL, Professor Udaya Rathnayaka, President of CA Sri Lanka Manil Jayasinghe, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies, Professor Athula Gnanapala, Head of the Department of Accountancy and Finance (SUSL) Dr. D. G. Dharmarathne, were also present for the ceremony.



Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management

MINISTRY OF TOURISM

We are the premier government institute in the country providing education and training for the development of human resources for tourism and hospitality industries.

NATIONAL TOURIST GUIDES' TRAINING PROGRAMME (ALL LANGUAGES)

056 BATCH - (FULL TIME PROGRAMME)

ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS - ENGLISH LANGUAGE :-

- The applicant should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
- Applicant should be between 21 and 60 years of age on the closing date of the application.
- G. C. E. Advance Level - should pass all subjects in at least two sittings.
and
Should have passed English in G. C. E. Ordinary Level Examination with a credit pass;
or
Should possess a degree by a university recognized by the University Grants Commission.

ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS - FOREIGN LANGUAGES EXCEPT ENGLISH:-

- The applicant should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
- Applicant should be between 21 and 60 years of age on the closing date of the application.
- G. C. E. Advance Level - should pass all subjects in at least two sittings.
or
Should possess a degree by a university recognized by the University Grants Commission;
- Should possess a certificate of proficiency in the language (Intermediate or Advance Level) intends to practice as a Tourist Guide, recognized by the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management;
or
Should prove language proficiency by producing credentials of living and working for at least five years(05) in a country when the said language is the native language.

SELECTION PROCESS :-

Selection of applicants will be based on the performance in a Selection test, Interview and a Language competency test (Oral) determined by the institute. Female candidates are encouraged to apply.

CLOSING DATE:- 30th April 2021

HOW TO APPLY

Application form could be obtained from Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management, Colombo or could be downloaded from the web site (www.slithm.edu.lk). Please send your application by registered post indicating the course & Language which you are applying for on the top left hand corner of the envelope to reach;



CHAUFFEUR TOURIST GUIDES' TRAINING PROGRAMME (ALL LANGUAGES)

053 BATCH - (FULL TIME PROGRAMME)

ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS :-

- The applicant should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
- Applicant should be between 21 and 60 years of age on the closing date of the application.
- Should have passed the G. C. E. O/L Examination with six subjects in at least two sittings ("S" pass for English Language is compulsory for English speaking guides).
or
Should have completed a Tourism related programme which offers NVQ level 03.
- Should possess a valid license issued by a competent authority to drive a vehicle with a seating capacity of seven, with at least five (05) years of experience of driving such a vehicle.

SELECTION PROCESS :-

Selection of applicants will be based on the performance in a Selection test, Interview, Language competency test (Oral) and a Driving test determined by the institute. Female candidates are encouraged to apply.

CLOSING DATE:- 31st March 2021

HOW TO APPLY

Application form could be obtained from Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management, Colombo or could be downloaded from the web site (www.slithm.edu.lk). Please send your application by registered post indicating the course & Language which you are applying for on the top left hand corner of the envelope to reach...



Registrar,
Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management,
General inquiry : 011 238 2211 - 15 Ext. : 313/ 315
No. 78, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Web Site : www.slithm.edu.lk

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Bride

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Above 5'10" tall academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son is sought by Buddhist parents from Kandy for their 5'10" height, graduated and professionally well-accomplished daughter working in the Management cadre who is brought up with good values. Caste immaterial. Email: marriageproposal05@gmail.com OB159567

Absolutely very beautiful pleasant young lady 5'6", just turned 31 y/o, US born, Medical Doctor, working in a major US hospital inherits substantial assets in US and Sri Lanka. A well-mannered, academically and professionally qualified son is sought by Sinhala Buddhist parents living in US. Residents from US or Canada preferred. Please respond with family details to: peradiga21@gmail.com OB159738

Academically and professionally qualified son is sought by B/K retired parents for their daughter 1989, 5' 3/5", IT graduate, MBA working as a Senior Software Engineer in a well-reputed multinational company in Colombo. Inherits substantial amount of assets including a land from Colombo. Flexible for a migration if necessary. Please reply with horoscope and contact details. Email: mprop8902@gmail.com OB159742

Academically and professionally qualified B/G partner working abroad or willing to migrate age below 34 sought by B/G well established parents from Kandy for their 1990 September born 5' tall, slim fair pretty daughter working as an Executive in Microbiology in reputed International Company, Sri Lanka. Graduated with BSc. and MSc. Degrees. She inherits valuable assets. Reply with family details and horoscope. Email : proposaluk1234@gmail.com 081-2200870. OB159372

Academically and professionally qualified caring son from a respectable family sought by Christian mother living in Australia for her daughter born in 1977, 5'3", fair, pretty, slim, MSc. qualified working in Europe and willing to relocate. She has been brought up with Sri Lankan's values & practicing Christian. Reply with family details and contact information. au several18@gmail.com OB159425

Academically and professionally qualified caring son from respectable family sought by G/B respectable retired parents from Colombo suburb for their 31 years 5'8" well accomplished, kind, pleasant MBBS qualified Medical Officer daughter attached to Govt. Hospital in Colombo District. Please reply with details and copy of the horoscope to: mproposal202103@gmail.com OB159822

Academically and professionally qualified caring son well settled in Australia or willing to migrate to Australia from a respectable family sought by G/B respectable parents from Colombo suburb for their well accomplished, kind, pretty daughter born in August 1985, 5'7", she is an Australian citizen and professionally qualified Application/Software Engineer and currently working in Melbourne. Please reply with details and copy of the horoscope to: mprop202103@gmail.com OB159824

Academically and professionally qualified fair pretty daughter P/R holder C.I.M.A qualified postgraduate pursuing C.P.A 89/05 born 5'2" height working as Finance Associate living at Oakville. S.B.G parents seek a suitable partner residing only in Canada. Reply with horoscope and contact numbers. dansulak7@gmail.com OB159557

Academically and professionally qualified kind-hearted similar caste son is sought by B/G retired parents from Colombo, for their 33 yrs., 5'2", very fair extremely pretty slim young looking daughter Postgraduate qualified, working as an Assistant Director at Central Bank of Sri Lanka, having attractive remuneration, fringe benefits. Owns substantial assets. pro pksk2016@yahoo.com OB159581

Academically and professionally qualified partner is sought by respectable Catholic parents in Gampaha for their daughter, 5'6", 1989 born, Bachelor in Human Resource Management and employed at a reputed Company as a Finance Executive. Assets including two storey house and a car. Reply with family details. cproposals1@gmail.com OB159773

Academically and professionally qualified son is sought by G/B parents for their PhD qualified well employed daughter, 35 years 5'4" very fair slim pretty with excellent character, owns substantial assets. Please reply with family details and horoscope. pro wed123@gmail.com OB159466

Academically and professionally qualified son sought by B/G parents for daughter (37 years old, born 1983/8). She holds a PhD and works in the UK. A non-malefic horoscope with no Kuja defects. Prefer someone similar in age. A teetotaler, already settled in the UK. No divorcees or anyone over age 38 please. Kindly send FB link/ family details, and horoscope via email only: propo salgroom2021@gmail.com OB159818

Academically and professionally qualified son (teetotaler/non-smoker) from a respectable family is sought by a respectable Sinhala family (Bodu/Govi), Matara, for their younger daughter, born in January 1989, 5'5", pretty, slim and fair, brought up with Sinhala Buddhist values, holding BBA and MBA degrees. Reply with family details, horoscope and contact information. (mp 1989hsn@gmail.com) OB159546

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered kind hearted loving son from a respectable family sought by Buddhist parents from Galle District for their kind hearted pretty daughter born 1994, 5'1" tall. She is employed as a Software Engineer in reputed company in Melbourne Australia. Sister is doing her PhD in Melbourne. Reply with horoscope and family details. Email: mpdsg2014@gmail.com OB159710

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered partner is sought by Sinhala Karawa Roman Catholic / Buddhist Medical professional parents from Colombo suburb for professionally qualified daughter Roman Catholic age 29 years fair pleasant height 5'2" educated in leading Colombo School, employed as Senior Software Engineer at a leading International IT Company and has completed an MBA. Only brother professionally qualified Engineer doing Postgraduate Studies leading to a PhD. Please reply with family details to proposal.ak2019@gmail.com Tel. 0112605857. OB159662

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered partner sought by B/C Govi parents for only child born 1980. She is medium complexioned attractive accomplished down to earth lover of nature and animals and a wide range of other interests. Wildly traveled educated mostly abroad while living with parents. Graduated and postgraduate from highly prestigious university abroad. Partly qualified CIMA. Licentiate Piano forte Trinity College, London was employed in Sri Lanka and abroad, presently employed in Senior position abroad will inherit substantial assets. Please reply giving family details, copy of horoscope and telephone No. E-mail: tit yvone@hotmail.com OB158833

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered son willing to migrate sought by Govi Catholic / Buddhist Sinhalese professional parents for their slim fair pretty daughter born June 1993 height 5'3" final year student in USA, will be inheriting substantial wealth. Horoscope family details. mp4duwa@gmail.com OB159769

Academically and professionally qualified, caring son is sought by B/K mother for her daughter studying MBA in Australia. She's 34, 5'4", graduated from University of Colombo and has done MA in India. Son living in Australia or abroad preferred. Reply with details to: sasirimariageproposal2020@gmail.com OB159748

Academically and professionally qualified, caring, well mannered son preferably an Engineer or a Doctor, is sought by Buddhist Salagama / Govi retired parents residing in Colombo suburbs for their daughter 5' born in 1995, studied at a leading school in Colombo, graduated in Civil Engineering from a State University and doing further studies. Only one brother is a State university student. Caste immaterial. m prsl95@gmail.com OB159744

Academically and professionally qualified, employed, well mannered son is sought by Sinhalese parents living in the UK for their pleasant well accomplished daughter. She is employed as a Biomedical Scientist in London born in October 1987 height 5'1" and practices Christianity, obtained BSc and PhD in Cancer Therapeutics and post graduate certificate in Business Administration She is separated from a marriage limited only for the signature due to a mismatch prefer a son who as a good personality and non smoker. Please reply with full details to: sustain756@yahoo.com OB159455

Academically and professionally qualified, kind caring partner (preferably living in Australia) is sought by respectable G/B parents from Kandy for their daughter, IT Professional living and working in Melbourne, born in Dec 1985, 5'2", fair attractive, well brought up with Buddhist values. Reply with horoscope. Caste immaterial. Email: ausproposal7@gmail.com 081-2579404 OB159524

Academically and professionally qualified, preferably medicine, engineering and other, caring son sought by Bodu Govi parents from Sri Lanka South our only daughter, age 27, height 5'7", BSc, Masters qualified and permanently residing in the UK, and She is currently working. We are looking for Shani, Sandu, Kuja 7, If you wish to contact please email to prop.marriage698@gmail.com with horoscope, height above 5'10". OB159488

Academically and professionally qualified, beautiful only daughter, preferably from the Kandy area. She is 31+ years of age, born in 1989, height 5'2" and has a BSc degree in IT working in a senior role in a reputed multinational company in Colombo. Sinhala Buddhist from Kandy District. She owns our house in the Puja-pitiya area and other assets. Reply with family details, horoscope of son to m.p.rosal0101@gmail.com OB159754

Academically and professionally qualified, well mannered son from a respectable family is sought by Catholic parents for their daughter born in 1988, 5'5" in height, holds a MBA and a BCom (Special) Degree with a 1st Class Honours. Also a member of IBBSL. Follows Chartered Examinations Final Stage. Currently working as an Assistant Manager in a reputed Government Bank. Contact : hughlands88@yahoo.com 0375420050. OB159782

Academically and professionally qualified, well-mannered son from a respectable family is sought by B/G parents for their daughter, born in 1987, 5', attractive, well mannered and kind-hearted. She has legally separated from the previous short marriage due to family influence. Employed in a leading bank in an Executive position. Please respond with family details and horoscope copy to: udeshidissanayake@gmail.com OB159554

Academically professionally qualified son with religious values is sought by G/B parents for 43, 5'4", pretty, charming daughter with excellent character, a qualified Chemistry Teacher in a leading School. (BSc., MSc., PGDE) new house and other assets available. sal usri123@gmail.com OB159432

Academically professionally qualified, religious, Bodu/Govi, good looking, caring, Australian Government employed daughter was born in 1986, 5', from a respectable family. She has own house in Sydney and assets in Sri Lanka. Parents are looking for a partner below 38/40 years with a steady job, specially living in Sydney, for our legally separated daughter with no encumbrances. Specially considered Kuja 7. Reply with horoscope and details. Email: marriageproposalsinformati@gmail.com OB159614

Academically qualified preferably Engineer / MBBS, Doctor handsome son from respectable family is sought by parents for their pretty, very fair daughter MBBS (Government University) 1993/05 5'4" inherits substantial assets in Western Province. Elder daughter (Accountant) married to an Engineer are citizens in Australia. Reply with details & contact information. karunadjay@gmail.com OB159444

Academically well employed son is sought by B/G respectable parents from Colombo suburbs for their 33 years 5'6" pretty and slim daughter, educated in leading Colombo school. Executive, CIMA qualified, Chemistry special degree, willing to go abroad as well. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Email - stp roposals@gmail.com B2021017929

Academically qualified well mannered son is sought by Sinhala Buddhist parents for their daughter, 1981 July 5'6" slim medium complexion and pleasant looking. BSc (SJP) and MBA (UK). Employed as Executive in private company. Reply with horoscope. propos alfer@yahoo.com OB159542

Academically & professionally qualified B/G smart partner willing to migrate below 34 sought by professional parents from Kandy presently living in Canada for their daughter 31, 5'7", slim, fair, pretty, working as Science teacher BSc MSc graduate. Inherits valuable assets. Reply with family details, contact number, horoscope. E-mail: m propose10@gmail.com OB159202

Academically & professionally qualified caring well mannered son is sought by B/G mother from Colombo suburbs for daughter 1971, 5'4", pretty and pleasant. Divorced, no kids, She has completed her Business Administration Degree and currently employed as an Executive in a State Ministry. Divorcees, no encumbrances can apply. Reply with family details. Email - colombo114@yahoo.com OB159775

Academically & professionally qualified son below 34y. with sober habits & good family background sought by B/G professional parents well established in Colombo suburbs for their P/G qualified Engineer daughter 5'3" born 09/1991, brought up with Sinhala Buddhist cultural values, currently working in Australia, & planning to return to SL. Entrepreneurs welcome. She is medium complexion, pleasant, confident personality. Please reply with family details, horoscope & contact number to: proposal2215@gmail.com OB159484

Academically & professionally qualified son is sought by Roman Catholic, Sinhalese parents for their daughter born 1985, height 5'5", completed her postgraduate studies & currently working in a private bank in managerial grade. She inherits assets. Please reply: negombo789@gmail.com 031-2235016. OB159731

An educated, employed and well mannered son is sought by landed proprietary parents from South (B/K) for their pleasant, fair, slim and simple daughter born in 1995 February 5'3" a graduate of Colombo University in English. Please email with the horoscope and details to: fgeetha236@gmail.com Govi also considered. OB159704

A qualified well employed son sought by B/G respectable retired parents from Colombo suburbs for fair, 1981/08, 5'5", well mannered, IT professional (BSc, MSc) elder daughter well employed. Owns assets. Divorced as innocent party without kids from a brief marriage. mpropbride18@gmail.com OB159500

A respectable Tamil Hindu parents from up-country seek a well-mannered son for their very pleasant, pretty daughter born in 1988, 5'2" graduated BSc. Hons. in Information Technology and employed banking executive in a reputed International Bank. Rasi Thula, Natchathiram Suvadi. Please respond with family details with the copy of horoscope including date year and time, place of birth (city or town) with contact number. Email: moh anpremkumar@gmail.com contact number 0713952650, 051-2244811. OB159585

A suitable partner is sought by mother living in Colombo suburbs for her daughter Buddhist, Sinhala Durawa / Govi born in 1974, 5'5" an Accountant / Manager in a prestigious Company draws six figure salary. Owns a car and a house. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Email - hwgproposals@gmail.com OB159446

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Bodu Durawa parents from Colombo seek academically or professionally qualified partner for their daughter born in May 1987, 5'1" fair educated at a leading Buddhist School in Colombo. Presently employed in a bank almost completed her banking exams and Management Degree. Inherits substantial assets including an upstairs house in Colombo. Kindly reply with family details, horoscope and contact numbers. daya ratnew@gmail.com
OB158745

Bodu Govi estate owner family from North Western Province looking for a partner for their younger daughter 1991 born studied in an international school has a diploma in psychology elder sister married. We are looking for an educated partner from a Bodu Govi business family. proposal1991@yahoo.com
OB159725

Bodu Govi family seeks an educated caring partner for their unmarried daughter, graduate teacher of English, 5'2", fair born in March 1983.
OB159582

Bodu Govi parents from Kurunegala seek a professionally qualified partner below 39 for their 1986 born divorced 5 feet tall, beautiful daughter who has a PhD with a 5 year old son and currently employed as a Lecturer in Australia. propabc1111@gmail.com
OB159752

Bodu Govi parents seek professionally qualified partner for their graduate (B.Sc IT) daughter born in 1995 July. Height 5'2" working in a leading private company. Substantial dowry which includes a commercial building and a car. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Email: ayodya42@gmail.com
OB159460

BRIDE
 1993 from a well-to-do Buddhist business family she is the youngest in the family. After London A/L she went to UK for higher studies. There she obtained masters of Commercial Law and again she obtained attorney at law from Colombo Law College. She is very pretty daughter inherits property in Colombo and life time directress of our number of family business companies.
Proposed son (We expect)
 Academically qualified well manners, Buddhist, Smart personality, age 30 and below from a buddhist family. Please email your son and parents details to my email address. If it is possible please send your son horoscope copy.
 Marriage brokers please contact
 070 322 57 00
 proposalscolombo93@gmail.com
0159408,
 C/O Sunday Observer - Lake House, Colombo 10.

Bodu Govi 1990 very natural beauty 5'5" General Hospital Nurse (first class Degree) MSc. Nursing faced to offer Lecturer Post, new house, new car, lands (income) fixed deposits looking for Doctor, Engineer. Email - anurap1977@gmail.com
OB159668

Born 80' R/C obtained ICBT Degree working for private sector as an Asst Manager looking forward for a professionally qualified person. gihanif@gmail.com
OB159714

British citizens Govi Buddhist / Hindu Vellala parents seek academically and professionally qualified partner for their daughter, 31 yrs, 5'3", Law degree from an Elite University in the UK, Legal Advisor for UK Government Department. Email: edmonton1944@yahoo.com
OB159694

Buddhist parents from Colombo seek a suitable son for their pretty, decent daughter only child graduated in Malaysian University in Bio-Technology. She has already completed MSc in Bio-Technology at the University of Kelaniya. Currently she is enrolled to follow MBA Programme. She is 5', born in 1989/8, studied at a Buddhist Girls' School in Colombo, employed at a private company in Colombo. She owns our two storeyed new house and other assets. Reply with horoscope and family details. Caste immaterial. Email: sgsproposal@gmail.com
OB159572

Buddhist parents residing Colombo suburbs seek an educated partner for daughter 5'2" 34 years BSc. (IT) MBA currently working in reputed Company as a Senior Executive drawing attractive salary. Reply with horoscope. proposal2721@yahoo.com
OB159676

B/G parents, Gampaha seek a suitable partner for their 1977/10, 5'4", slim unmarried daughter, Civil Engineer at Government Institute. Reply with family details, horoscope. v.nissanka@gmail.com
OB159814

B/G Ratnapura retired parents from Government service seek academically and professionally qualified teetotaler son for their pretty slim kind hearted daughter born in 1986, height 5'3". She is an MBBS doctor graduated from Faculty of Medicine Karapitiya. Please reply with horoscope and family details. Email: rprasadinik@gmail.com
OB159495

Buddhist (Govi) professional parents in Australia seek a well-mannered caring son with similar intellect and abilities. She has been very well brought up with Buddhist values, 26 years, foreign qualified MBBS and gainfully employed, preparing Master of Health Management and for the Medical qualifying examination. She is a very beautiful, admirable character and inherits assets in both countries. Please converse with horoscope and contacts to: auropt2021@gmail.com
OB159765

B/G affluent parents from Colombo seek educated, established partner for only daughter 1990 July, 5'2" pretty slim and well accomplished. Studied in a leading Buddhist School Graduated in HR with PQHRM. Presently employed as Human Resources Senior Executive in a US based reputed private entity with a good remuneration package. Owns a modern two storied house in the suburbs with all facilities and other valuable assets. Elder brother an Engineer married to an MBBS Doctor. Reply with horoscope and family details. salmg1959@gmail.com
OB159502

B/G parents from Colombo suburb seek a suitable partner for their daughter. She was born in 1989 August, 5'4", pretty, slim, completed her Masters Degree at a prestigious University in Australia and expecting to continue with her PhD. studies in the same University. She has substantial assets in Sri Lanka and a career as a University Lecturer. Write with horoscope and family details. 2021prop@gmail.com
OB159672

B/G parents looking for a professionally qualified caring son for their 1993, 5' 1/2" fair, very pretty slim, BSc. Graduate daughter who studied at a leading girls' school in Colombo. Employed at a private firm. Overseas proposals only. proposal2721@yahoo.com
OB159676

B/G parents, Gampaha seek a suitable partner for their 1977/10, 5'4", slim unmarried daughter, Civil Engineer at Government Institute. Reply with family details, horoscope. v.nissanka@gmail.com
OB159814

B/G Ratnapura retired parents from Government service seek academically and professionally qualified teetotaler son for their pretty slim kind hearted daughter born in 1986, height 5'3". She is an MBBS doctor graduated from Faculty of Medicine Karapitiya. Please reply with horoscope and family details. Email: rprasadinik@gmail.com
OB159495

B/G respectable parents seek academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son for their fair, pretty, slim daughter born 1982 December 5'7" height, brought up with Buddhist values and working as a Science Graduate Teacher. Owns valuable properties and Financial assets. Reply with full details and horoscope. Rahu 7, Puwasala Nekatha. Email: prop marriage@gmail.com
OB159544

B/G respectable family residing overseas seek an honest, well mannered (N/S, T/T) and academically, professionally qualified, caring son for our 29 years, 5'2" pretty Engineer daughter she is bearing a good character. Please respond with family details, horoscope and contact number. Overseas residents only. marriage7592@gmail.com
OB159440

B/G respectable parents Colombo seek academically and professionally qualified well employed son for our daughter Assistant Manager for educated in Colombo. BSc, Chartered II and MBA qualified, 1988, 5'4" height very fair pleasant moral character. Inherits dowry (Makara/Ku, Rahu, Cha2/Sh12) p rop886@gmail.com
OB159540

B/G respectable parents from Colombo seek a professionally qualified, kind hearted, handsome son for our daughter born in 1992 January. She is fair, pretty, 5'3" in height and studied at a leading girls' school in Colombo. She holds a Mechatronics Engineering Degree. Currently reading for her Masters. Reply family details and horoscope. proposal92125@gmail.com
OB159829

B/S parents living in Australia looking for professionally qualified son for their daughter, a Medical Doctor in Australia, 34 years old, 5'5" caste/religion immaterial. Please reply with family details to sriya2021@yahoo.com
OB159652

Catholic Doctor mother seeks a professional son for daughter Human Resource Executive born in 1988 convent educated 5'2" mild complexion, medium built. Race immaterial, willing to migrate. solagracia5555@yahoo.com
OB159536

Catholic parents from Melbourne, looking for a kind, caring partner living in Australia for their daughter, 28 years. She is professionally qualified and working. Reply with family details. trinityA2021@gmail.com
OB159758

Colombo Bodu Govi-gama parents seek for their eldest daughter 1993 born 5'5" pleasant slim Visakhian CIMA (UK) Graduate UOC Management Graduate and MBA (Finance). Working in a multi-national company as an Executive. Owns substantial assets, a professionally qualified partner below 32 years same caste with sober habits non-smoker teetotaler. Reply with horoscope copy telephone number and family details. propose424@gmail.com
OB158569

Colombo District, Govi, Buddhist, mother seeks a well employed, educated, well mannered pious, good character son/groom for her daughter/bride, born in May 1984, height 5'2", Executive Officer in Government Department (Attorney-at-Law, LLM,), pretty, fair (Kuja Shani 12).
OB159565

Colombo Govi Buddhist parents seek suitable partner/groom for living in England or Australia, or expecting to migrate to those countries, aged below 35 years, with Higher Education for their Software Engineer, daughter/bride, MSc Graduate, employed abroad, born in January, 1991, height 5' feet. Reply with full family details, copy of horoscope, and the contact Telephone No: pjaya911k@gmail.com Telephone: 0112700026.
OB159549

Colomb Govi Buddhist respectable parents seek professionally and academically qualified smart son for their 29 year old slim/pretty smart and well brought-up daughter 5'4" attended leading girls' school in Colombo and completed her degree in recognised University abroad. Currently employed in a leading IT Company in Colombo at Managerial Level. She planned her Master Degree in Australia this year. We are looking for a partner who is residing in Australia/ New Zealand. She inherits a luxury house near Parliament and many other wealth. Reply with family details, recent photos and horoscope to: jrowith282@gmail.com
OB159551

Colombo G/B parents seek academically and professionally qualified son for their daughter in USA. Postgraduate, born December 1990, 5'3" fair and beautiful. Preferably in USA. Respond with T.P. No: 0112862665 deal wischandrika@yahoo.com
OB159415

Colombo resident business parents looking for their educated pretty daughter 1995 height 5'3" have done Business Management Degree owns new luxury house vehicle valuable assets, please reply with details and horoscope. Email : marriageproposal2520@gmail.com
OB159404

Colombo suburbs G/B mother seeks educated kind social partner from respectable family between 31-37 for Senior Manager (CIMA/MBA) daughter born in 1990 September studied in leading Colombo School, caste religion immaterial. Sri Lankan overseas considered. 2019.request@gmail.com
OB159456

Colombo suburbs (land owning) respectable business family seeks educated businessman or professionally qualified son for their elder daughter educated at Sirimavo Bandaranaike College obtained MBA from Monash University holds PR. MSc from same university born 1988 height 5'5" very pretty fair slim smart active and virtuous. Govi Buddhist or Catholic considered. Non-malefic horoscope. s warnapala61@gmail.com
OB159562

Colombo suburb Graduate professional parents seek suitable partner for their daughter, Catholic, 1985 Sep., 5'3", fair, BSc., MSc., SLASS, MBA Higher Executive position in a Govt. Ministry in Colombo. Reply with full details of the son, family with contact numbers, horoscope, (Reply only non-malefic) Email : w ks94913@gmail.com Tel. 0112088592.
OB159670

Colombo, Buddhist 1969, 5'2", pretty, MBBS, Govt. Doctor with landed property, complete house motor car, etc. elders seek suitable partner / groom, educated, well-mannered, for her. Reply with a copy of the horoscope, Telephone No., etc. Email : kalaniprera987@gmail.com
OB159779

Govt Buddhist academically qualified parents seek for daughter 28 yrs fair 5'1" smart daughter a suitable partner. Studied in reputed private school in Colombo. B.Sc MSc from prestigious overseas universities. Presently in New Zealand. s evingris@yahoo.com
OB156761

Govt Buddhist educated elderly parents from Colombo suburbs seek a professional partner for their MBBS Doctor daughter, born in 1983. She works in a hospital in the Western Province. She inherits substantial assets.
OB159697

Govt Buddhist parents (lawyer father) in Colombo suburbs seek a professionally qualified Engineer, Accountant, Lawyer son with non malefic horoscope (between the age 26 - 31) for their fair, slim, pretty, 1995 born 5'3" daughter with IBSL qualified, CIMA (UK) partly qualified, BSc in Management final year, along with substantial assets. Email - proposals.gpnl@gmail.com
OB159727

Govt Buddhist respectable established business parents seek a suitable son for their only daughter born in 1987, height 5'3", well educated, accomplished, occupied, primary and secondary education at Ladies' College, Colombo 7. email : prop osals1999@outlook.com
OB159707

Govt/Catholic/Buddhist parents from Colombo suburbs seek educated partner for their 1991 born pretty, fair, 5'3" Attorney-at-Law daughter. She was educated in a leading girls' school in Colombo and also holds LLB London. Currently works for a leading law firm. Please reply with full details. Email: gsb1958@gmail.com
OB159570

G/B parents from South residing in Colombo suburbs seek an educated graduate son for daughter 5' 1987 June graduate English Teacher, father Specialist Doctor Rahu 1 Kethu 7. proposal@gmail.com
OB159700

Hindu / Sinhala Buddhist retired professional parents from Colombo seek a professional Sinhala Buddhist son below 35 years for their only daughter educated at Vishaka College, Colombo, 27 years, 5'5" graduated in Software Engineering from Moratuwa University. Working in a Global Co. Please send family details with horoscope. Contact No. 011-2508612 after 2.00 p.m. Email : suraman@sltnet.lk
OB159658

Homagama, Buddhist, Govi, 1980, height 5'3", respectable family background, Postgraduate Degree Holder, working at Colombo General Hospital, owning modern car, MBBS Doctor, only daughter in family, parents seek educated virtuous partner. Only brother is married. Reply with family details, horoscope copy and Telephone Number.
OB159512

Kandy Buddhist father, a retired Staff Officer, seeks academically and professionally qualified well mannered below 36 partners, for his attractive, slim and fair 33 years old twin daughters. Both worked as Lecturers in a leading University in Sri Lanka, after graduating with BSc (Hons) (Special) Degree. At present both are following PhD in USA in the same University while doing Lectures. Please reply (in English or Sinhala) with details and contact numbers to: a dgc2015@gmail.com
OB159816

Kegalle, 1993 born respectable Kandyan Radala Sinhala Buddhist 5'1" virtuous only child, a graduate from a private university and currently reading MBM at a state university. Father, a respectable leading businessman, inherits valuable assets seeking a decent and educated son (prefer accounts or business management field) preferably from the same caste or Bodu Govi. Please reply with family details and a copy of the horoscope to: damayanthipd@yahoo.com
OB159560

Kuliyapitiya BB, 30, 5'2" BSc, MSc. Pharmacy, seeking PhD, government teaching, visiting lecturing, pharmacist, very pretty, fair daughter inherits house, car, substantial assets. Tel: 0375682573.
OB159545

K/G/B parents seek suitable professionally qualified partner for our daughter preferably Forces Commission Officer Bank or Executive Level with sober habits (5' 7 1/2") height fair well accomplished with assets born 1980 working in reputed organization at Executive Level in Colombo. Further reply with family details. dilrukshivayomi@gmail.com
OB159548

Malay parents looking for a partner for their only daughter, who is teaching in a leading Nursery School Colombo. She is 24 fair, slim and 5'8", studied at leading school in Colombo. Expecting educator, religious between 25-29, from a respectable Malay family. Send details & Cont. No: malayproposal196@gmail.com
OB159719

Moor family seeks for daughter in Mid Thirties well qualified holds a leading position professionally qualified partner. Email : proposalsaz@yahoo.com
OB159427

Moor parents from Colombo looking for a partner for their daughter who passed out from the Colombo Medical Faculty, the girl is 28 years old fair slim and 5'4" in height, the girl inherits valuable assets along with a house. Please send your details to: nikahproposal992@gmail.com
OB159059

Moor parents from Colombo-12 seek a well-educated professional well-groomed suitable partner for their pretty daughter holding degree born in 1993 fair slim height 5'3" a web journalist in a leading media firm, for further details, contact: 0112470900. dasheer kfmnc196@gmail.com
OB158999

Moor parents Galle looking for an educated religious groom for state university graduate MBBS Doctor 30 years height 5'3". Contact : roshlon7@gmail.com
OB159664

Moor parents seek for their daughter, 25+, 5'3", studied at leading girls' school in Colombo, foreign qualified Dental Surgeon Doctor (BDS) completed, undergoing internship, will be back in Sri Lanka end April, qualified religious partner Accountant, Civil Engineer, Architect, Lawyer, Doctor etc. Phone: 0112861307, 0777715926. Email: b proposal891@gmail.com
OB159601

Moor (Muslim) middle class parents seek an educated groom for 34 yr. old unmarried 5'5", religious, professionally qualified daughter. 0114091308. moorproposal21@gmail.com
OB159786

Mother seeks educated professional son for her daughter born in 1994 July, pretty, fair, 5'3" (Shani 7) close to Colombo, works in a private bank, legally separated after registration (limited signature only). Reply with the horoscope copy, telephone number, family details & Facebook name (dont reply married people). proposals9477@gmail.com
OB159799

Mother seeks educated professional son for her daughter born in 1994 July, pretty, fair, 5'3" (Shani 7) close to Colombo, works in a private bank, legally separated after registration (limited signature only). Reply with the horoscope copy, telephone number, family details & Facebook name (dont reply married people). proposals9477@gmail.com
OB159799

Parents Graduate Teachers Tamil RC Kurukulam seek suitable partner for their daughter born 1988 Graduate working as Development Officer. greentreevilla798@gmail.com
OB159450

Our daughter was born in 1993 fair 5'3" tall from a Buddhist Business family in Colombo. She completed her Bachelor's and MBA in Business Administration and currently reading second MBA in Information Systems in Perth, Australia. She moved to Australia for her second Masters and it will be the final semester of the programme and her brother is currently studying Software Engineering in Perth. We are looking for a suitable partner in Australia or Sri Lanka. Please respond to: ransi1293@gmail.com with the family details along with his horoscope. **OB159808**

Panadura Buddhist born 1994 5'3" Management Graduate CIMA qualified daughter, professional parents seeking an educated well employed son with a respectable family background. She loves a self thinking with sense of humour who can enjoy little things in life, inherits a house and other assets. Reply with family details. Phone horoscope to: proposal94may@gmail.com Tel: 2562946.
OB159622

Pannipitiya B/G parents seek a caring well employed son for their 5'2" 1992 born professionally qualified self starter daughter employed in Senior Management Team. She prefers a sensible human being to share life with preferably a nature lover and a travel bug. She would love to spend money for charity instead of lavish weddings. Reply with family details phone and horoscope to: marageproposal95@gmail.com
OB159621

Parents are looking for a son who is able to speak in English, well educated, good characteristics and is residing in Colombo or Gampaha for their daughter. She was born in 1995/06, 5'2" and able to speak fluently in English. She is reading for her LLM Examination this October and hopes to be a Lecturer. She currently teaches in a recognized international school in Colombo. (Kuja 7. But if you are not interested in this regards, you are most welcome). Email: proposal2021555@gmail.com
OB159702

Parents Graduate Teachers Tamil RC Kurukulam seek suitable partner for their daughter born 1988 Graduate working as Development Officer. greentreevilla798@gmail.com
OB159450

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Parents in a Bodu Govi respectable family in Colombo suburb are seeking a well mannered suitable son for their daughter who is MSc Chemistry teacher at a leading Government School in Colombo. 5'4" height very fair and pretty, born in 1977. She inherits separate valuable house and other assets (no horoscope ideas). **OB159795**

Parents Negombo seek Christian partner for younger daughter born 1990 graduated holds management post in private sector. bmail s51955@gmail.com **OB159696**

Parents seek an educated son for their pretty, slim, young looking daughter, who is a Postgraduate Diploma holder, working in a leading Government organization, was born in 1977. dilmtmcc@gmail.com **OB159760**

Parents seek suitable decent life partner for their 1991 born pretty, kind, academically qualified daughter living in Australia. abeysekaresumithra@gmail.com **OB159476**

Qualified established and well-mannered Buddhist son is sought by respectable B/G leading business family from Colombo-06, for their 25 year old daughter who is well brought up with good values, kind, religious and family oriented. She schooled at leading Buddhist school in Colombo and currently a graduate in Mathematics & Economics, also has a younger brother currently studying Medicine overseas and we are seeking for a kind caring well brought up teetotaler son with Kuja in 1 and Shani in 7. Caste immaterial. If suitable please email the horoscope and family details to: pgn@slnet.lk or post details to P.O. Box: **OB159463**

Respectable Buddhist Vishwakula parents seek a son, professionally qualified or a final year university student, handsome, honest N/S, T/T, with a good character, for their daughter 26 years, 5'5" tall. Medical student 4th year. Residing in Colombo suburbs. Reply with horoscope and family details. Caste immaterial. Inherits assets. p erera.olga@yahoo.com **OB159434**

Respectable family from Dehiwala, Salagama, Buddhist, Teacher mother seeks suitable educated partner with sober habits around 45 years for her daughter, good character, English trained Graduate Teacher, fair, pleasant, 5'3", studied at Methodist College, Colombo 03. Given valuable dowry including two lands worth more than 150 lakhs. Please write all the details with the horoscope. Email : up ech9529@gmail.com **OB159419**

Respected Buddhist parents seeking a handsome, kind, well mannered, qualified son not exceeding 35 years for their beautiful daughter of 26 years, 5'4", studied in a Colombo leading school, graduated from a well reputed University in Australia and already settled in Sri Lanka. Currently working in a leading conglomerate heading the HR, while reading for her MBA. Prefer someone already settled in Sri Lanka. Respond with family details, and a copy of the horoscope. Email: deerath1234@gmail.com **OB159490**

Retired parents seek suitable educated higher employed or businessman son for marriage of their daughter 1989, B/G, 5'4" very pretty fair educated in Colombo leading girls school for intelligent daughter, divorced from the first marriage as Plaintiff. She has a small son. proposal3127@gmail.com **OB159674**

Roman Catholic Govi respectable and prominent parents living in Colombo seek a professional loving caring partner for their daughter 43 years 5'4" never married. She is a professionally qualified graduate working in the private sector in managerial position. Willing to migrate. The partner should be of similar family background. Age between 43-48 with similar professional lifestyle. He should be kind, honest, modern and a well-established person financially. Self-replies only. Religion, caste horoscope immaterial. Reply with full details to: sh anthiweera@gmail.com Call: 0112410179. **OB159400**

Roman Catholic Sinhala parents from Colombo seek an academically and professionally qualified son for their daughter 25 years, born 1996, 5'2" in height. Educated in a leading Catholic Convent in Colombo. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) Degree & currently doing her CIM final stage. She is a qualified Elocution Teacher as well. Presently working for a leading Blue-Chip Company. She will inherit a valuable house in Colombo & parental assets as well. Email : jdlal92@gmail.com **OB159378**

Sinhala Buddhist dual citizen parents residing in Australia, looking for a qualified, handsome, NS/TT son with Sinhala Buddhist values, preferably living in Australia for our pretty and well brought up daughter born in 2000, studying Construction Management 3rd Year. Contact Email : proposa l2005@yahoo.com **OB159790**

Sinhala Buddhist Govi / Karawa Government employed parents from Colombo seek a well mannered, honest son for their 24 years academically qualified pretty well brought up daughter (H.N.B.) 5'7" only brother, She owns properties (5 Million) Forces OK. Please respond with family details and horoscope and Tel. No. first letter. **OB159422**

Sinhala Buddhist mother seeks kind son for her pretty daughter born in 1982, 5'3" studied in a leading girls school in Colombo, completed postgraduate, presently employed in a reputed company. She is divorced from a short incompatible marriage. Father deceased. Brother is married. Please respond with family details to sandhya a010151@gmail.com **OB159723**

Sinhala Govi Buddhist retired parents looking for a gentleman for 49 years 5'8" young looking beautiful daughter who is a well educated trained abroad Wedding and Function Organiser in Colombo. She is divorced and no encumbrances. Looking for building up a loving family. Responses from divorced, with children, from Sri Lanka, UK or Australia are welcome. Please reply to: bambafats@gmail.com **OB159801**

Sinhala Buddhist parents living in London looking for a Groom in the same profession works in the UK, for their daughter, a Doctor age 27, height 5'2", interesting in music and travelling. She was born in Sri Lanka and raised in the UK with traditional Sinhalese Buddhist values. Email: kалу g6493@gmail.com **OB159717**

Suitable, professionally, qualified well-mannered son is sought by B/K parents for their elder daughter, fair and partly 82/12, 5'2" HR Degree and pretty qualified in PGD and Masters, working at Government sector, willing to migrate. Reply with full family details HC contact numbers. Email: nishaslkg@gmail.com, TP: 035-2227607. **OB159558**

Well established business family B/D from Moratuwa seeks a son for their younger daughter. She is January 1994 born, 5'7" in height and she holds a Management Degree from a leading university. Currently works as an Executive at a private company while helping the family business and she inherits assets. Please send the horoscope and family details. Email: sunda yobserver2021@gmail.com **OB159812**

Well-connected respectable parents (Govi/Buddhist, Govi/Catholic) in Colombo seek a partner for their only child daughter a Medical Consultant in UK. 1985 born, 5'2" height, fair and truly pretty. Valuable assets in UK & Sri Lanka. Dual citizen. Partner should be professionally qualified, well-accomplished, smart tall and handsome. UK residents preferred. Reply with details and horoscope to: pr oposal022021@gmail.com **OB159382**

Respectable parents (Govi/Buddhist, Govi/Catholic) in Colombo seek a partner for their only child daughter a Medical Consultant in UK. 1985 born, 5'2" height, fair and truly pretty. Valuable assets in UK & Sri Lanka. Dual citizen. Partner should be professionally qualified, well-accomplished, smart tall and handsome. UK residents preferred. Reply with details and horoscope to: pr oposal022021@gmail.com **OB159382**

Sinhala, father (B/G) mother (R/C) seek a son below 31 years who is professionally qualified, employed, well mannered, non-smoking and handsome for their pleasant and pretty daughter. Born in 1994, educated at a leading international school in Colombo, 5'2" in height, professionally qualified with MSc and working at a leading multinational company in Sri Lanka. Write to: s gpro994@gmail.com **OB159827**

Western Province Buddhist Vishwakula professional parents seek suitable partner/groom, for their daughter/bride, Medical Students 4th year, since 1996, height 5'1". 0716867548, 0112965086. **OB159576**

We B/G parents from Colombo seek an academically and professionally qualified son well-mannered, with sober habits for our only daughter, born in 1993, fair, 5'5" in height educated at a leading Buddhist School. She has completed her BSc and obtained an MSc from Colombo Medical Science Faculty, presently lecturing in a private university. She inherits a house in Colombo and land in the suburbs. She is Vrucchika lagna Sita Nekatha and has a non-malefic horoscope. Please reply with family details and a copy of the horoscope. **OB159406**

1986 MBBS Doctor. A qualified well-mannered son is sought by B/G parents respectable family from Chilaw for their only daughter 5'2" slim, pretty, kind down to earth attached to a Govt. Hospital brought up in family affection under all the cultural values. She inherits valuable assets. Write with family details and horoscope. prop4lovingdaughter@gmail.com **OB159810**

1987, Ratnapura, B/G parents seeking a suitable groom for their pretty and fair daughter (Nursing Officer at National Hospital, Sri Lanka) with respectable profession and background. **OB159807**

1990 January, 5'5", suburb Colombo, Bodu, Karawe. Studying in Colombo University (Masters Graduate in final year) presently employed in embassy office, slim and pleasant, most beautiful daughter. Retired parents seek good characterized educated eminent employed bridegroom for their daughter. Inquire, with horoscope and all details. Dowry available. **OB159462**

1993 March born, 5ft in height, slim tan in complexion, S/G/B residing in Nugegoda studied in a Colombo School and holds two degrees. Presently employed in a Multinational IT Company in Colombo. Younger brother Software Engineer, father retired company director, mother housewife. Parents seek a suitable partner with a similar background age below 34. Local residents only. Please email with details and contact number. ruk an2121@yahoo.com **OB159650**

1995 born 5'4" slim very pretty British citizen originally from Colombo, BSc, MSc., UK qualified brought up with Sri Lankan Buddhist values. Professional parents seek well mannered handsome professionally qualified partner above 5'6" for the eldest daughter, she inherits substantial assets. All particulars together with copy of horoscope forward to : proposalkuk2021@gmail.com **OB159678**

1997, 5' Panadura, Buddhist, Salagama, LLB graduate, preparing Law College final year, inherits assets, employed parents seeking an educated suitable partner NS/TT. brother BSc. Quantity Surveyor. Please send details with horoscope. Email: prop1997wp@gmail.com (caste immaterial). **OB159636**

Academically qualified son born 1980, 5'11" tall, handsome, well-mannered, sober habits, not married. Senior Consultant at IBM looking for a suitable bride. Father/mother retired seniors in public sector B/G (differences immaterial). Younger sister MBBS Doctor in Australia, married. Please write to: patti chintha1@gmail.com **OG159729**

Academically qualified very pretty well brought up kind & loving living in USA from respectable Catholic family sought by very respectable Govi Catholic parents for their very handsome son tall slim born & raised in USA with Sinhala Catholic values 24 years Engineer specialized in Robotics & Fed Realley employed. Please reply to: bentley1967@yahoo.com **OG159423**

Academically qualified, pretty kind hearted daughter is sought by respectable B/G parents living in Sri Lanka for their son, born in 1987, well brought up Sinhala Buddhist values, with sober habits, 5'7" in height and handsome, holding a Master's Degree from prestigious University in USA and currently working in the USA. Please respond with family details and a copy of the horoscope / contact number to u sagroom1987@gmail.com (USA/Canada preferred). **OG159777**

Academically qualified, pretty kind hearted daughter is sought by respectable B/G parents living in Sri Lanka for their son, born in 1987, well brought up Sinhala Buddhist values, with sober habits, 5'7" in height and handsome, holding a Master's Degree from prestigious University in USA and currently working in the USA. Please respond with family details and a copy of the horoscope / contact number to u sagroom1987@gmail.com (USA/Canada preferred). **OG159777**

Academically qualified, pretty kind hearted daughter is sought by respectable B/G parents living in Sri Lanka for their son, born in 1987, well brought up Sinhala Buddhist values, with sober habits, 5'7" in height and handsome, holding a Master's Degree from prestigious University in USA and currently working in the USA. Please respond with family details and a copy of the horoscope / contact number to u sagroom1987@gmail.com (USA/Canada preferred). **OG159777**

Academically qualified, pretty kind hearted daughter is sought by respectable parents for their one and only Sinhala Buddhist son, born in 1994, well brought up with good values. Teetotaler, 5'5" in height and handsome, early education in Royal College, Colombo and is holding a Masters and a Bachelor's degree, currently working as a Lead HR in a multinational company. Proposed son inherits properties and assets in Sri Lanka. Please respond with family details with the copy of the horoscope to: m proposals709@gmail.com **OG159756**

Academically & professionally qualified pretty well mannered daughter is sought by Bodu Govi parents living in Colombo suburbs for their son born 1992/6 5'5" tall, studied at a Colombo leading School, Moratuwa University BSc Engineer, CIMA fully qualified, studying final year at Law College while working in a leading company as an Executive. Owns substantial assets Rahu first Kethu Buda seventh Kuja fifth Shani second house Dhanu Lagna, Saa Nekatha. Only brother studying Government University. Please respond with full family details & horoscope, telephone number at the first instance itself: uw eerasi@gmail.com **OG159538**

Academically, professionally qualified daughter sought for 5'5", 38, Ph.D., B/G Senior Lecturer migration considered. m prose345@gmail.com **OG159579**

Affluent G/B family seeks pleasant attractive lady below 50 years from a very respectable family for their good looking divorced son, who is academically and professionally qualified from a prestigious university in USA and was employed in a world's leading bank in USA as an Investment Banker (dual citizen with USA) and now into his own ventures in Sri Lanka and abroad. Caste is immaterial, divorcees are considered. Pls. reply with full details. Email : pr oada069@gmail.com **OG159438**

An educated obedient daughter who truly appreciates Sinhalese heritage and Buddhist values is sought by Colombo B/G/K parents for smart son Anandian born 1987 5'6" N/S T/T Australian citizen working as Associate Professor at reputed University in Australia. Inherits assets, proposals from Australia are preferred. Reply with horoscope. Email : ne wnuq2021@gmail.com **OG159510**

An educated partner sought by a Scientist working in University in Europe. Prefer a G/B girl in 35-40 age range, willing to live overseas. Groom never married, 1974, 5'5", TT/NS. Please reply with contact details. 74.bandara@gmail.com **OG159715**

An educated, pleasant, kind hearted and well brought up partner is sought by parents in Moratuwa for their son who is a Software Engineer by profession. He is 38 years 5'6" tall and is a teetotaler/non-smoker with pleasant mannerisms. He inherits substantial assets. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Email: props882@gmail.com **OG159624**

An old boy of Ananda College born 1960 Govi Buddhist never married teetotaler non smoker employed a English Sinhala proof reader seeks a kind hearted lady partner to lead a harmonious pleasant married life. email: r rai35370@gmail.com **OG159740**

A suitable partner from English speaking background, prefers only living in SL, slim & good looking and having permanent job. Proposed groom has returned to SL few months back after yrs. of employment overseas at Senior manager level, in late 40's but looks absolutely in 30's having own house and other assets and self sufficient, Sinhalese & Catholic never married. Prefer girl below 41 Contact 0112518788 or email sureshdesilva99@gmail.com **OG159468**

An educated partner sought by a Scientist working in University in Europe. Prefer a G/B girl in 35-40 age range, willing to live overseas. Groom never married, 1974, 5'5", TT/NS. Please reply with contact details. 74.bandara@gmail.com **OG159715**

An educated, pleasant, kind hearted and well brought up partner is sought by parents in Moratuwa for their son who is a Software Engineer by profession. He is 38 years 5'6" tall and is a teetotaler/non-smoker with pleasant mannerisms. He inherits substantial assets. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Email: props882@gmail.com **OG159624**

An old boy of Ananda College born 1960 Govi Buddhist never married teetotaler non smoker employed a English Sinhala proof reader seeks a kind hearted lady partner to lead a harmonious pleasant married life. email: r rai35370@gmail.com **OG159740**

A suitable partner from English speaking background, prefers only living in SL, slim & good looking and having permanent job. Proposed groom has returned to SL few months back after yrs. of employment overseas at Senior manager level, in late 40's but looks absolutely in 30's having own house and other assets and self sufficient, Sinhalese & Catholic never married. Prefer girl below 41 Contact 0112518788 or email sureshdesilva99@gmail.com **OG159468**

A Christian fair beautiful bride is sought by Govi parents for their only son, holding a PhD in Engineering field. 33 yrs, 5'9". Please reply with full details. Non R.C. Christians only. Email: mestj2021@gmail.com **OG159508**

A famous business family, managing several private enterprises in Gampaha District, seek extremely pretty daughter under 29 years for Govi, smart, handsome younger son 35 years 5'11", MBA qualified, studied at a leading college in Colombo. He owns several well established business entities, substantial properties and other assets. Caste, creed, dowry immaterial. Please respond with full details. ah earth47@gmail.com **OG159722**

A good looking Sinhala Buddhist girl who studies or works in USA, is sought for our son 33 y. works in USA. ccj10960@gmail.com **OG159498**

A pleasant tall daughter is sought by G/B mother for PhD qualified, healthy son, 6ft tall, born in 1973 with sober habits, employed in USA. Legally separated after very brief marriage with no encumbrances. Reply with horoscope and details. usaproposal333@gmail.com **OG158084**

A pretty below 40 year of age bride is sought by a divorced IT Professional holding permanent residence in Australia. 49 yrs. Height 5'7" details via an email: sdilshan@yahoo.com or a letter. **OG159713**

An educated partner sought by a Scientist working in University in Europe. Prefer a G/B girl in 35-40 age range, willing to live overseas. Groom never married, 1974, 5'5", TT/NS. Please reply with contact details. 74.bandara@gmail.com **OG159715**

An educated, pleasant, kind hearted and well brought up partner is sought by parents in Moratuwa for their son who is a Software Engineer by profession. He is 38 years 5'6" tall and is a teetotaler/non-smoker with pleasant mannerisms. He inherits substantial assets. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Email: props882@gmail.com **OG159624**

An old boy of Ananda College born 1960 Govi Buddhist never married teetotaler non smoker employed a English Sinhala proof reader seeks a kind hearted lady partner to lead a harmonious pleasant married life. email: r rai35370@gmail.com **OG159740**

A suitable partner from English speaking background, prefers only living in SL, slim & good looking and having permanent job. Proposed groom has returned to SL few months back after yrs. of employment overseas at Senior manager level, in late 40's but looks absolutely in 30's having own house and other assets and self sufficient, Sinhalese & Catholic never married. Prefer girl below 41 Contact 0112518788 or email sureshdesilva99@gmail.com **OG159468**

A Christian fair beautiful bride is sought by Govi parents for their only son, holding a PhD in Engineering field. 33 yrs, 5'9". Please reply with full details. Non R.C. Christians only. Email: mestj2021@gmail.com **OG159508**

A famous business family, managing several private enterprises in Gampaha District, seek extremely pretty daughter under 29 years for Govi, smart, handsome younger son 35 years 5'11", MBA qualified, studied at a leading college in Colombo. He owns several well established business entities, substantial properties and other assets. Caste, creed, dowry immaterial. Please respond with full details. ah earth47@gmail.com **OG159722**

A good looking Sinhala Buddhist girl who studies or works in USA, is sought for our son 33 y. works in USA. ccj10960@gmail.com **OG159498**

A pleasant tall daughter is sought by G/B mother for PhD qualified, healthy son, 6ft tall, born in 1973 with sober habits, employed in USA. Legally separated after very brief marriage with no encumbrances. Reply with horoscope and details. usaproposal333@gmail.com **OG158084**

A pretty below 40 year of age bride is sought by a divorced IT Professional holding permanent residence in Australia. 49 yrs. Height 5'7" details via an email: sdilshan@yahoo.com or a letter. **OG159713**

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Bodu Govi parents seek an educated beautiful employed daughter compatible to Kuja 7 for son born in Sept., 1987, height 5'6" working in New Zealand as A.E.T.I. qualified automobile Technician. Send all the details in the first letter. OG159504

Bodu Govi respectable father retired Senior Assistant Secretary from Colombo looking for their son never married very handsome teetotaler non smoker age 42 height 5'4" seeks a professionally qualified well mannered beautiful daughter brought up with Buddhist values. He owns a flat house in Colombo and another house with a coconut land in Gampaha District and a car working in a Government sector. He is educated in a leading school in Colombo. Please reply with all details and horoscope. Mithuna lagna Kuja in 08th House age limit between 28 - 35 years. OG159370

Buddhist Govi respectable parents from Colombo suburb seek a suitable daughter for their 1990 born 5'8", son with sober habits, educated at a reputed Colombo School. Completed an Engineering Degree from a state university in USA, and currently employed in USA. Please reply with family details. Email : cp roposal190@gmail.com OG159402

Buddhist medium level parents residing in Ganemulla seeking a truly beautiful, educated and smart daughter with positive and honest attitude over the age 18 from a respectable family. The proposed son is 32 years (born 12/1988), 5'7", truly handsome, fair, well-mannered and has an excellent personality. He is qualified master holder in Australia and working. He was holding a managerial level position before leaving the country in a top pharmaceutical company. Horoscope is immaterial. Please reply with full family details to proposal1988@gmail.com OG159705

Buddhist parents residing in Colombo suburbs seek an academically professionally qualified daughter for their Australian citizen son graduated from a leading Australian University and employed in an MNC as an Electrical Engineer, born in 1984 September 5'9", N/S, T/T, fair and handsome. Please respond with the horoscope. m .proposal7512@gmail.com OG159682

Buddhist parents residing in Colombo suburbs seek an academically professionally qualified daughter for their Australian citizen son graduated from a leading Australian University and employed in an MNC as an Electrical Engineer, born in 1984 September 5'9", N/S, T/T, fair and handsome. Please respond with the horoscope. m .proposal7512@gmail.com OG159612

B/G mother seeks a pleasant, slim and a quiet daughter who is academically and professionally qualified for son, 27, 5'7", slim and handsome, Civil Engineer, educated abroad. He is a Director of a company owned by family. He is quiet and conventional. Owns assets. p837sl@yahoo.com OG159411

B/G parents from Kandy seek a suitable pretty daughter with PR in Japan for their 27 year old son. He does temporary work while studying in Japan. He is 6'2" tall, fair, handsome and a responsible gentleman studied at a leading government school in Kandy. Forward horoscope with family details to: apr oposal21@gmail.com or call: 0812389373. OG159506

B/G parents (Business family) Colombo invite pleasant and kind professionally qualified daughter for their son Australian citizen living in Sydney born 1985, 5-6 educated at Buddhist School in Colombo and graduated in University USA completed Postgraduate Studies in Accounting & Finance from well reputed Australian University. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Email : lasprop2021@gmail.com OG159788

B/G parents (Kandy) seek a slim, fair, good looking daughter for their son. She should be a Doctor, Engineer, Bank or work in Government or private sector having an Executive post below 30 years. Son is an Electrical Engineer of CEB graduated at Moratuwa University (MSc. Hons) having a house and a new car. (HB) (1986.10.30 - 5'7") 0812377492. OG159442

B/G professional parents Nugegoda seek professionally qualified partner, preferably Vegetarian for their smart son born 1991 May 5'7" NS/TT Vegetarian. BSc. (Colombo) BCS (UK) qualified, employed as QA Engineer, IT Company Colombo. Reply with F/B horoscope & family details. Confidentiality assured. propson91@gmail.com OG159374

B/G, professional parents living in Australia wish to introduce their son. He is academically and professionally qualified (PhD), 32 years old, tall (5'9"), handsome, very kind, NS, TT, working for a global investment bank in London at a senior professional level (Director). He was born and educated in Australia, prefers a simple lifestyle. He is looking for a very beautiful, tall, kind-hearted, honest, intelligent girl. Please respond if you live in UK. Email: srilanka246@outlook.com OG159720

Catholic Government retired father seeks suitable partner for government staff officer son 44 years height 5'6" Director. All differences immaterial. Please reply with details. OG159687

Colombo B/G mother seeks pleasant, fair, well mannered daughter for her son, 1987, 5'8", fair, handsome, non-smoker, teetotaler, LLB-UK, BA-UK qualified, working in leading organization. kawow6699@gmail.com OG159680

Colombo Sinhala Buddhist Durawa respectable parents seek pretty daughter for their handsome academically, professionally qualified son 6', 29 (91/9), well employed, studied at reputed School inherits substantial assets in Colombo. Reply with family details with horoscope. Email : c wba64@gmail.com OG159685

Colombo suburbs B/G 31, 5'4" handsome, NS/TT son living abroad with parents employed, owns a house. Parents seek suitable girl. Caste/religion immaterial. victory2860@gmail.com OG159618

December 1993, Bodu Govi well-respected affluent family, father, a University Professor and mother, a Teacher in a leading girls' school, seek a well-mannered, caring and honest daughter for their educated, handsome, well-mannered son, height 5'9" and he is working as an Executive in a reputed firm. Early education in Royal College, Colombo and is a graduate in Business Management. Only sister is married to an affluent educated family. Proposed son inherits properties and assets exceeding 250 Million located in Colombo and Galle Districts. Please contact with horoscope and complete family details of similar caste and stature. proposal s_2020@yahoo.com OG159517

Executive Grade (Hotelier) owns house and vehicle, legally separated, looking for below 48 passionate partner. 0117831996 / partnerlife356@gmail.com OG159771

Father Kandyan Buddhist (deceased) mother Tamil seeks suitable Christian partner for son 5ft 10 inch tall born June 85, working as Quantity Surveyor in a Foreign Company in S/L. OG159623

Father leading Buddhist Salagama Lawyer in Colombo seeks for his qualified ACMA / CGMA and LLB hons (London) handsome smart son a teetotaler working presently as a Senior Manager 5'9", 35 years Kuja 4 drawing a six figure salary inherits substantial assets, including a house in Colombo studied at a leading school in Colombo, academically and professionally qualified charming fair complexioned daughter with means. Please do reply. mnsdv678@gmail.com OG159343

Father seeks a bride with an unblemished character, below 30 yrs, for his British citizen sporty music loving Dr son, towards the end of consultant training in the UK, 39 yrs and 5'7". Reply: virginproposal@yahoo.com OG159831

For young Medical Doctor in USA, absolutely beautiful, fair, slim, well brought up daughter is sought by B/G affluent family for their very handsome son, 1994 April, 5'11", fair to introduce for a relationship leading to marriage, educated in American School in Japan. Resident Physician doing double certified residency. USA top 10 hospitals in Ohio State. Manageable very little spoken Sinhala He inherits over one billion assets, 50% cash, 100 acres of coconut estate with fully furnished modern house, guaranteeing monthly income over Rs. 4m only from Sri Lanka, excelled at Basketball and Baseball, raised in Japanese / American culture & very kind well mannered and naive (Only elder brother is a graduate of Toronto University, employed as a Director of his company in Japan while doing PhD). Preferable someone in similar capacity and from USA, Canada & UK. Having little ability of Sinhala is much better. Please reply with all details along with horoscope to: greenho opecoltd@ybb.ne.jp OG159762

Govt Buddhist Kandyan professional parents seek pretty fair educated daughter for their son born September 1994, 5'11" has BSc. Mechanical Engineering Degree employed as an Executive in a reputed Company, write or email : pinmanage3@gmail.com OG159436

Govt Buddhist Kandyan well established respectable business family from Kandy seeks an educated pretty fair slim well mannered daughter for their eldest son educated at Trinity College Kandy very good sportsman got through his Masters in Business Administration in a prestigious university in Melbourne Australia. At present he is the Managing Director / Partner in the family business 38 years 5'11" in height medium build fair smart very fluent in English handsome has an attractive personality fair well mannered person with Greek. Family values. Inherit valuable assets. Please reply with horoscope and family details. Email: scr7976@gmail.com OG159646

Govt Buddhist respectable established business parents seek a suitable daughter for their educated established businessman son born in 1988. Email: proposals1999@outlook.com OG159711

Govt Buddhist well known and respectable parents seek a pretty, educated and well accomplished daughter for their son who is 28 years old, 5'7" tall, handsome, well-mannered and a non-smoking teetotaler. He is working as an Accounts Manager at a Global Information Technology & Services Company. He had his education at a leading school in Colombo and is a 1st Class Business Management and MBA Graduate, both from two leading universities in the UK. He owns a house in Colombo. Please reply with the family details along with the horoscope to: marproposal2021@gmail.com OG159797

Govt Buddhist, mother seeks a bride / daughter living in Australia for her son / groom, Australia citizen living in Sydney, accountancy / accounting graduate, employed as an accounting officer, permanent born in March 1986, height 5'5", accounting in Information technology preferred. Send full details, with a copy of horoscope. jayperera26@outlook.com OG159376

Govt Buddhist Kandyan professional parents seek pretty fair educated daughter for their son born September 1994, 5'11" has BSc. Mechanical Engineering Degree employed as an Executive in a reputed Company, write or email : pinmanage3@gmail.com OG159436

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Govt Buddhist, mother seeks a bride / daughter living in Australia for her son / groom, Australia citizen living in Sydney, accountancy / accounting graduate, employed as an accounting officer, permanent born in March 1986, height 5'5", accounting in Information technology preferred. Send full details, with a copy of horoscope. jayperera26@outlook.com OG159376

Govt Christian parents seek for son 1988 born Australian citizen a Christian daughter who is professionally qualified. He is 5'10" tall fair & handsome. Works as an Accountant cum Financial Advisor for a Financial Organization in Melbourne. NS/TT. He is well established. nirmalee.desilva@gmail.com 0112714877, 0718388062. OG159428

Kandy Bodu Govi retired parents seek suitable partner for their handsome 5'11" height son 1986 who is Marine Engineer. Two elder sisters are married. Inquire with horoscope. 0112561940/0812387908. saman malee110@gmail.com OG159826

Kind-hearted, educated pleasant girl who's willing to migrate or already in Overseas is sought by Kandyan B/G parents with a respectable family for their eldest son, 88" born, 5'5" handsome, educated, non-smoker, working in the field of Aeronautical Engineering Overseas. Owns substantial assets. Rahul, Kethu-7 houses. Please reply with all the family details and copy of the horoscope to email - shankaweera akoon07@gmail.com OG159780

Looking for a good bride 25-35 years of age. Main qualification expected - Good hearted loving caring and honesty and trust-worthy. For only son from a respectable Muslim family. Also should be a bride who loves her parents very much. Please reply with contact details. OG159703

Moor family seeks genuine, professional Muslim groom with no kids living & working in Colombo for divorced bride aged 45, fair, resides in Colombo. mypretty.girl@yahoo.com OG159603

Moor parents looking for a bride educated religious for their son who separated recently doing his own business forward to: proposals1212@yahoo.com OG159514

Moor well connected and educated parents in Colombo seek a religious, educated and English speaking bride for their son. He graduated overseas as an Engineer and is now well employed. He is 27 years and 5'7". Please reply with full details including a contact telephone Number to kdyparents@gmail.com OG159793

NWP, B/G handsome, only son born in 1990 5'9" a qualified Chemistry Teacher, graduated from Colombo Uni, studied at Maliyadeva Boys' College. Retired father seeks an employed, pretty partner. nadeeaura@gmail.com OG159553

Parent seeks a bride for 25 years son doing his own business and studying. Only of the family. Mother is working for family Tea plantation. Father is a Graduate Ayurveda Doctor. Differences immaterial. Email : sa7745@yahoo.com OG159784

Respectable Govt/Buddhist mother seeks an academically and professionally qualified pretty daughter for her son, a Canadian citizen born in 1987, 5'11". Graduate from a prestigious university and employed in a well reputed company in Canada as an Assistant Director. Please reply with family details including the horoscope. Email only: aalnu25@gmail.com OG159736

Respectable G/B retired parents Colombo seek educated pretty, loving kind-hearted daughter for 35 years younger son 5'5" height, kind hearted down to earth holds a Masters Degree USA only brother married and lives working at Google as Product Manager, owns his own company. Proposed son works at the same company earning six figure salary. He also co-owns Physiotherapy clinic in Colombo. He owns vehicle valuable assets house in Colombo 0112076542 Email: mahindajj@gmail.com OG159586

Roman Catholic parents from Colombo suburbs seek a pretty and educated daughter from a respectable family for their handsome looking son 34, gainfully employed at a leading bluechip. He is both academically and professionally qualified. Please respond with details. Email: tdajs123@gmail.com OG159493

Seek an educated, pleasant, kind hearted partner for my brother born March 1987 and 5'11" in height, academically & professionally qualified, well-mannered and teetotaler with pleasant personality. Currently working as a Software Product Manager in a Pvt IT Company. Buddhist / Karawa, inherits assets. Please reply with horoscope and family details. proposal87@gmail.com OG159478

Sinhala Bodu/Govi father (Engineer) and mother living in Melbourne seek pretty kind-hearted and caring daughter for their handsome only son 20 years to get to know from a similar family before getting married. Son is studying the Engineering Degree 3rd year Monash University Australia and caring oriented person, is Australian citizen. The daughter we seek should be fair cultured and educated fluent speaker in English. Contact with details. Email : khjd@yahoo.com OG159656

Sinhala Catholic parents living in Pitakotte seek a daughter for our son who is working in Canada and PR Holder. He was born in 1989 and height 5'5". He studied in Wesley College and LLB Degree Holder. Interested parties may contact. Email: amikogala@gmail.com OG159556

Sinhala/Buddhist professional parents seek an academically qualified, professional pretty daughter preferably living in Australia with PR for handsome son, 36, 5'8" an Engineer living in Australia with PR divorced from a brief marriage, being the plaintiff. No encumbrances. Kindly reply with horoscope and contact details. p roposalmelbau@gmail.com OG159693

Sinhalese Buddhist Age 50 height 5'6" living in Colombo doing business wife passed away looking fair and beautiful lady as a future partner age should be 40 or below. Divorced widowed or unmarried. Religion is not considered. Email: prosperous2769@gmail.com OG159394

Sydney based B/G parents looking for a small built, pretty, down-to-earth daughter, who truly appreciates Sinhalese heritage and Buddhist values. Our caring and understanding son is a dual citizen of SL & Australia, born December 1989, 5'7", NS/TT, Manager in IT field. Reply in Sinhala or English with horoscope and family details to email only. mproposal1289@gmail.com OG159496

US Citizen Sinhala B/G parents looking for a suitable bride for their son, only within California (Los Angeles is preferred) including girls who hold student visas. He is only child, 29 years old, 5'11", BA Degree in Physiology, working in a government agency. Please kindly reply to: 66067pro p@gmail.com with your contact phone number of parents. OG159616

Western Province, Buddhist, Vishwa, professional parents seek suitable partner/bride, for their son/groom, Electrical Engineer. Born in 1995, height 5'4" 0716867548, 0112965086. OG159574

1987, B/G respectable family from Western Province, mother seeks educated, pretty daughter willing to reside in New Zealand after marriage, 5'4" graduate -IT and well employed, and also having his own established vehicle business there. Owns substantial assets in Sri Lanka too. Please reply with family details, contact number very early. Email: ud ayange87@gmail.com OG159492

1989 November born, 5'10" Lawyer Law Lecturer Company Director son. Respectable Govt Buddhist Senior Lawyer parents in Colombo suburbs seek slim pleasant good character Lawyer or Law student daughter. His horoscope is non-malefic. Only Lady Lawyers and Law students please. 011-2236968, dcha35422@gmail.com OG159380

1989 Nov. 5'8" fair handsome kind Engineer son educated in Colombo leading school, employed in multi national company. Buddhist professional parents in Colombo suburbs seek fair pleasant slim educated virtuous daughter (not the eldest) from respectable family. Age 28 or less. Elder sister doctor married. Inherits valuable assets. Send horoscope with family details. Email: proposal89sn@gmail.com OG159734

1990, 5'8" B/G respectable family mother seeks a same caste daughter for her son. Educated at a leading school in Colombo BBM, MPA, MBA Holder is in Australia. Kuja 7. OG159698

1994 April, 5'10", Kandyan, Buddhist, Govi, medium complexioned, son, studied in Kandy, BSc, MSc. in Civil Engineering from a foreign university, now works as an Engineer in Colombo private company. Younger sister doing MSc. Both parents are university Lecturers. Son's Kuja 7. Send your family details and copy of horoscope. Email : so nspromosals20@gmail.com OG159388

1995 January, 5'6", Panadura, Buddhist, Salagama, studied in a leading Colombo school, BSc Quantity Surveyor, employed in a private company, inherits assets, NS/TT, employed parents seeking an educated suitable daughter. Only sister LLB graduate. Please send details with horoscope. Email: prop1995wp@gmail.com (caste immaterial). OG159632

1995 June, Christian, 6 ft. tall, NS/TT, dual citizen living in UK with parents, graduated in 2017 and pursuing his Masters Degree. Inherits substantial assets both in the UK and in Sri Lanka including a reputed family business. He has grown up with Sinhala Buddhist values and we are looking for a kind-hearted, well-mannered daughter living in UK for a relationship leading to a marriage. Please send us the horoscope and all the information to : marriageproposal91@outlook.com OG159660

43 years G/B well known parents seek educated, kind daughter for their 5'8" young looking, never married, well-mannered son. He is well established in New Zealand. Works as a Ground Staff for leading Airline. Please reply with full family details to: dake_kap@yahoo.com OG159701

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CALLING FOR VENDORS

Domino's Pizza Sri Lanka is looking for Civil and Electrical construction vendors for their upcoming projects.

If you are interested, please send your company profile to the below mentioned address on or before 15th March 2021.

Project Manager,
164, Galle Road, Dehiwala.
Email : neil.jayamanna@jublfood.com
Mobile: 077 559 6224.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

VOLUNTEER ACCREDITORS

Sri Lanka Centre for Development Facilitation (SLCDF) and NGO National Action Front (NNAF) inviting applications from persons willing to work as Volunteer Accreditors on part time basis.

SLCDF and NNAF will be introducing the Code of Conduct and a Compliance Tool to NGOs/CBOs to enhance their ethical conduct and management to meet the requirements of the present day.

The accreditors will be enrolled to undertake assessments of NGOs/CBOs that will apply for certification. They will be selected and placed in their own districts and expenses incurred will be covered for assignments undertaken and completed.

Any person interested please write/ email on or before 15 March 2021 and the Terms of Reference will be sent to you.

Executive Director
Sri Lanka Centre for Development Facilitation
28/5, De Fonseka Road, Colombo 05.
Email: slcdf@slt.lk
slcdf.2020@gmail.com

BUILDING BEYOND LIMITS

Tokyo Cement Company (Lanka) PLC is a prestigious public quoted company with foreign collaboration and reputation as one of Sri Lanka's premier cement manufacturers and ready mixed plants, request applications from qualified persons for the following positions.

Sales Promotion Officers - Innovation (Ratnapura & Chilaw)

We're looking for a results-driven sales representative to actively seek out and engage customer prospects. You will provide complete and appropriate solutions for every customer in order to boost sales growth, customer acquisition levels.

Responsibilities:-

- Present, promote and sell products to existing and prospective customers
- Analysis of existing /potential customers to meet their needs
- Establish, develop and maintain positive business and customer relationships
- Expedite the resolution of customer problems and complaints to maximize satisfaction
- Achieve agreed upon sales targets and outcomes within schedule
- Coordinate sales effort with team members and other departments
- Analyze the territory / market's potential, track sales and status reports
- Supply management with reports on customer needs, problems, interests and competitive activities.
- Keep abreast of best practices and promotional trends

Requirement:-

- Should have passed GCE A/L
- Age between 20 to 30 years
- 2 to 3 years proven work experience as a sales representative
- Should be able to ride motor cycle
- Excellent knowledge of MS Office
- Ability to build productive business professional relationships
- Highly motivated and target driven with a proven track record in sales
- Excellent selling, communication and negotiation skills
- verbal and written communication skills in English and Tamil will be an added advantage

The chosen candidate would be entitled to an attractive remuneration package.

Please forward your CV with names and contact details of two non-related referees and passport size colour photograph within 14 days. Please mention the post applied in subject of the e-mail.

TOKYO CEMENT CO. (LANKA) PLC.

Manager - HR & Administration,
No. 469 1/1, Galle Road, Colombo 03.
E-mail: careers@tokyocement.lk

www.tokyocement.lk

TOKYO CEMENT GROUP

Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) (Private) Limited

We are looking for highly motivated individuals with right attitudes to fill the following vacancy

POST OF HEAD OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

- Qualifications** : a) Should possess Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering recognized by the UGC.
AND
b) Should be a Corporate Member of an Institution recognized by the Institute of Engineers Sri Lanka in the field of Mechanical Engineering.
AND
c) Should possess a minimum of fifteen (15) years post qualifying experience in the relevant field out of which ten (10) years should be in a Managerial level post.
- Age** : Not more than 50 years of age on the closing date for applications. This age limit will not apply to the candidates in the Government Sector Organizations. Their applications should be forwarded through the respective Heads of their Institutions.
- Salary** : The remuneration package offered for the above position will be attractive. In addition, the selectee will receive attractive fringe benefits

General:

The above post is in the Senior Management cadre of the Company and the selected candidate would lead the Mechanical Engineering Division.

If you are interested and possess the relevant qualifications and experience, please send in your resume prepared according to the specimen application given in our web site www.airport.lk >CORPORATE>CAREERS with copies of the relevant certificates to the following address on or before **March 18, 2021 only by Registered post**. Please indicate the post applied for on the Top Left Hand Corner of the Envelope.

Please note that the applications without copies of the relevant certificates and forwarded in other modes and not in accordance with the specimen given on our Website will be rejected.

Please note that only the short listed candidates will be notified.

CHAIRMAN
AIRPORT & AVIATION SERVICES (SRI LANKA) (PRIVATE) LIMITED
BANDARANAIKE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
KATUNAYAKE

JOIN SHAPING THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION JOURNEY OF THE NATION



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Information and communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA) is the apex government entity spearheading the national digital transformation journey. As the agency for driving the national digital agenda, ICTA is entrusted to action the digital strategy of the vision for vistas of prosperity and splendor.

ICTA plays an integral role in building a digitally inclusive nation by delivering efficient and citizen-centric digital government solutions, facilitating a strong digital economy with technology diffusion and innovation to build a prosperous country.

We invite dedicated, innovative and dynamic professionals to be part of this journey.

POSITIONS REQUIRED

- Director – Information Security
- Director – Process and Quality Management
- Manager – Government Engagement
- Technical Lead (Systems Engineering / Cloud)
- Technical Lead (Fullstack Java/JavaScript)
- Lead Information Security Engineer

Use the following link to obtain details of job roles.
<https://www.icta.lk/careers>

Chief Executive Officer
The Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka
160/24, Kirimandala Mawatha, Colombo 05.

94 112369099 @icta_srilanka www.icta.lk

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT SRI LANKA TELECOM

SRI LANKA TELECOM (SLT) GROUP IS ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE BLUE CHIP COMPANIES IN SRI LANKA WITH AN ANNUAL TURNOVER OF RS. 91 BILLION AND MORE THAN 10,000 EMPLOYEES AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020. SLT GROUP OF COMPANIES COMPRISES THE HOLDING COMPANY AND TEN SUBSIDIARIES INCLUDING MOBILTEL (PVT.) LTD, THE MOBILE ARM, HAVING UNIFIED AS SLTMOBILTEL TO CREATE A FORMIDABLE FORCE AS THE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY LEADER IN SRI LANKA. WE ARE NOW LOOKING FOR HIGH CALIBRE, RESULTS-ORIENTED AND EXPERIENCED CANDIDATES FOR THE BELOW MENTIONED POSITION WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHEN THE SLT GROUP'S JOURNEY OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND FULFIL ITS FUTURE HUMAN CAPITAL REQUIREMENT IN LINE WITH THE PLANNED BUSINESS EXPANSIONS.

ENGINEERS

As an Engineer of the pioneering ICT solutions provider, you will be a distinguished member of our team, which is mainly responsible for planning, designing, operating and maintaining our state-of-the-art ICT infrastructure.

PERSONAL PROFILE

- Four-year Degree in B.Sc Engineering / Bachelor of Technology (Telecommunication / Electrical & Electronic / Computer Engineering / Information Engineering / Electrical / Civil Engineering, etc.) from a University / Institute recognised by UGC - Sri Lanka and Institute of Engineers - Sri Lanka, equivalent to SLQF 6.

OR

- Associate Member of the Institute of Engineers, Sri Lanka.

*Vacancies are available both in and outside Colombo.

THE OFFERS/CONDITIONS

- Upper age limit is 30 years as at the closing date of applications.
- Appointments will be on permanent basis subject to one-year probation period.

- The successful candidates would be provided with a competitive remuneration package on par with the industry standards and other fringe benefits.
- Rewarding career progression.
- Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted by SLT HR.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Application should be sent via online. Visit www.sltmobitel.lk (careers page) and complete the online application on your own, submit with curriculum vitae including a recent photograph together with scanned copies of birth, educational and other relevant certificates within 10 days of this advert.

Applications without supporting documents will not be entertained and applications sent by post will not be accepted.

Application link is available at the SLT website: www.sltmobitel.lk (visit careers page).

Attachment file size should not exceed 15 MB.

Sri Lanka Telecom PLC is an equal opportunity employer and any type of canvassing will be a disqualification.

Chief People Officer
Sri Lanka Telecom PLC

www.sltmobitel.lk



Urgent Teaching Vacancies

We are looking for young, energetic, loyal and hardworking teachers to be employed immediately. You are expected to be with a high positive attitude of working as a team member. You will have to prove that at the interview.

- **GCE O/L, Advanced Level, IGCSE / IAL - Edexcel & Local**
Biology, Human Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths, English Language, History/Geography, Economics, Business Studies, Accounting, ICT, Psychology, Media Studies.
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Walk in for an interview during weekdays between 10.00am - 12.00pm.



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VACANCY FOR MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT

Looking for an energetic and committed management assistant to perform organizational and computer related duties for the Sri Lanka College of Internal Medicine starting immediately.

Educational qualifications – minimum GCE (A/L)

02 years work experience in a similar capacity

- Proficiency in Office work and Computer work
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- Reasonable knowledge in Accounts
- Plan and schedule meetings, and other office-related events and send reminders regarding upcoming appointments.

Age 25 years and above

Working hours : 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location : Colombo 08

Salary : Negotiable

Please forward your application by E-mail within 07 days.

Email: slcimoffice@gmail.com



Vacancy Announcement

Information Management Assistant (Contract Position)

The Mines Advisory Group (MAG) is a British non-governmental organization registered as a Charity undertaking humanitarian mine action around the world. MAG is working to save lives and build futures in Sri Lanka by reducing the risk presented by remnants of conflict. As part of MAG's commitment to safeguarding, this post is subject to background checks before an offer is confirmed.

MAG Sri Lanka is seeking applications from suitable candidates to fill the above vacancy immediately.

Skills and Essential Requirements

- ◆ Excellent communication in English, Tamil and Sinhala language is advantage.
- ◆ Should have a good analytical and reporting skill.
- ◆ Good knowledge on Microsoft office computer applications.
- ◆ Knowledge on IMSMA & GIS application is preferred.
- ◆ Ability to work under pressure meeting deadline.
- ◆ Flexible to work in Northern and Eastern Provinces.

Salary will be based upon the MAG Salary Scale on a fixed term contract.

Please submit your CV to:

Human Resources Coordinator: recruitment.lk@maginternational.org

(Include position applied in the subject line)

Deadline: 4:00pm Sunday 14th March 2021

www.maginternational.org



VACANCY

Wijaya Products

We are the Leading FMCG Company in Sri Lanka and Seeking for a most Suitable Candidates for the following Position

Production Executive (Male)

- Male in age 26 - 40 with pleasant personality
- Bachelor's Degree or equivalent Professional Qualification
- 3 years experience as a Production Executive or equal position in the field of food processing or manufacturing would be an advantage
- Should be a good team player and capable of working under pressure
- Should possess strong Leadership skills and excellent labour management skills
- Sound Computer knowledge is very essential
- Should be able to write and speak in Sinhala and English Languages
- Preferred in Kalutara District
SALARY RS. 55,000/=(TOTAL PACKAGE)

Quality Assurance Executive

- Preferable between age 30 - 40 with pleasant personality
- B.Sc.Degree or Diploma in food science & Tech
- Minimum 3 years experience in the field of food related processing would be an advantage
- process controlling & inspection of products according to standards
- Strong interest in product and process developments and innovative system
- Should be able to write and speak in Sinhala and English Languages
- Preferred in Kalutara District
SALARY RS. 60,000/=(TOTAL PACKAGE)

Please send your CV with contact Phone Numbers and recently taken photograph to reach the following address with immediate effect. Please indicate the post applied for on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

The Human Resources Manager
Wijaya Products(Pvt) Limited
Dodangoda, Kalutara.
T.P. 034-2280092/93 Fax: 034-2280285
Email : wijayaproducts@sltnet.lk / hr@spiceswijaya.com

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FACTORY COORDINATOR

Responsibilities

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- Responsible for all house keeping and security supervision.
- Monitor and control group administrative consumables materials and ensure maintenance at suitable levels.
- Guiding the staff and ability to get work done by them.
- Managing and coordinating organisational complaint and disciplinary proceedings liaison with Group Human Resources Manager and assist in providing relevant information that may be required.

Requirements

- Certificate course / Diploma in relevant field.
- 5 years of experience within Administrative Management at a Manufacturing organization.
- Leadership and organisation skills.
- Need to be enthusiastic and a team player.
- Age above 45 Years

Candidates live in or near Ratmalana (in a radius of 10 Km) are encouraged to apply. Forward your CV with a recent passport size photograph, including 02 work related referees within 07 days of this advertisement quoting the reference No. S/HR/145

GROUP HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER - HETTIGODA GROUP

No 33/3, Sri Dharmarama Road, Ratmalana.

E : jobs@siddhalepa.com

T : 011 2736910 / 077 3370991 F : 011 2735465



BUILDING BEYOND LIMITS

Tokyo Super Aggregate (Private) Limited is a subsidiary of Tokyo Cement Company Lanka PLC and manufactures aggregate products, invites applications for the following position.

Assistant Engineer - (Mechanical)

The right candidate should possess;

- NDT or equivalent qualification from a recognized institute with minimum of 3 years' experience in a crusher plant or similar operations
- Experience in Metal Crusher Plant, Heavy Machinery Repair & Maintenance is a must
- Proficient in MS Office packages and Good conversant on Auto Cad / Solid Works software's
- Familiar on ISO 9001:2008 / ERP system will be an added advantage
- Excellent communication skills in Sinhala and English
- Ability to work long hours
- Candidates from Dompe, Delgoda areas are highly encourage to apply
- Age below 35 years

Successful candidate can look forward for an attractive remuneration package.

Please forward your CV with names and contact details of two non-related referees and passport size colour photograph within 14 days. Please mentioned the post applied in subject of the e-mail.

Manager – HR & Administration,
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No. 469 1/1, Galle Road, Colombo 03.
E-mail: careers@tokyocement.lk

www.tokyocement.lk



Urgent Vacancies (Contract Position)



The Mines Advisory Group (MAG) is a British non-governmental organization registered as a Charity undertaking humanitarian mine action around the world. MAG is working to save lives and build futures in Sri Lanka by reducing the risk presented by remnants of conflict. As part of MAG's commitment to safeguarding, this post is subject to background checks before an offer is confirmed. MAG Sri Lanka is seeking applications from suitable candidates to below vacancies from the suitably qualified candidates within the close proximity of the position-based location.

STORE KEEPER/ WAREHOUSE OFFICER (MAG Vavuniya base)

Essential Skills & Requirements

- Professional qualification in basic stores/warehouse management
- 1 to 3-year experience in stores/warehouse asset management preferably in NGO setup
- Should have a sound knowledge in Microsoft Excel, Word and email communication
- Be proactive and a fast learner of new systems
- Ability to organize, plan and work under pressure
- Ability to keep clear and concise records
- Fluent in English and Tamil (oral/written). Sinhala is an added qualification

MECHANIC (Northern/Eastern Province)

Essential Skills & Requirements

- Should have at least a certificate level qualification in Heavy vehicle/Construction Equipment repairs and maintenance from a recognized Institution.
- Minimum 1-2 years' experience on mechanical, electrical, hydraulic repairs and maintenance
- Preference will be given to heavy equipment mechanics and automobile mechanics
- Preferable given for Mechanics with welding skills.
- MAG operates on a 21-day rotational 3 weeks continuous work cycle and be prepared work away from home.
- Accommodation Allowance will be provided to find accommodation

WELDER CUM MECHANIC

Essential Skills & Requirements

- Professional qualification in welds small, medium, and large bore pipe of various metals and alloys.
- More than 5 years' experience in welding.
- Should have a sound knowledge of armoring of heavy equipment.
- Minimum 1-2 years' experience on mechanical, electrical, hydraulic repairs and maintenance.
- MAG operates on a 21-day rotational 3 weeks' continuous work cycle and be prepared work away from home.
- Accommodation Allowance will be provided to find accommodation.
- Selections will be made on a rolling basis.

Salary will be based upon the MAG Salary Scale on a fixed term contract.

Please submit your CV to:

Human Resources Coordinator: recruitment.lk@maginternational.org

(Include position applied in the subject line)

Deadline: 4:00pm Sunday 14th March 2021

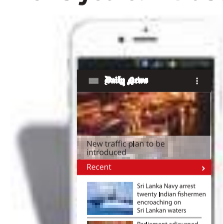
www.maginternational.org

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Prima

Ceylon Agro - industries (Prima Group) is well renowned company, mainly involve in value added food market and Agriculture. As we strive to achieve excellence and expand our business we are looking for self-motivated, ambitious and energetic young individuals for immediate employment in Agriculture sector.

AREA MANAGER AGRICULTURE

Job profile

- Overall coordination of sales and Marketing activities in the designated area.
- Develop the sales promotion strategies and adopt.
- Conducting of market development activities.
- Building of relations with the stakeholders of the area.

Ideal applicant should

- Possess a Degree preferably in Agriculture / or Diploma in Agriculture from a recognized Institute.
- Have minimum 5 Years' experience in a similar industry.
- Have effective communication and negotiation skills.
- Be a self-motivated team player.
- Have valid driving license.

Strong leadership, analytical and PR skills are essential requirements for this position.

Age – Preferably below 35 years.

An attractive remuneration package will be offered to selected candidates.

A detailed resume should be sent to reach us within 10 days of this advertisement. You are encouraged to send the applications by

E- mail: cai-careers@prima.com.lk

General Manager
Ceylon Agro - Industries Limited.
(Prima Group in Sri Lanka)
346, Negombo Road, Seeduwa.

Tel: 225 3527 Fax: 225 3537 E-mail : cai-careers@prima.com.lk

VACANCY

MANAGER FOREIGN TRADE

Our Company is engaged in Aviation and Defence Business.

We are looking for a person under 30 years of age for the position of "Manager Foreign Trade" in our Company.


Ideal candidate must be proficient in Computer operation, cheerful and optimistic, strong sense of responsibility and the ability to cope with difficult work.

He or She must be able to liaise with foreign suppliers, product enquiries, prepare quotations, and order tracking and follow up.

Salary negotiable.

Please send your application within 7 days to;

**Pan Asia Trading (Pvt) Ltd.,
Level 6, McLarens Building,
No. 123, Baudhaloka Mawatha,
Colombo 4.**



Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

VACANCY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the post of Accounts Executive to assist the financial management of the research grants, development funds, and postgraduate courses of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo.

Accounts Executive (Contract Basis)

Qualifications :
Degree in Finance / Accountancy/ Business Management or equivalent qualification.

Preference will be given to those who have following qualifications in addition to the Degree.

- I. Foundation level (CAB I) in Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CASL) or equivalent qualification.
- II. Member in Association of Accounting Technicians of Sri Lanka (MAAT).

Experience :
Two years minimum experience in the field of Accounting from a reputed government or private organization.


Age :
Should be not more than 35 years.

Salary :
Rs. 50,000 / = + Cost of Living(COL) per month

Period :
One year contract (Renewable depending on the performance and the need of the Faculty).

Applications with full details of qualifications, copies of certificates and the names and addresses/ contact numbers of two non-related referees should be sent by registered post to reach the **Deputy Registrar, Faculty of Medicine, No. 25, P. O. Box 271, Kynsey Road, Colombo 08** or email to **admin@med.cmb.ac.lk** within fourteen days of this advertisement (on or before 21st March 2021). The candidates preferred to send applications by post should indicate the post applied for on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

**Registrar
University of Colombo
94, Cumaratunga Mунidasa Mw.,
Colombo 03.
07.03.2021**



SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA, BELIHULOYA

VACANCY

The Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka will entertain applications for the undermentioned post from suitably qualified persons up to 26.03.2021.

Pre-School Assistant (on Contract Basis)

Qualifications :
Should have passed G.C.E. (O/L) Examination with six passes and certificate in Pre-School Education of the Open University or equivalent or higher qualifications in Early Childhood Education.

Age : Not more than 45 years

Selection : By Interview

Salary : Rs. 38,525/= (Fixed Monthly Allowance)

BENEFITS :
08% of the salary of the selected candidate and 12% of the amount paid by the University will be credited to the Employees' Provident Fund. In addition, the University will contribute 03% to the Employees' Trust Fund.

HOW TO APPLY :
Application Forms and relevant information could either be downloaded from the University Web Site : **www.sab.ac.lk** or could be obtained from the Office of the Assistant Registrar / Non-Academic Establishments of this University up to **16.03.2021** by personally calling over or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope 9"x4" in size to reach the Assistant Registrar / Non-Academic Establishments of this University.

Duly completed applications on prescribed forms together with certified copies of relevant certificates, etc., should be sent under registered cover, indicating the post applied for on the top left-hand corner of the envelope, to reach the **Assistant Registrar / Non-Academic Establishments, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, P.O. Box 02, Belihuloya** on or before **26.03.2021**.

Applicants from the University System / Government Departments / Corporations / Statutory Boards should channel their applications through their respective Heads of Institutions.

The University reserves the right to shortlist the candidates. Applications which do not conform to these requirements, incomplete applications and applications received after the closing date will be rejected without intimation.

**Acting Registrar
Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka**



YOUR FUTURE AS GUARDIANS OF THE NATION

THE REGULAR FORCE OF THE SRI LANKA ARMY IS CALLING APPLICATIONS FROM PATRIOTIC AND ENERGETIC YOUNG GENTLEMEN FOR OFFICER CADET (DEGREE SCHEME) VACANCIES

Basic Qualifications:

- **Age :** Between 18 - 23 years by 30 April 2021.
- **Height and weight :** Height not less than 5'6" (167.64 cm) and weight not less than 52 kg (118 lbs)
- **Eyesight :** Both Eyes 6/6 (without specs and lenses)
- **Marital status :** Should be Single Male
- **Educational qualifications :**
 - ☛ Passes eight (8) subjects with five (5) Credit (C) Passes including English Language, Mathematics, Sinhala/ Tamil Language and Science in a one sitting and not more than two attempts at GCE (O/L) examination
 - AND**
 - ☛ Passing three subjects and obtaining 30% of marks for Common General Test in one sitting and not more than three attempts at GCE (A/L) examination
 - OR**
 - ☛ Any other international examination (Pearson/ Edexcel, GCSE, GCE and Cambridge) recognized by Department of Examination, Sri Lanka as an equivalent to GCE (O/L & GCE (A/L)

Selected Candidates have the opportunity to follow Bsc degree programme under Kotelawala Defence University as Officer Cadets.

Will be commissioned in the rank of Second Lieutenant upon the successful completion of Officer Cadet Training at Sri Lanka Military Academy - Diyatalawa.

**Visit
<https://www.army.lk/officers>
for application and information.**

Inquiry : 0112 514 605

The deadline for application : 30 March 2021

Directorate of Personnel Administration, Army Headquarters, Sri Jayawardanapura, Colombo

VACANCY

Applications are called for the recruitment of **Technical Officer on Contract basis** for the post of Technical Officer in the Excise Department of Sri Lanka. Monthly Contract Allowance as per Public Administration Circular No. 03/2016 is Rs.31040.00 and Cost of Living is Rs. 7800.00.

02. Educational Qualifications:

Passed three science subjects (3) in G.C.E (Advanced Level) Examination (excluding the General test) in one sitting including Pure Mathematics / Applied Mathematics / Combined Mathematics and Physics and should have passed the G.C.E (Ordinary Level) Examination with six subjects including credit passes for Language or Literature, Mathematics, Science and another one subject.

03. Professional Qualifications:

- i) National Diploma in Technology awarded by the University of Moratuwa or Hardy Institute, Ampara;
Or
- ii) National Diploma in Engineering awarded by the National Apprenticeship and vocational Training Authority;
Or
- iii) Higher National Diploma in Engineering awarded by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education;
Or
- iv) Diploma in Technology awarded by the Open University of Sri Lanka;
Or
- v) Successful completion of Part of the Engineering Examination conducted by the Institute of Engineers of Sri Lanka;
Or
- vi) Should have completed National Vocational Skills (NVQ) Level 6 qualification relevant to the field of the job
Or
- vii) Should have obtained other technical qualifications recognized by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission as equivalent to all respects to the aforesaid technical qualifications upon obtaining advices from the Ministry of Higher Education and the aforesaid technical certification bodies.

04. Other Qualifications and Application can be obtained through the website of the Department www.excise.gov.lk . The closing date of applications is **31.03.2021**.


**University of the Visual and
Performing Arts**
VACANCY

Applications are called from suitably qualified candidates for the under-mentioned post of this University until 29.03.2021.

Nursing Officer (Grade II)**Qualifications**

- (i) Should have passed the G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) Examination in six subjects at not more than two sittings with credit passes in 03 subjects.
- (ii) Certificate of competence as a nurse recognized by the Sri Lanka Medical Council.

Recruitment: Selection by interview.

Age: Should not be less than 18 years and not more than 40 years.

Salary Scale: Rs. 31,625 - 7x300; 10 x 355 - 37,275 p.m. U-MT 1 (III A)

(Basic Salary Rs 31,625 in addition to this Salary Government approved other allowances will be paid)

Application Procedure:

01. The Application form and all the other relevant details could be obtained from "Assistant Registrar/Non Academic Establishment, University of the Visual and Performing Arts, 21, Albert Crescent, Colombo 7" by sending a self-addressed stamped (Rs. 15.00) envelope 9"x 4" in size up to reach on or before **23rd March 2021** or can be downloaded from the University website www.vpa.ac.lk
02. Duty perfected application should be sent by registered addressed to "Assistant Registrar Non academic Establishment, University of the Visual and Performing Arts, 21, Albert Crescent, Colombo 07" on or before 29th March 2021 at 4.00 p.m. The post applied for should be mentioned on the top left corner of the envelope containing the application.
03. Only the photocopies of all relevant certificates should be attached the application.
04. Applicants who are employed in Public or Corporation Service should direct their applications through Heads of Departments.
05. Applications that do not fulfill the required qualifications, incomplete applications, the late applications, applications not to the format and those who have not attached documents to prove the experience will be rejected.

Registrar,

**University of Visual and Performing Arts
21, Albert Crescent, Colombo 07.**

it's what you want

www.adz.lk

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observerjobs.
lk
RAJARATA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
MIHINTALE
VACANCIES

Rajarata University of Sri Lanka will entertain applications from suitably qualified persons for the following posts up to **25.03.2021**.

01. Medical Officer**Qualifications :-**

Medical Degree of a recognized University with at least three (3) years' experience as a Medical Practitioner.

Salary Scale : Rs. 55,350 – 10x1335; 1x1630 – 70,330 p.m. U-MO1(II)

In addition to the salary, equalization allowance on appointment under the Medical / Dental category in keeping with the salary of the Medical Officers attached to the Ministry of Health will also be paid.

Benefits

01. In addition to the above mentioned salary, the cost of living allowance and other allowances approved by the University Grants Commission will also be paid to the permanent appointees.
- b) Permanent Appointees will become contributors to the Universities Provident Fund and the members of the Employees Trust Fund and Universities Pension Scheme.
- c) The holder of the post of Medical Officer is entitled for the Vehicle Permit.

Special Note :

The applicants who wish to join on Secondment / Sabbatical Leave / Contract Basis / Assignment Basis may also apply.

02. Project Manager**Qualifications**

1. (a) Should possess a B.Sc. Engineering degree from a recognized university/ HEI specializing in Civil Engineering
OR
Should possess a B.Sc. Engineering degree from a recognized university/HEI specializing in Quantity Surveying
OR
Equivalent professional qualifications recognized by the Institutions of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL)
AND
- (b) Possess a Corporate membership from a recognized Engineering Institute
OR
Possess a Corporate membership from a recognized Institute of Quantity Surveying
AND
- (c) A minimum of 10 years relevant experience in construction projects, handling contracts as well as managing direct labour.

Method of Recruitment : Selection by a structured interview.

Salary Scale : Rs. 66,180 - 8x1335; 6x1630 - 89,900 p.m. U-EX 2(II)

03. Technical Officer (Audio Visual) Grade III**Qualifications :-**

- I. Should have passed in three (3) subjects at the G.C.E. (A/L) examination in one sitting in any Stream.
AND
- II. (a) Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the N.V.Q. Level 5 in the field of Electronics and Telecommunication / Electronics / Multimedia or Audio Visual Techniques from an Institution recognized by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission or a Statutory Institution which has been established by an Act passed by the Parliament.
OR
- (b) Having obtained technical qualifications in the field of Electronics and Telecommunication / Electronics / Multimedia or Audio Visual Techniques accepted as equivalent to the above qualification of (ii) (a) by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission with one year experience in Audio Visual work in reputed organization

Salary Scale : Rs.31,625 - 7x300 ; 10x355 - 37,275 U-MT 1 (III A)

Age : Age Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years

Method of Recruitment : Selection by written and/or practical test and an interview.

04. Technical Officer (ICT) Grade III**Qualifications:-**

- I. Should have passed three (3) subjects at the G.C.E. (A/L) examination in one sitting in any Stream.

AND

- II. Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the N.V.Q Level 5 issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission or recognized Institution in the field of Information Communication and Multimedia Technology/Information and Communication Technology/Information Technology or Equivalent.

* Preference will be given to those who have work experience in ICT

Salary Scale : Rs.31,625 - 7x300 ; 10x355 - 37,275 U-MT 1 (IIIA)

Age : Age Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years

Method of Recruitment : Selection by written and/or practical test and an interview.

05. Management Assistant Grade III (Book-Keeping)**Qualifications:-**

1. Should have passed the G.C.E. (O/L) Examination in six (06) subjects at one sitting with credit passes in :-

- i. Sinhala Language/ Tamil Language
- ii. English Language / English Literature
- iii. Mathematics

AND

2. Should have passed in all subjects at G.C.E. (A/L) Examination (except the Common General Papers) at one sitting.

AND

3. a) The National Certificate for Accounting Technicians of the Sri Lanka Technical College/ College of Technology under the Ministry of Skills Development and Vocational Training or any other equivalent qualification obtained from recognized institute.

OR

- b) G.C.E. (A/L) qualification should be in the Commerce Stream.

* Preference will be given to those who possess the following ;

- a) An acceptable qualification in computer applications of not less than six (06) months duration obtained from a recognized institute.

AND

- b) Two years of experience in the use of computer application packages.

NOTE : Eligibility

- a) Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
- b) Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 30 years of age on the closing date of applications.
- c) Should be of good character.

Salary Scale : Rs.30,725 - 17x300 - 35,825 U-MN 1 (IIIA)

Age : Age Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years

Method of Recruitment : Selection by written Examination and an interview.

How to apply

Application forms and relevant details can be obtained by visiting the www.rjt.ac.lk University website.

The applicants of Public Service, Government Departments, and corporations, should submit their applications through the respective Heads of Institutions.

Certified Photocopies of the certificates of Educational/ Professional qualifications and Service Certificates if any should be sent along with the application.

The post applied for should be indicated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. Applications received after the closing date, applications not in accordance with the format given in the University website and incomplete applications will be rejected.

Address : **Assistant Registrar, Non Academic Establishment Branch,
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Mihintale.**

**Registrar
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka
Mihintale.**

07.03.2021

Recruitment of Communications Consultant to the Sustainable Development Council of Sri Lanka for Colombo, Sri Lanka



Work Description

Realization of the Sustainable Development Goals remains a formidable challenge for Sri Lanka despite having made significant strides in reducing poverty and promoting social development. However, a gap remains between the current and desired trajectory on SDG achievement. This is presently manageable and well within country capacity to bridge provided action is taken now before the gaps become wider and more unmanageable. Concerted action needs to be taken at the current juncture. The timing of interventions is even more pivotal in light of the COVID-19 crisis which has the potential to adversely affect the country's ability to fulfil its commitments towards Agenda 2030.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has partnered with the Sustainable Development Council of Sri Lanka (SDCSL) to support the country's SDG integration and acceleration agenda. In close coordination with SDCSL, UNDP can convene a multitude of stakeholders that are vital for the identification and understanding of solutions that would address country's development challenges.

The Sustainable Development Council of Sri Lanka (SDC) is the government agency tasked with monitoring and evaluation of government organizations that are working towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals that have been undertaken by Sri Lanka, in accordance with the United Nations. To ensure success of National Policy and Strategy, in compliance with Global Pledges and sustainable environmental standards, the Sustainable Development Council aims to consistently facilitate, monitor and review the development of Sri Lanka's sustainable growth. Effective communication play a key role both internally and externally in ensuring the successful implementation of this agenda and promoting sustainable development. The communications consultant will work to facilitate this and strengthen the SDCSL.

The Consultant will be based primarily at the SDSCSL office in Colombo and will work closely with the Director General and staff of the SDSCSL. The Consultant will report to UNDP's Communications and Engagement Analyst under the overall guidance from UNDP's SDG Integration Specialist for contractual purposes in carrying out the key responsibilities of the assignment.

Please refer full Terms of Reference for the position on UNDP site [Link for TOR](#)

Contract Modality : Individual Contract (IC)
 Duty Station/s : Colombo, Sri Lanka
 Deadline for Submission: 18th March 2021

Qualified Sri Lankans are invited to apply through the web and upload a methodology and CV including qualifications/competencies and relevant past experience in similar capacity and contact details of two non-related referees. To apply, please access UNDP site; <http://jobs.undp.org> (By location>Asia and the Pacific) for vacancy notice and apply through the web site.

UNDP is committed to achieving diversity within its workplace, and encourages all qualified applicants, irrespective of gender, nationality, disabilities, sexual orientation, culture, religious and ethnic backgrounds to apply. All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Head of Procurement
 United Nations Development Programme
 202-204 Bauddhaloka Mawatha
 Colombo 07
 Sri Lanka.



Ministry of Defence



BE A COMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE NATIONAL CADET CORPS

A unique opportunity to join the professionals as a commissioned officer of the NCC to groom the school cadets as disciplined citizens and future leaders of the nation.

Closing Date
15th April 2021

Visit www.cadet.gov.lk for the application and more information

Perks & Benefits

- Free Uniforms.
- Overseas visits and Training Programmes
- Special courses (Tri service and Civil).
- Attractive pay and allowances in par with SL Army (on mobilized service).
- Free medical and all other facilities for the Officers on mobilized service.

Qualification and Entry Requirements

- Should be a Citizen of Sri Lanka.
- Should hold a Permanent Appointment in the field of Education under one of the following categories SLTS/SLPS/SLTES/SLEAS.
- Should be below 35 Years as on 31st August 2021.
- Should be medically fit to undergo a basic military training.
- Height - Male Not less than 160cm.
 Female - Not less than 150cm.

Address to be applied for : Corps Secretary , Corps Secretary Branch, Headquarters, National Cadet Corps, No. 15 , Dutugemunu Street, Pamankada,Dehiwala.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS..... Corps Secretary Branch

011- 2815343/070-3613152

070-3613103 /070-3613194



Headquarters,
 National Cadet Corps,
 No 15,
 Dutugemunu Street,
 Pamankada,Dehiwala.



011 28 15346



ncchq.lk@gmail.com



www.cadet.gov.lk

VACANCIES

SOFTLOGIC PHARMACEUTICALS

Softlogic Pharmaceuticals (Pvt) Ltd, is one of the fastest growing pharmaceutical companies in Sri Lanka, representing leading pharmaceutical manufacturers, worldwide. Following rapid expansion, the company is seeking energetic, dynamic, result oriented and hardworking individuals to join the existing team.

PRODUCT MANAGERS

- Minimum 10 years' experience in the Pharmaceutical industry including 2-3 years of experience as a Product Manager/Business Development Manager
- Experience in developing product marketing strategies & strong management experience.
- Should be innovating and creative.
- In dept knowledge of the industry and the capacity to analyze and predict market trends.
- "Can do" attitude, great leadership skills.
- Should be able to work under pressure.
- Fully or part qualified SLIM / CIM or Certificate in Pharmaceutical Marketing

MEDICAL DELEGATES

- Preferably 2 years' experience in promoting pharmaceuticals.
- Good command of English Language
- Ability to multi-task, prioritize, and manage time effectively.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and Pleasing personality.
- Qualifications in Marketing / Sales would be an added advantage.

MEDICAL DELEGATES (PROMOTE IV) – OUT OF COLOMBO

- Minimum 1 year experience promoting iv range out of Colombo.
- Excellent Communication Skills
- Qualifications in Marketing / Sales would be an added advantage.

SALES EXECUTIVES

- Minimum 2-3 years' sales experience in the Pharmaceuticals industry.
- Good Communication Skills
- Valid riding license

An attractive remuneration package inclusive of salary, vehicle allowance, field allowance, incentives and medical insurance await the right candidates. In addition, Candidates will be provided with accelerated career progression on performance.

Please email your detailed CV, with names and addresses of two non-related referees to info.pharma@softlogic.lk



HR Manager
 Softlogic Pharmaceuticals (Pvt) Ltd.,
 No. 02, Andarewatte Road,
 Kirulapone, Colombo 05.

Join Our Team

VACANCIES

Diana Trading (Pvt) Ltd has been in the business for over three decades & the journey that started with the vision to ignite the changing tasks in confectionery and snacks. With the vision "To be the leading and most innovative local food and confectionery company", we produce a variety of Biscuits, Snacks which are Baked, Fried & Extruded, Chocolates & Sugar Candies in our state of the art production facility. On Company's road map towards excellence & strengthening the Island wide distribution network, this vacancies are for immediate recruitment.

MANAGER - FINANCE

Requirements

- 15 years experience in a Financial Accounting environment in FMCG manufacturing Industry
- Member of ICASL or ACCA with 10 years post qualifying experience
- Be above 35 years age

Responsibilities

- Be responsible for financial reporting of the Group as per require Corporate Governance requirements
- Be able to produce all financial reports independently as per Statutory requirements
- Be able to establish a strong financial administration and controls across the Group
- Coordinating with other divisions in order to receive the all relevant information to the finance division.

SALES ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Requirements

- Good educational background (GCE O/L & A/L)
- An Associate's or Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration/ Full or Part Professional qualification in Sales and Marketing or similar qualifications preferred
- Should be able to manage large Sales force with the understanding of sales performance metrics
- Ability to monitor KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) of all sales staff (Field & Office)
- Advanced knowledge of administrative recordkeeping with familiarity to Sales Reports and Sales Records
- Ability to work under strict deadlines and submit data to Directors/Top Management to take corrective actions/decisions
- Develop monthly sales reports and ensure sales targets are met, and report any deviations
- Stay up-to-date with new products and features
- Good verbal & written skills in English & Sinhala and carrying out clear communication practice/method to the entire hierarchy
- Proficiency in IT knowledge with Microsoft packages
- Excellent Organizational, Multitasking and Presentation skills in preparing/delivering
- Ability to work independently, and take over leadership role in Sales Administration
- Minimum of 5 years experience in FMCG organization is a must
- Age below 45 years

SECRETARY to JOINT MANAGING DIRECTORS

Requirements

- Good educational background (GCE O/L & A/L)
- Full or Part qualification/s from a professional body like Institute of Chartered Corporate Secretaries of Sri Lanka (ICCSL)
- Good computer skills in Microsoft Word, Excel & Power Point applications
- Ability to work independently under pressure with minimum supervision and positive attitude to the job
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English and Sinhala
- Advanced proficiency in managing documents, filing, record keeping and organizational skills
- Excellent PR skills and ability to liaise with internally and externally on administration matters especially with government authorities professionally
- Take minutes in meetings/conferences and day-to-day activities
- Minimum of 3 - 5 years experience in similar capacity, preferable in FMCG organization
- Age below 35 years

COMPANY SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Applicants are invited from all parts of the country.

Requirements

- Young Energetic Persons, with high integrity who can put an long hours in the field
- Good results at GCE O/L & A/L will be an added advantage
- Very good at Shop to Shop distribution & should be able to achieve sales targets
- Willing to be based in any part of the country
- Minimum 2-3 years of relevant experience in Sales with reputed organization
- Below 35 years of age

An attractive remuneration package with benefits and flexibility awaits for the right candidate. Those who are residing in and around Central Province are encouraged to apply.

Please send your CV with contact numbers and the names of two non-related referees, with the post applied for, marked on the top left hand corner of the envelope or in the subject bar of your e-mail, to reach us on or before 14th March 2021.

Head of Human Resources
 Diana Trading Company (Pvt) Ltd.

Weragama, Kaikawela, Matale.
 e-mail : jobs@diana.lk
 CC : yasas@diana.lk
 Tel : 066 222 0911

DATA ENTRY OPERATORS

We are looking for a Data Entry Operators to update and maintain information on our Company database and Computer System.

Candidate Profile

- ✓ Able to enter customers and account data from source documents within time limits.
- ✓ Exposure to computerized accounting packages and ERP system.
- ✓ Experience with MS Office and data programs.
- ✓ Age between 25-40 years. **Salary Negotiable**

WALK-IN INTERVIEWS WILL BE HELD ON:
March 08th, 09th at 9.00 a.m.

Priyantha Distributors and Importers
No.190/5, Kandy Road, Kadawatha.
(Opposit Mahara Sweet House)

T.P: 011-4328037 (Week Days)
Mobile: 076 3162 142
Email: dimuthu197022@gmail.com



MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

We are an established Air Conditioning company having proven track record over three decades, representing as Authorized Dealer for many world renowned AC/Ref brands including Daikin. We are looking for dynamic and energetic person for the above position.

Candidate should possess B.Sc. / HNDE / NDT or equivalent qualification in Mechanical Engineering with minimum 03 years working experience in the field specially in Central Air Conditioning systems and handling maintenance activities independently.

Salary and other perks are negotiable. Apply within 07 days.

Manager - Administration
CIVIMECH (PRIVATE) LIMITED
118, Dutugemunu Street, Kohuwala, Dehiwala.
Fax : 011 2821537, E-mail : jobs@civimech.com



Authorized Dealer For **DAIKIN**

Vacancy for the Post of Accountant

Rajarata Lanka Pvt. Ltd. is a leading Food Manufacturing Company in Matale area. We are seeking a qualified candidate for our Accountant post. You must

1. Have a Degree in relevant field or completed HNDA in SLIATE or partly completed in CA Sri Lanka or equivalent.
2. Strong communication skills in English and Sinhala with strong leadership skills.
3. Working experience in relevant field is a must.
4. Vast knowledge of Computer VAT and Tax documents (Audit Firm experience will be an added advantage)
5. Knowledge of Quick Books and BUSY Software will be an added qualification.

Please apply from Kandy and Matale areas and for more details contact us **0773079133**

Forward your CV **rajaratapvt449@gmail.com**

Replies to Classifieds

&
Casual Advertisements published C/o the

Daily News

should only be sent by ordinary post.

Replies sent under registered cover will not be accepted.

JOIN OUR TEAM

BRANCH MANAGER

- Job Role -

To Administer and Coordinate Operations and Administration between Our Head Office situated in Kurunegala and Branch/Site Office (Kurunegala/Matale/Chilaw/Negombo)

Qualifications-

- G.C.E. Advance Level(Maths or Commerce Stream)
- Higher educational qualification in Administration, Human Resource, Management/Accountancy or Marketing will be an added advantage.

PROJECT OFFICERS

- Will have to coordinate and administer all activities related to a specific project in the areas of Kurunegala, Chilaw, Kuliyaipitiya, Matale, Negombo

Qualifications

- GCE Ordinary Level (Maths Credit passes)
- GCE Advance Level
- Educational Qualification in marketing or experience in sales will be treated as an added advantage.
- Riding licence mandatory.

Cover letter and CV inclusive of 2 non-related referees should be sent to the below mentioned E-mail address.

jblands@gmail.com

Tel: 037-2222741/ 2223672/ 4690476 Fax: 2223672



Janaka Bogollagama & Co. (PVT.) Ltd.

LANDS

65/1, Colombo Road, Kurunegala,

STATE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF MINOR CROPS INCLUDING SUGARCANE, MAIZE, CASHEW, PEPPER, CINNAMON, CLOVES, BETEL, RELATED INDUSTRIES AND EXPORT PROMOTION

SUGARCANE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

VACANCY

Applications are invited from the citizens of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka who possess the requisite qualifications to fill the following vacancy at the Sugarcane Research Institute at Uda Walawe.

Director : HM 2-3

Please visit the Institute's Website for details.

Applications should be submitted in the prescribed form by downloading from the **Institute's website** www.sugarres.lk, under registered post to reach the undersigned on or before 22nd March 2021.

The post applied for should be clearly mentioned on the top-left hand corner of the envelope.

Applicants from Government Departments / Corporations / Statutory Boards should forward the applications through their respective Heads of Departments.

Non-conformity with this requirement will result in the application being rejected.

**Chairman,
Sugarcane Research Institute,
Uda Walawe.**

SALES COUNTER ASSISTANT (FEMALE)

Applications are invited from persons who possess a knowledge in English and Mathematics.

SALARY: Rs. 30,000/-onwards + commission
Please forward your CV with contact details of two non-related referees to **info@semageglass.lk**

SEMAGE & CO (PVT) LTD

No. 431/1A, Nawala Road, Rajagiriya
T: 077 3727235, E: semage@eureka.lk

VACANCIES

TECHNICIANS PLANT OPERATORS

Technical Qualifications from a recognized institution with at least 2 years relevant experience

Candidates without relevant experience for the above position will also be considered as Trainees

Please apply with full details to:

ceyf.info@gmail.com or
CEYLON FOODS EXPORTS (PVT) LTD.,
865, Negombo Road,
Dungalpitiya, Negombo

VACANCY

Kandana Food & Drugs (Pvt) Ltd, reputed pharmaceuticals company requires a dynamic person to join our pharmaceutical Company

- ◆ Sales Representative
- ◆ Medical Delegate

Colombo, Kurunagala and Negombo Branch

- ◆ Age below 25
- ◆ Must have valid Driving licence
- ◆ GCE O/L, A/L qualified

Please send in your application with two non related referees to

E-mail : kfdord@kfdlk.com

0766 44 62 93

The Manager,
Human Resources,
No. 14, 1st Cross Street, Negombo.

IMMEDIATE VACANCY

We are a BOI approved Brush & Broom exporting company. Looking for candidates for below mentioned two positions

1. Management Trainee (Male)

- Qualified in BSc in Mechanical, Electronics, Mechatronics or Physical Science.
- Age below 30

2. Production Manager (Male)

- Qualified in NDT in Mechanical, Electronics or BSc in Physical Science.
- Previous experience 3-4 year in a similar capacity would be an added advantage.
- Age below 35

Applicants those living in close proximity to Homagama, Horana, Hanwella will be preferred.

Warna Exporters (pvt) Ltd

Kandanapitiya, Bope, Padukka
Tel: 0344928900-2/077-1062349
E-mail: hrdepartment@warnaexporters.com

SRI LANKA PORTS AUTHORITY

VACANCY

The Sri Lanka Ports Authority is looking for qualified individuals for the following post:-

POST OF MEDICAL OFFICER

SENIOR LEVEL MANAGEMENT 3

a) Eligibility

Should possess an MBBS or equivalent Degree from a recognized University and registered as Medical Officer in the Medical Council of Sri Lanka

With

Experience

Should have Three (03) years post qualification experience as Medical Officer in the Government/ Private Hospitals of Sri Lanka

Preference will be given to Doctors who have worked in the Industrial Health.

b) Remuneration

Salary Category : 3:3 (SLM 3)

Basic Salary : Rs.61,500/=

Annual Increment : Rs.1,555/=

Gross salary is approximately Rs.111,700/= (pm) inclusive of allowances.

Note I :

Authority maintained vehicle with other fringe benefits awaits the selected candidate.

Note II :

Priority will be given to male applicants as service requirement.

NOTE:

Applicants who are willing to apply for the above post should be below 45 years of age (This age limit will not apply to those in Government Departments or State Corporations)

Selected candidates will be required to follow the rules and regulations already in implementation and those to be implemented in future by the Sri Lanka Ports Authority.

Selected candidates will be required to serve in any Division or Section of the Authority and any part of the island as required by the Sri Lanka Ports Authority.

Applications together with photocopies of certificates with proof of age, educational, professional qualifications and experience should be sent under registered cover to reach **"The Chief Human Resource Manager, Human Resource Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, Kochchikade, Colombo 13"** or by e-mail - chrms@slpa.lk on or before 20-03-2021. The post should be written on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

Applications received without attaching the copies of relevant certificates will be rejected.

This notice has been published in the website: www.slpa.lk for more details.

Applications from officers in Government Departments or State Corporations should be forwarded through the Heads of their respective Departments or Corporations. In the event of being selected, the applicant should obtain the necessary release from the relevant Departments/ Corporations.

CHAIRMAN

State Ministry of Livestock, Farm Promotion and Dairy and Egg Related Industries



NATIONAL LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT BOARD

POSTS VACANT

Applications are called for the following Posts from eligible citizens of Sri Lanka.

Posts -

1. VETERINARY SURGEON MM 1-1-2016

Qualification - A Degree in Veterinary Science (BVSc) from a recognized University and registration in the Veterinary Council of Sri Lanka (BVSL).

2. ASSISTANT MANAGER (INTERNAL AUDIT) - MM 1-1 - 2016 (01 Vacant Post)

Qualifications - A Degree in Accountancy / Management / Commerce obtained from a recognized University or Intermediate level qualifications of ICASL or CIMA or ACCA or HNDA (04 years) with 3 years post qualifying experience in Accounting & Finance / Auditing in a reputed public or private sector Organization.

Age - Should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years.

Salary - MM 1-1-2016 : Rs. 53,175/- - 10 x 1,375/- - 15 x 1,910/- - 95,575/-

3. INTERNAL AUDIT OFFICER - JM 1-1 - 2016 (01 Vacant Post)

Qualifications - A Degree in Accountancy or a Degree with Accountancy as a subject or Intermediate level qualifications in ICASL or CIMA or ACCA or HNDA with 01 year post qualifying experience handling Audit / Accounting and Finance in a Farm / Estate.

Age - Should be not less than 22 years and not more than 35 years.

Salary - JM 1-1 - 2016 : Rs. 42,600/-, 10 x 755/-, 18x 1,135/-, Rs. 70,580/-

In addition to the above salary allowances approved by the Government will be paid.

Additional Benefits Indoor and outdoor Medical benefits.

Every Applicant

- Should be a Sri Lankan Citizen.
- Should be physically and mentally fit to discharge the duties of the post well and to serve in any part of the island.
- Should have an excellent character.

Self-prepared applications including all Bio-data with names of two non-related referees their addresses and telephone numbers along with copies of certificates should be forwarded by registered post, on or before 26th March, 2021 addressed to Chairman, National Livestock Development Board, No. 40, Nawala Road, Narahenpita, Colombo 05.

Please indicate the post applied for on the top left hand corner of the envelop. Those employed in Government Institutions forward their applications through Heads of Institutions.

Note - Shortlisted applicants based on higher qualifications and experience will be called for an interview and selection will be on performance at the interview.

**Chairman
National Livestock Development Board,
No. 40, Nawala Road,
Narahenpita, Colombo 05.**

*Marriage
Proposals*

in the
Sunday Observer

Is the best way to fulfil
your Future Dreams

Join the Colombo's Prestigious European, American product outlet as

SHOP MANAGER

MALE/FEMALE

Graduates & School Leavers considered

ATTRACTIVE SALARY WITH SALES COMMISSION

Email CV
wmom.essentials@gmail.com

WMOM-ESSENTIALS GREEN PATH



URGENT HIRING FOR LEADING ADVERTISEMENT COMPANY

We are hiring below positions, for Zoom Adds (Pvt) Ltd., exciting salary packages are offered.

01. Creative Graphic Designers.
02. Proofreaders English / Tamil / Sinhala
03. Office Executives

Please forward us your resume to:
zoomaddspvtltd@gmail.com

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Vacancy for Post of Secretary General

Ceylon Planters Society

Applications are invited for the above position at the CPS. Head Office recently retired Deputy Commissioner / Assistant Commissioner from the Department of Labour or an experienced Senior Planter, who has held office in the CPS.

- Ability to work in English and Sinhala, handle correspondence independently, knowledge of Labour regulations, LT procedures, etc.
- Good PR skills / telephone etiquette, knowledge in basic accounts
- Location of work - Ratmalana
- Salary negotiable

Closing date of applications - 15th March 2021.

Apply - email - secretary@ceylonplanters.lk

Post - 40/1, Sri Damadara Road, Ratmalana.

VACANCY

DATA ENTRY OPERATOR CUM CASHIER

A vacancy for an energetic male below 45 years exists for the post of Data Entry Operator cum Cashier.

Applicants should possess:

- Experience in Data Entry and cash collection.
- To be computer literate.
- Ability to take up responsibility and work with minimum supervision.
- Work involves in-house as well as field work.
- Should be prepared to work over weekends when required.
- Should be prepared to travel out of Colombo with our staff for our outstation auctions.

The above position offers an attractive remuneration package and other benefits. Email your complete CV, with contact names, addresses and telephone numbers of two non-related referees to schokman.vacancy@gmail.com or post within 7 days of this advertisement to:

The Managing Partner
SCHOKMAN & SAMERAWICKREME®
No. 6A, Fairfield Gardens, Colombo 08
www.sandslanka.com

IMMEDIATE VACANCY

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

Responsibilities


- Provide support in setting up auctions by liaising with clients, media and other vendors
- Working during auctions
- Preparing auction statements and invoices
- Preparing transfer documents for vehicles
- Day to day administrative work
- Any other ad hoc work assigned

Profile

- A female below 40 years
- Possess G.C.E (A/L) as a basic educational qualification
- Ability to work independently, with minimum supervision
- Good command of written and spoken English and Sinhala
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- 2-3 years experience in a Secretarial position
- Be computer literate and be familiar with MS Office
- Ability to work under pressure
- Ability to work on weekends when necessary

The above position offers an attractive remuneration package and other benefits. Email your complete CV with contact name, addresses and telephone numbers of two non related referees to schokman.vacancy@gmail.com or post within 7 days of this advertisement to;

The Managing Partner
SCHOKMAN & SAMERAWICKREME®
No. 6A, Fairfield Gardens, Colombo 08
www.sandslanka.com



STATE MORTGAGE & INVESTMENT BANK

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT SMIB

SMIB, as the premier housing bank to the Nation, is in the process of restructuring the bank's operation to offer a higher level of customer satisfaction and a wider variety of services. As such, we invite applications from candidates who have demonstrated dynamic leadership roles and make full commitment to achieve business goals with relevant qualifications and experience for the following posts.

STENO TYPIST - GR III - ENGLISH / SINHALA

Qualification
GCE (O/L) Examination in Six (06) subjects in not more than two sittings at least 05 subjects should have been in one sitting. The subjects should include Mathematics and Medium language (either English or Sinhala) with credit passes.

Experience
Should possess 02 years' experience in Stenography in English / Sinhala working in a public or private institution.

Remuneration
Salary Scale- Rs. 34,085-300 X 20 - 40,085 per month together with bank approved allowances. Monthly gross salary on this basis would be approximately.

Age - Below 40 years (However the age limit will not apply to those already employed in a state sector organization)

GENERAL CONDITIONS
Method of Selection - Recruitment will be based on a speed test in Shorthand and Typwriting. Selection by an Interview

Other Benefits

- Provident Fund contribution 15% by the employer and 10% by the employee. The bank contributes to the ETF
- The annual bonus of two months gross salary
- Housing loans at concessionary rates after confirmation in the service
- Benefits under the bank's medical scheme
- Encashment of unutilized medical leave

Closing Date for Applications - 22/03/2021

How to Apply
Interested qualified candidates should send their Curriculum Vitae and copies of their Educational/Professional transcripts and the names, addresses and contact numbers of two professional non-related referees. Post applied for should be indicated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope enclosing the application.

All applications will be treated in strict confidence and any form of canvassing will be regarded as a disqualification. The Bank reserves the right to decide the selection, postponement or cancellation of recruitment or any other action and/or change the selection criteria for this recruitment. The decision of the Board of Directors will be final and conclusive.

Applications should be sent under Registered Post to

**General Manager / CEO,
State Mortgage and Investment Bank,
No. 269, Galle Road,
Colombo 03.**

ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY VACANCIES

Applications are invited for immediate employment for the following posts at a reputed Civil & Structural Engineering firm in Colombo

DESIGN ENGINEER

Civil Engineering graduates with a First or Second class (upper) division pass. Candidates with a minimum of four years after graduation and experience in carrying out Structural Design of low to medium rise building structures using latest software are essential.

TECHNICAL OFFICERS

NDT, NDES, NCT(Civil), City & Guilds or equivalent with minimum of 5 years experience in major construction projects. Age below 40 years. Technical Officers will be stationed at Colombo site.

Apply with Bio-Data with 2 non-related Technical referees within 7 days. Correct E-mail addresses and Telephone numbers should be given.

Email: engstaff.vacancies@gmail.com

Musaeus College Colombo 07

Vacancies

Musaeus College, is the leading Government approved private school for girls in Colombo.

We are looking for experienced and dedicated females with a passion for teaching, who possess relevant academic or professional qualifications from a recognized institution for the following vacancies.

- ❖ Science & Mathematics Teacher - O/L - (Cambridge Curriculum)
- ❖ Physics & Mathematics Teacher - A/L (Edexcel Curriculum)

Attractive remuneration packages await the right candidates.

Please send your CV within 10 days of this advertisement to "The Principal, Musaeus College, No. 58, Rosemead Place, Colombo 07 or by email to : vacancies@musaeus.lk.

(Please state the position applied for, on the top left corner of the envelope / subject line on e-mail).



Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management

Ministry of Tourism

Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management (SLITHM) is the premier institute in the country providing education for the development of human resource for Tourism & Hospitality Industry of Sri Lanka

VACANCIES FOR JAFFNA SLITHM

ASSISTANT LECTURER (AR1 CATEGORY)

- Assistant Lecturer - Food & Beverage - Jaffna SLITHM
- Assistant Lecturer - Cookery - Jaffna SLITHM

Qualification and Experience (1 or 2 or 3 below):

1. A Special Degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management which is recognized by the U.G.C. OR
2. A General Degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management which is recognized by the U.G.C with a post-graduate diploma in the relevant field. OR
3. Full Graduate of the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management with specialization in Professional Cookery/Food & Beverage.

AND

A minimum of 02 years post qualifying experience in an executive grade in three star or above classified hotel in the relevant field.

Age:
Age should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years.

Salary:
AR 1 - 2016 Rs. (53,150 - 10 x 1,375 - 15 x 1,910 - 95,550) / = + cost of living and other Government approved allowances will be paid as per Management Service Department Circular No: 02/2016. In addition, Transport allowance of Rs.4,000/= & Professional allowance of Rs.3,000/= & telephone allowance of Rs.2,500/= per month will be paid.

MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT (MA 1-2) CATEGORY

- Management Assistant - Jaffna SLITHM

Qualification and Experience:
Having passed the G.C.E. (O/L) examination in six subjects in one sitting with credit passes for four subjects including Sinhala/ Tamil, English language, Mathematics and having passed three subjects (other than the General Paper) at the G.C.E. (A/L) examination.

Age:
Age should be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years.

Salary:
MA 1-2 Rs. [27,910 - 10x300 - 7x350 - 12x600 - 12x710 - 49,080] + cost of living and other Government approved allowances will be paid as per Management Service Department Circular No: 02/2016. In addition, Transport allowance of Rs.4,000/= per month will be paid.

General Information:

Contributed to EPF & ETF

- EPF - Employee will contribute 10% of the consolidated salary and the employer will contribute 15%
- ETF - Employer will contribute 3% of the salary
- An attractive Health Medical Insurance coverage for the employee & his/her family.

Curriculum Vitae (in English language) giving full particulars together with copies of all certificates pertaining to Academic qualifications, work experience etc. and the names of two non-related referees should be forwarded under registered cover indicating the post on the top left hand corner of the envelope to reach the undersigned on or before 25th March 2021.

Director General
Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management,
No.78, Galle Road, Colombo 03.
General Inquiry: 0112 208360

IMMEDIATE VACANCIES
IELTS Teachers/English Teachers

- Minimum 1 year of experience
- Excellent in teaching Written/Spoken in English

Student Counselors

- Good command in Written/Spoken English
- School leavers can also apply

Receptionist

- Good command in Written/Spoken English
- School leavers are welcome

Please send your CV to flexinstitute04@gmail.com or call for an interview on 0777 761 346

flex institute
 6A, Parakumba Place, Colombo 06.
 E-mail: flexinstitute04@gmail.com
www.flexinstitute.lk

VACANCY FOR A POST OF LEGAL OFFICER

We require an efficient Male/Female who has 5 years experience, in legal Managerial work in M/C and Criminal matters. Need to travel, when need arises. Working independently is an advantage. IT Literacy work in English and Sinhala is a must.

Apply to the Advertiser,
 PO Box No.46/46, 4th Floor, Greenlanka Towers, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 02.
 Sri Lanka.
 Tel: +94 11 4890000-3 Fax: +94 11 4710009

Business Development Executive
 Solar Division at Head Office (Nawala).

We invite young energetic applicants with dynamic, result oriented, self motivated individuals for the post of Business Development Executive.

Profile

- Ability to innovate & develop creative marketing plans.
- Strong communication skills.
- Excellent PR skills.
- Positive thinking capabilities.
- Age below 35 years.
- Minimum of 2 years work experience in similar capacity would be an added advantage.
- Should possess a valid riding license.

"Attractive remuneration package will be offer to the right candidate."
 If you are Interested, please e-mail your CV with 2 non-related referees, including the position applied for the subject line of the e-mail within 14 days of this advertisement to hmr@elcardo.lk for more details - 0713070413

Head Of Human Resources,
 Elcardo Industries (Pvt) Ltd
 No. 42, Narahenpita Road,
 Nawala, Sri Lanka.

ELSOLAR
 ELCARDO GROUP OF COMPANY

WANTED
 Tamil Speaking two Supervisors with Restaurant Experience.
 Age Below 55
 Call : 077 378 7266

VACANCY FOR HR / ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

A well-established Organization in the field of Passenger Transportation, is looking for Dynamic, Self-Motivated Candidate preferably male within the age group of 25 - 45 years. Fair knowledge of spoken/written English & Sinhala, computer literacy is a must to work in a computerized environment and valid riding license is essential.

Please send your applications and references to hrc.ecd@gmail.com
 Level 02, No. 178, George R De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 13.

SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

VACANCIES AND CORRECTION OF THE ADVERTISEMENT

The Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka will entertain applications for the undermentioned posts from suitably qualified persons up to 29.03.2021

1. FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE
 Department of Livestock Production

i. Post : Senior Lecturer Gr. I/Senior Lecturer Gr. II Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/Lecturer (Probationary) - (01 No.)

Subject Area : Animal Health & Hygiene, Health Management of Livestock Species, Anatomy & Physiology of Farm Animals

Special Notice : Candidate must be qualified with B.V.Sc Degree Preference will be given to candidates with postgraduate qualifications in farm animal medicine

ii. Post : Senior Lecturer Gr. I/Senior Lecturer G. II Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/Lecturer (Probationary) - (01 No.)

Subject Area : Animal Reproduction & Farm Practice course in Livestock Production - (01 No.)

Special Notice : Candidate must be qualified with BSc. Agricultural Science & Management Degree specialized in Livestock Production Preference will be given to candidates with postgraduate qualifications in farm animal reproduction.

2. FACULTY OF GEOMATICS
 Department of Remote Sensing & GIS

i. Post : Temporary Assistant Lecturer - (01 No.)

Subject Area : GIS, Cartography

Special Notice : Preference will be given to candidates qualified with BSc degree in Surveying Science and specialized in GIS/Cartography.

ii. Post : Temporary Assistant Lecturer - (01 No.)

Subject Area : Remote Sensing, Photogrammetry

Special Notice : Preference will be given to candidates qualified with BSc degree in Surveying Science and specialized in Remote Sensing/Photogrammetry

3. FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES
 Department of Tourism Management

i. Degree Programme: BSc Honors Eco Business Management

Post : Senior Lecturer Gr. I/Senior Lecturer Gr. II/Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/Lecturer (Probationary) - (01 No.)

Subject Area : Green Supply Chain Management, Organizational Process Development & Excellence, Business Compliance & Social Responsibility, Industrial Operations in Manufacturing Sector/Service Sector, Lifecycle based material flow cost accounting

Special Notice : Preference will be given to candidates qualified with BSc. (Special/Honors) degree EcoBusiness Management or any other degree related to the environmentally friendly Business Management and working experience in the same subject areas. The prospective candidates should undertake at least three subjects from the respective subject areas.

ii. Degree Programme: BSc Honors Hospitality Management

Post : Senior Lecturer Gr. I/Senior Lecturer Gr. II/Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/Lecturer (Probationary) - (01 No.)

Subject Areas : Front Office Management, Hotel Housekeeping, Tours and Travel Agency Operations, Business Accounting, Hospitality Accounting, Events Management, Resort Planning and Management, Service Quality Management, Human Resource Management (in Tourism and Hospitality)

Special Notice : Preference will be given to candidates qualified with BSc. (Special/Honors) degree Hospitality Management or Tourism Management and working experience in the same subjects areas. The prospective candidates should undertake at least three subjects from the respective subject areas.

4. CAPITAL WORKS AND PLANNING BRANCH

i. Post : Project Manager - (01 No.)

Special Notice : Appointment on assignment basis or contract basis will be considered for officers those who have retired or temporary release public or private sector service

5. REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

i. Post : Statistical Officer Gr. II - (01 No.)

Special Notice : Please note that the age limit will not be applied to this post as mentioned in the Advertisement appeared in the Sunday Observer dated 28.02.2021. All other details and conditions mentioned in the said Advertisement will be effective without change.

Salary Scales:

Lecturer (Probationary)	Rs. 54,600 - 10x1,335 - 67,950 p.m.	[U-AC 3 (IV) - 2016A]
Lecturer (Unconfirmed)	Rs. 69,580 - 5x1,630 - 77,730 p.m.	[U-AC 3 (III) - 2016A]
Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Rs. 79,360 - 11x1,630 - 97,290 p.m.	[U-AC 3 (II) - 2016A]
Senior Lecturer Gr. I	Rs. 91,310 - 7x2,170 - 106,500 p.m.	[U-AC 3 (I) - 2016A]
Project Manager	Rs. 66,180 - 8x1,335; 8x1, 630 - 89,900 p.m.	[U-EX 2 (II) - 2016A]

HOW TO APPLY:
 Application forms and qualification guidelines with details could be either downloaded from the University web site: www.sab.ac.lk or obtainable from the Deputy Registrar (Academic Establishments) of the University, by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope 9"x4" in size on or before 22.03.2021.
 Applicants from the Public Service/Corporations/Statutory Boards, should forward their applications through their respective Heads.
 Duly completed applications on prescribed forms together with certified copies of degree certificates, professional certificates, etc., should be sent under registered cover, indicating the post applied for on the top left-hand corner of the envelope, to reach the Deputy Registrar (Academic Establishments), Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, P.O. Box - 02, Belihuloya on or before 29.03.2021.
 Candidates are advised to submit separate applications when applying for more than one post.
Special Note:
 Candidates are encouraged to download the applications from the University Website and submit an advance copy (scanned copy) of the completed application to the academicst@adm.sab.ac.lk before the closing date, mentioning that original will be sent through registered post.
 Every correspondence or inquiry, if needed with regard to the forwarding of applications, to be sent to the email: academicst@adm.sab.ac.lk or 045-2280215.
 Applications received after the closing date or incomplete applications or applications those have not been prepared in the prescribed format will be rejected without intimation. The University reserves the right to shortlist the candidates if necessary.

Actg. Registrar,
 Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA

VACANCIES

The University of Kelaniya will entertain applications from suitably qualified persons for the following posts up to 22nd March 2021.

Department of Physical Education
 Director in Physical Education

Registrar's office
 Programmer cum Systems Analyst Gr. II

How to Apply:
 Prescribed application forms and details regarding the above Posts could be obtained from the Deputy Registrar/Academic Establishments Division during office hours or could be downloaded from the University Website: <http://www.kln.ac.lk> Requests for application forms by post should be accompanied with a self-addressed stamped envelope of 23x10 cm in size. All applications together with copies of relevant certificates should be forwarded to the Deputy Registrar/Academic Establishments, University of Kelaniya, Kelaniya, under registered cover to reach him on or before 22nd March 2021. Incomplete, illegible, or late applications will be rejected. The post should be indicated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

Applications from employees in the Government Departments, Corporations, Statutory Boards, UGC and Higher Educational Institutions should be channeled through their Heads of Institutions. The University reserves the right to shortlist the candidates.

Registrar
 University of Kelaniya,
 Kelaniya
 02.03.2021

bluechip technical services

Established in 1992 by the Blue Chip Group (UK), Blue Chip Technical Services (Pvt) Ltd. is one of several companies at the forefront of Sri Lanka's Information Technology and Services Sector, equipped with the professional expertise to deliver the highest level of customer service. In line with our diverse and growing customer portfolio we are looking for individuals to become part of the Blue Chip team.

Business Development Executives (Male / Female)

Job description

- Promote solutions across a range of technologies such as ERP Applications, Hardware Systems (Servers, Storage), Security and Network Infrastructure Management solutions.
- Visit potential customers, identify business opportunities, negotiate and close business deals.
- Maintain extensive knowledge of current market conditions.
- Work with the management to develop and grow new and existing business.
- Responding to RFPs, writing proposals, reports and support literature.

Required skills and experience,

- Good educational background, preferably with full/part marketing qualification.
- Strong negotiation and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work on multiple projects at the same time.
- Excellent communication skills in English (both oral and written).
- Willingness to learn new technologies.
- Highly motivated team player.
- Computer literacy in MS Office.

The selected candidate will receive an attractive remuneration package in accordance with industry standards.

CVs with full details of Educational and Professional Qualifications nominating two non-related referees should reach careers@bluechip.lk within one week or by hard copy to ;

Manager - HR and Administration
Blue Chip Technical Services (Pvt) Ltd.,
 No. 108, Nawala Road, Nugegoda.

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LAKE HOUSE

VACANCY
MINING ENGINEER
B.Sc (Earth Resources) or equivalent with experience
Work Station: Balangoda
Forward your detailed resume with contact details to careers@vkarunaratne.lk
 Human Resources Manager
V.V.KARUNARATNE & COMPANY
 No: 579, Bulugaha Junction, Kandy Road, Kelaniya
 Contact: 071-1700111 / 0115-422222 (Ext 210)

Operation and Digital Marketing Manager for Online Women's Clothing Brand, 2 years ex. in Apparel Operation Designs and Purchasing, Excel skills, English knowledge. Salary negotiable. CV forward to :
 Email : erina2020sl@gmail.com
Tel. 0777775058

Immediate Restaurant Vacancies in Mahabage.
 Following positions are open.
*** Manager * Accountant * Sandwich & Bun Maker * Showroom & BBQ Maker * Juice Maker * Waiter**
 To apply please call us after 11 a.m. on
0706130181 / 0755130181 / 0779356896
492/1, Negombo Road, Mahabage.

Employment Wanted

Hold British qualifications on Management and Security Disciplinary Certificate SLIDA. Retired Major, Administration / HR Security Manager, Consultant, General Manager, Lecturer at MOD/CSD. Dual lingual. Competent on preliminary investigations. Inquiry / Prosecution Officer at disciplinary inquiries.
 Reply rancoemployment@gmail.com

VACANCY - TEA FACTORY MANAGER

Sanrose Teas (Pvt) Limited, Yara Valley (Pvt) Limited and Harangalla Plantation (Pvt) Limited, well reputed Organization managing several Tea Factories and other business enterprises, proudly announce that a Vacancy for a Tea Factory Manager is existing in one of the Factory in Kandy Region and those who are meeting the following criteria are welcome to submit their Curriculum Vitae to e-mail address sampath.dartry@gmail.com

- Minimum of Ten (10) years Planting experience as a Manager, Deputy Manager, Senior Assistant Manager or Assistant Manager.
- Good knowledge and experience in Tea Manufacture
- Age between 27 - 37 years
- Attractive salary & other benefits.

Contact Nos. : 076-3595192 / 077-2278140

SALACINE TELEVISION INSTITUTE
 ජනමාධ්‍ය දුරකතන ශාලා
 வெகுஜன ஊடக அமைச்சு
 MINISTRY OF MASS MEDIA

Vacancies

Manager (Finance) – Permanent
External Candidates -
 1. Shall have obtained a degree in Finance Management/ Business Management/ Business Administration/ Commerce/ Management or Accountancy from a University recognized by the University Grants Commission and a post qualifying experience of 01 year in the field of finance management.
 2. Shall have passed the intermediate examination of a recognized chartered institute in a field related to the post and a post qualifying experience of 01 year in a field related to the post.
Age : Not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years
Salary Scale : MM 1-1 2016 (53,175-10x1375 – 15 x1910 – 95,575/-)
 (Shall be placed on the initial salary step)

Internal Auditor – Permanent
External Candidates
 1. Shall have obtained a degree recognized by the University Grants Commission in a field related to the post.
 2. Shall have passed the intermediate examination of a recognized chartered institute in a field related to the post
 3. Experience of 02 years as an Audit Officer
Age : Not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years of age
Salary Scale : JM 1-1 2016 (42,600-10x755- 18 x1135 – 70,580/-)
 (Shall be placed on the initial salary step)

A self-prepared application should be sent to the below mentioned address or to the email address info@salacine.lk on or before 17.03.2021. The name of the post should be indicated on the top left corner of the envelope.

Chairman
Salacine Television Institute
 No 224, Baudhdhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07

COOK WANTED
 Newly Launching Hummingbird Leisure Villa in Anuradhapura (05 Bedded) looking for a skilled **Cook** to prepare delicious Sri Lankan meals according to menu.
 You will cook dishes that will delight our guests with their taste and timely delivery. Special talents in fast moving food such as Hoppers, Koththu, String Hoppers, Pittu Etc... Job will be entitle with food and Lodging with an attractive salary package.
Please call : 07734 05 340 | 0701 70 70 70

SUNERA Foundation
 Sunera Foundation, a registered charity dedicated to enhancing the lives of the differently abled young individuals in Sri Lanka is currently looking for an experienced individual to fill the following position immediately:
SENIOR ACCOUNTANT
Candidate Profile:
 The successful candidate should have;
 • CIMA /ACCA qualifications
 • Over 10 years of work experience in a senior accountancy role or similar capacity
 • Good command of English and Sinhala language
 • Knowledge in MS Office package and computerized accounting (Tally)
 • Self-motivated, flexible and ability to multi task
 • Age between 45-60
 The selected candidate will work closely with the Chairperson and the Executive Director to handle key financial accounting tasks as well as manage the day to day financial related operations within the organization.
Please email/ forward your CV with names of two non-related referees within seven days of this advertisement to:
Email: sunera@sltnet.lk

Postgraduate Institute of Indigenous Medicine
University of Colombo
VACANCIES

The Postgraduate Institute of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo will entertain applications from suitably qualified persons for the following Posts up to **26.03.2021.**

A. ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN
Qualifications:
 (i) A First or a Second Class (Upper Division) in a Special Degree.
OR
 (ii) A Second Class (Lower Division) in a Special Degree or a First or a Second Class (Upper Division) in a General Degree.
OR
 (iii) A Pass in a Degree Examination and a Postgraduate Degree of at least 02 academic years duration in the field of Library and Information Sciences with a research component by way of thesis/dissertation
Notes:
 (a) An applicant who is eligible under (iii) above could be considered for appointment only if no applicant/s qualified under (i) or (ii) above is available.
 (b) An applicant who is eligible under (ii) above could be considered for appointment only if no applicant/s qualified under (i) above is available.
Salary Scale: U-AC 3 (IV) Rs. 54,600 – 10 x 1,335 – 67,950/= (p.m)
Method of Recruitment: By Open Advertisement

B. MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT GR III (BOOK KEEPING)
Qualifications:
 01. Should have passed the G.C.E. (O/L) Examination in six (06) subjects at one sitting with credit passes in:-
 i. Sinhala Language / Tamil Language
 ii. English Language / English Literature
 iii. Mathematics
AND
 02. Should have passed in all subjects at G.C.E. (A/L) Examination (except the Common General Papers) at one sitting.
Note: Preference will be given to those who possess the following;
 (a) An acceptable qualification in computer applications of not less than six (06) months duration obtained from a recognized institute.
AND
 (b) Two years of experience in the use of computer application packages.
Post Specific Qualifications:
 (a) The National Certificate for Accounting Technicians of the Sri Lanka Technical College / College of Technology under the Ministry of Skills Development and Vocational Training or any other equivalent qualification obtained from a recognized Institute.
OR
 (b) G.C.E. (Advanced Level) qualification should be in the Commerce Stream.
Age: Not less than 18 years and not more than 30 years of age on the closing date of the applications
Selection: By written Examination & Interview
Salary Scale: UMN I (III A) Rs. 30,725 – 17x300 – 35,825/= (p.m)
BENEFITS:
 01. Selected candidates will begin to contribute to the Universities Provident Fund by means of monthly deductions from his/ her salary and amount equal to ten (10%) percent of his/ her basic salary. The University will, in addition out of its funds contribute at the same time a sum equal to seven (07%) percent of his/ her earnings to the Universities Provident Fund and eight (08%) percent of his/ her earnings to the Pension Fund.
 02. Three (03%) per centum of his/ her basic salary will be contributed by the University to the Employees Trust Fund in terms of Provision of the Employees Trust Fund.
 03. In addition to the above salary, Cost of Living Allowance and other allowances approved by the University Grants Commission will also be paid to the staff where relevant.
HOW TO APPLY:
 Application forms and relevant details can be obtained from the **Senior Assistant Registrar Postgraduate Institute of Indigenous Medicine, 5th Floor Ayurveda Teaching Hospital, Cotta Road, Borella** by personally calling over or sending a self-addressed stamped envelope 9" x4" in size.
 Duly completed applications on prescribed forms should be forwarded with certified copies of relevant educational certificates (with transcripts), professional and service certificates under registered post, to reach the **Senior Assistant Registrar, Postgraduate Institute of Indigenous Medicine, 5th Floor Ayurveda Teaching Hospital, Cotta Road, Borella**, on or before **26.03.2021**. The Post applied for should be indicated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.
 Applicants from the University System/Government Departments/Corporations/Statutory Boards, should channel their applications through their respective Heads of Institutions.
 Applications which do not conform to these requirements, incomplete applications and applications received after the closing date will be rejected without intimation.
Director
Postgraduate Institute of Indigenous Medicine

PEOPLE'S BANK

The People's Bank, a premier bank in Sri Lanka with the largest customer base providing innovative financial solutions to its diversified clientele for over five decades and as a conducive environment for those who strive to achieve excellence and believe in professionalism. The bank is looking for a talented & dynamic individual to fill the following vacancy.

CHIEF INFORMATION SECURITY OFFICER

The Key responsibilities of the Chief Information Security Officer are as follows.

- ❖ Establishing and maintaining the Bank's information security strategy and program to ensure information assets and technologies are adequately protected, by aligning with corporate strategy and adopting global best practices.
- ❖ Govern the Information Security Management System of the bank.
- ❖ Develop and formally establish Information Security policies and procedures by aligning with security strategy and ensure their implementation throughout the bank while keeping them current with evolving environmental changes.
- ❖ Ensure that the bank is in legal and regulatory compliance with the rules for relevant authorities, in terms of adherence to security best practices and guidelines and work with other executives across different departments to ensure that security systems are working smoothly to reduce the Bank's operational risk.
- ❖ Provide Leadership for major Information Security related projects in the Bank and acquisition of security related tools and products and ensure implementation, maintenance and obtaining certification for Information Security related international standards relevant to the Bank.
- ❖ Ensure the organization wide communication of the importance of achieving Information Security objectives, conformance to Information Security policies, standards, responsibilities and obligations as well as the need for continual improvement of the Information Security program.
- ❖ Ensure regular security awareness throughout the Bank by covering each and every level in the hierarchy.
- ❖ Manage the Information Security Incident Response Team and conduct electronic discovery and digital forensic investigations.
- ❖ Ensure and evaluate the adequacy business contingency requirements to determine the availability of information required to resume processing.
- ❖ Liaise with security services providers, vendors and Financial Sector Computer Security Incident Response Team and other relevant CERTS, Security agencies and law enforcement agencies to ensure information systems are protected and incidents are handled timely and effective manner.

Key Requirements
CISO shall possess at least one of the following qualifications

- ❖ Masters Degree in Information Security or Masters Degree in Computer Science / Information Technology specializing in Information Security (ISC)2 Certified Information System Security Professional (CISSP)
- ❖ GIAC Security Leadership Certification (GSLC)
- ❖ GIAC Information Security Professional (GISP)

Experience
 He /she should have eight (8) years of experience in the field of Information Security including five (5) years experience in a managerial position.
Age
 Age should be preferably between 40 years to 55 years as at closing date of application
Method of Selection
 Shortlisted applicants based on the stipulated qualifications and experience will be called for an interview.
Conditions of Employment
 This will be a Executive Management position (equivalent to the grade of Assistant General Manager) on contract basis and performance will be evaluated annually.
Remuneration
 An attractive and negotiable remuneration package commensurate with qualifications and experience will be offered to the selected candidate.
Applications
 Please send details of achievements and experience relevant to the job applied for together with your curriculum vitae along with copies of certificates and contact numbers of two non-related referees. **The post applied for should be stated in the subject line of the Email and should reach the Email Address : recruitment@peoplesbank.lk on or before 22.03.2021.**
 An Email confirmation of receipt will be sent upon the receipt of the curriculum vitae. In the event a confirmation has not been received within a reasonable period of time, you may inquire regarding the application on telephone numbers 0112481542/0112481416.
 All applications will be treated in strict confidence and any form of canvassing will be regarded as a disqualification.
 All incomplete and Non - complying applications will be rejected.
 The Bank reserves the right to decide the number of vacancies, postponement or cancellation of recruitment or on any other information not included in the advertisement.
Deputy General Manager (Human Resources)
People's Bank - Head Office
NO. 75, Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner Mawatha, Colombo – 02.

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 இலங்கை தொழில்நுட்ப பல்கலைக்கழகம்

Expression of Interest (Eol)

PURCHASING LAPTOPS for the new enrolments of Sri Lanka Technological Campus

Sri Lanka Technological Campus (SLTC) seeks Expression of Interest (Eol) from well-established, reputed companies for purchasing minimum of 1,000 laptops promoting technology enable active learning for the upcoming intake.

Proposed Configuration (Upgradable)

- Option 1 - I3 Processor, 11th Generation, 8GB RAM, 128GB SSD, 15.6' Screen, Window10 Home, 1TB HDD
- Option 2 - I3 Processor, 11th Generation, 8GB RAM, 15.6' Screen, Window10 Home, 1TB HDD

Conditions for suppliers

- Minimum of 4 years warranty for the device
- After-sales service agreement with the student covering basic maintenance and repairs.
- Payment will be done in 8 equal installments spread across 4 academic years
- Supplier should come up with a proposal of collecting installments for de-registered students (Note: SLTC will take the responsibility of paying the installments until the student is in the active registry).
- Financially beneficial and technically sound proposals will be shortlisted for further evaluation.
- The selection would be based on the recommendation of a committee of technical and financial experts.

Expression of Interest (Eol) along with all the details including prices, supportive documents, technical literature, etc. should be sent by registered post /hand delivered (properly sealed envelope) to the following address on or before 14th March 2021

Manager - Procurement, Sri Lanka Technological Campus,
 No 07, Hector Kobbakaduwa Mawatha, Colombo 07. | E : ashans@sltc.ac.lk | T : 071 3685835



State Ministry of Co-Operative Services, Marketing Development and Consumer Protection

Voluntary Consulting Services from Business Specialists

“Consumer Protection and a Strengthen Cooperative Movement”

The State Ministry of Cooperatives, Marketing Development and Consumer Protection intends to register business specialists who are willing to provide voluntary consulting services for the purpose of constituting a strong cooperative network by strengthening local agricultural products, minor export crops and local manufacturing enterprises.

Field of Consulting Services

- Active Co-operative Societies in the areas of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock
- Cooperative societies operated by youth or women entrepreneurship
- Traditional Industrial Manufacturing Co-operative Societies
- Co-operative Societies which would save foreign exchange by imposing import restrictions on products of local infant industries
- Co-operative societies that can ensure consumer protection by providing high quality products

Expected Consulting Services from Business Specialists

1. Improve quality of products
2. Identify opportunities to apply of innovation/technology
3. Make aware the potential to introduce new products
4. Determine the necessity of new capital
5. Diagnose new market opportunities
6. Reduce cost of production by streamlining, minimizing and simplifying resource utilization

Expert volunteers with proficiency in various fields who are capable of providing consulting services are invited for this programme. Any expert interested to promote the Co-Operative Movement or anyone retired from the public service is invited to send his basic information to the Email: secretary@coopmin.gov.lk (070-1324041). It is essential to provide mobile number and the field of consulting.

Other expenses incurred in providing consultancy services will be reimbursed by the State Ministry.

Secretary
 State Ministry of Co-Operative Services, Marketing Development and
 Consumer Protection
 HQ Colombo Building,
 No. 464A, T. B. Jayah Mawatha,
 Colombo 10.

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INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MATERIALS REQUIREMENT FOR FABRICATION OF ALUMINIUM DOORS FOR BLOCK NO. 01 & 02 AT DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO : DHQC/PROC/2021/H/60

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified tenderers for **Supply of undermentioned Items for the Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.**

Description of Item - Material Requirement for Fabrication of Aluminium Doors

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
3. **To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful tenderers shall not have been black listed and shall Possess a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least 05 years. Documentary evidence shall be established with the Bids.**
4. **Bidders are strongly advice to present Registration Certificate issued by the Registrar of Companies as per the 8th paragraph of Public Contracts Act No 03 of 1987 for every Bid which exceeds tenderable amount of Rs. 5.0 million, and copy of certificate to be presented when purchasing the bidding document**
5. A complete set of Bidding Document in English Language can be purchased upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Rupees Fifteen Thousand (LKR. 15,000.00)** (The method of payment shall be cash) by the interested bidder on the submission of written application to the address below, from **0900 hrs to 1600 hrs during 08th March 2021 to 1000 hrs on 29th March 2021.**
6. All Tenders shall be accompanied by a Tender Security, to the value of **Six Hundred Twenty Nine Thousand Sri Lanka Rupees (LKR. 629,000.00)** obtained from any commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Tender Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand guarantee and shall be **valid from 29th March 2021 to 26th July 2021** (120 days including Both Days).
7. **Validity of Bids - Bids shall be valid for 90 days from the date of Bids Opening (From 29th March 2021 to 26th June 2021).**
8. Duly completed Bids shall be delivered to: **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** on or before **1000 hrs on 29th March 2021.** Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at **Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.**

The address referred in para 6 & 9 is as follows.

**The Chairman,
 Project Procurement Committee,
 Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
 Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
 Battaramulla.**

Tel: 0094-011-4209885, Fax: 0094-011-4209885
 E-mail: pmudhqc@gmail.com, dhqcproc2015@gmail.com

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 Agriculture Modernization Project



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கமத்தொழில் அமைச்சு

Ministry of Agriculture

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
 Agriculture Sector Modernization Project - Ministry of Agriculture
 IDA Credit No: 5873 LK

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Supply, Delivery, Installation & Commissioning of 100 Nos. of Sprinkler
 Irrigation Systems and Engine Operated Water Pumps for Maize Cultivation in
 North Central Province

1. The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received a Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies equivalent to US\$ 58.63 Million towards the cost of the Agriculture Sector Modernization Project (ASMP) of the Ministry of Agriculture and it intends to apply portion of the proceeds of this credit to eligible payments under the Contract of **Supply, Delivery, Installation & Commissioning of 100 Nos. of Sprinkler Irrigation Systems and Engine Operated Water Pumps for Maize Cultivation in North Central Province.**
2. The Chairman of Project Procurement Committee, Agriculture Sector Modernization Project, Ministry of Agriculture, now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Supply, Delivery, Installation & Commissioning of 100 Nos of Sprinkler Irrigation Systems and Engine Operated Water Pumps for Maize Cultivation in North Central Province.

Description	Contract No.	Quantity	Value of the Bid Security (Rs.)	Non-refundable Fee (Rs.)
Sprinkler Irrigation Systems	LK-MOA-PMU-221685-GO-RFB	100 Nos.	300,000.00	10,000.00
Engine Operated Water Pumps	LK-MOA-PMU-221686-GO-RFB	100 Nos.	100,000.00	3,000.00

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure approved by the World Bank.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from **Procurement Specialist, Agriculture Sector Modernization Project, Ministry of Agriculture** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below; from **9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.** on working days during the period from **08/03/2021 to 29/03/2021.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee. The method of payment will be by cash to the Finance Manager of the Project.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 2.00 p.m. on **29/03/2021.** Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at **2.00 pm on 29/03/2021.**
7. Complete bids shall be forwarded in two copies as original and duplicate. The original and the duplicate shall be enclosed separately and marked as 'original' and 'duplicate' respectively in sealed envelope. Both envelopes enclosed in a sealed single envelope and marked the contract number **“Supply, Delivery, Installation & Commissioning of 100 Nos. of Sprinkler Irrigation Systems and Engine Operated Water Pumps for Maize Cultivation in North Central Province”** on top left-hand corner of the envelope.
8. The address referred to above is :

**Chairman,
 Project Procurement Committee,
 Agriculture Sector Modernization Project,
 Ministry of Agriculture,
 No. 123/2, Pannipitiya Road,
 Battaramulla.
 Tele : 0777419521
 Date : 07.03.2021**

TENDER NOTICE

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இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

**TENDER FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION,
COMMISSIONING AND MAINTENANCE OF REAL
TIME GROSS SETTLEMENT SYSTEM**

Tender Number	LK-CBSL-65728-GO-RFP
Tender Description	Tender for Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Real Time Gross Settlement System for the Central Bank of Sri Lanka
Non-refundable Fee	Sri Lankan Rupees Thirty Seven Thousand(LKR 37,000/-) or in United States Dollars Two Hundred (US\$ 200/-)
Pre-Bid Meeting	Date : 25 March 2021 Time : 1400 Hrs Location : Head Office Building, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, No 30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo-01, Sri Lanka and/or MS Teams
Bid closing and opening	Date : 28 April 2021 Time : 1400 Hrs. Location : Head Office Building, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, No 30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo-01, Sri Lanka

For further information please refer
<https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/tenders>
or contact: +94 11 2477337 or +94 11 2398754

Project Team, Financial Sector Modernization Project
Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

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lk**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

KOTELAWALA DEFENCE UNIVERSITY

**Supply, Delivery, Installation, Commissioning,
Training and Maintenance of Hybrid Uninterrupted
Power Supply (UPS) for University Hospital -
General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University**

Contract Identification No: MOD/KDU/02/2020

- The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee **Ministry of Defence** on behalf of Vice Chancellor, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Rathmalana, Sri Lanka invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply, Delivery, Installation, Commissioning, Training and Maintenance of Hybrid Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS)** for the University Hospital - General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.
 - Hybrid OT with Uninterrupted Power Supply(UPS) 01 No.
- Bidding process will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
- Bids will be invited from suppliers who possess at least 10 years' experience in the supply and maintenance of **Hybrid Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS)** at least 10 years period of business registration. Foreign Bidders shall quote through duly appointed (accredited) Local Agent. (Sri Lanka)
 - Bidder shall have at least LKR 440 million or equivalent value of average annual turnover, within last three years (Audited Financial Statement of last 3 years to be forwarded).
 - Aforesaid Local Agent shall have at least 05 years Business Registration.
 - All the Brands shall have minimum of 05 years' service history in Sri Lanka.
 - Manufacturer/ Supplier shall have successfully completed at least 03 contracts of similar nature, during the last 05 years. Each of these 03 contracts shall consist with above scope and their contract sum shall not be less than LKR 220 million or equivalent value for each supply.
 - Bidder shall provide 02 years comprehensive warranty and 10 years system warranty from manufacturer and 10 years of guarantee for availability of spare parts, consumables, software and accessories from manufacturer.
 - There shall be a local office or locally registered agent in Sri Lanka for any query of the installed system within warranty period.
 - Bidder, who does not manufacture or produce the goods, shall submit Manufacturer's Authorization using the form included in Section IV of the bidding Document.

- Bidder shall consider the requirements under the Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987 and few important extractions of the act is as follows:

- "Any person who acts as an agent or sub-agent, representative or nominee on behalf of any bidder, shall register himself and such public contract in accordance with Section 10 and shall furnish to the registrar the particulars required to be furnished under Section 6."
- "Where any person is an agent, sub-agent, representative or nominee for or on behalf of a bidder, he shall first produce a certificate of his appointment as agent, sub-agent, representative or nominee to the registrar before he registers himself and the public contract under this section"
- Bidders are strongly advised to submit the registration certificate under the Public Contract Act No. 3 of 1987 (When relevant), along with the submission of the Bid.

- Contract completion period is 90 calendar days from the date of signing the contract. (Except for training and maintenance)

- Interested bidders may obtain further information from

Chief Financial Officer I
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5,
Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03,
Sri Lanka (Telephone 011-2439381 Fax 011-2390720)

Bidding Documents may be inspected free of charge at the above address from 08 March 2021 until 29 March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days (Telephone 011-2439381 Fax 011-2390720 and Email procurement@defence.lk)

- Bidders or their local agents shall not be blacklisted.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to Chief Financial Officer, Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka from 08 March 2021 until 29 March 2021 from 0900 hrs. to 1500 hrs. during working days upon payment of a non - refundable fee of LKR 36,000.00 (Sri Lankan Rupees Thirty Six Thousand). The method of payment will be by cash.
- Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the Bid box placed at the address below at or before 14.30 hrs on 30 March 2021.

The Procurement Branch,
Ministry of Defence,
Ground Floor,
No. 15/5,
Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03.

Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing of bids in the presence of the bidders' representatives who wish to attend.

- Bids shall be valid from 30 March 2021 to 28 June 2021.

All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid Security" of Sri Lankan Rupees Three Million Three Hundred Thousand (LKR 3,300,000.00) obtained from a bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, in the form of an unconditional and on demand bond and shall be valid from 30 March 2021 to 26 July 2021. Beneficiary of the bid Security shall be Secretary, Ministry of Defence.

- Contact Details:

Chief Financial Officer I
Telephone: 011-2439381
Fax No : 011-2390720 and Email procurement@defence.lk

Procurement Officer,
General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Hospital,
Werahera, Boralessgamuwa, Sri Lanka
Telephone: 0094-11-2044555 / Ext 4373
Facsimile: 0094-11-2044592
Email: procurement_uh@kdu.ac.lk

- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the

Chief Financial Officer I ,
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5,
Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03,
Sri Lanka.

the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least three (03) working days prior to bid opening Further, Bidders are advised to inform in writing to the

Chief Financial Officer I ,
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5,
Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03,
Sri Lanka.
Email procurement@defence.lk

the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at any official matter for the relevant procurement.

- A pre bid meeting will be held on 1000 hrs. on 17 March 2021 at the Director Medical Service Conference Hall, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Hospital, Werahera.

Chairman
Ministry Procurement Committee,
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5,
Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03
Sri Lanka

07 March 2021

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

**SUPPLY, FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION OF GLASS SHOWER
CUBICLES IN BLOCK 01 OF
DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA**

CONTRACT NO : DHQC/SHOWER CUB 1/2020

- The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply, Fabrication and Installation of Glass Shower Cubicles in Block 01 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** as described below and estimated to cost **LKR. 1.4 Million** (excluding VAT).

The work consists of Supply, Fabrication and Installation of Glass Shower Cubicles in Block 01 of Proposed Defence Headquarters Complex (DHQC) at Akuregoda, Sri Lanka.

The Time for Completion for the whole of the Works shall be 119 Days.

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall possess a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least 5 years.
The bidder shall be either;
 - The Manufacturer of the offered Glass Shower cubicle works or the authorized agent of the manufacturer of the offered Glass Shower cubicles works. The Manufacturer shall be accredited and registered under ISO 9001.

or

- A licensed installer of the manufacturer of the offered Glass Shower cubicle works.
If the bidder is not the manufacturer of the offered Glass Shower cubicle works, then he shall be mandatorily required being an organization possessing ISO 9001 Certification.

Documentary evidence to support Bidder's experience and track record shall be provided with the Bid.

- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
 - Average annual turnover in last five (05) years shall be at least LKR 2.1 million.
 - Experience in successful completion of at least one project of supply, fabrication and installation of glass shower cubicles of value not less than LKR 1 million. These projects shall be completed within last three years.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs from 08th March 2021 until 04th April 2021 during working days.**
- A complete set of Bidding Documents (except Volume 1) in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project,** at the above address from **08th March 2021 until 04th April 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Sri Lankan Rupees One Thousand Five Hundred (LKR 1,500.00).** The method of payment will be in Cash.
- A pre bid meeting will be held at **1100 hrs on 19th March 2021** at the Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda.
- Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed at the below address at or before **1000 hrs on 05th April 2021.** Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid until **07th June 2021.** (63 Days after the date of Bid opening).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid Security of Sri Lankan Rupees Fourteen Thousand (LKR 14,000.00)** obtained from a bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand guarantee and shall be valid up to **05th July 2021** (91 Days after the Bid opening).
- If any bidder wishes to submit bids for several packages of the same block or any other blocks of this project, the bidder shall establish the qualification/ eligibility criteria required under each contract separately, if not the bidder will not be qualified for the award of more than one bid.
- In addition to Item 11 of above, if any bidder has already been selected/is working as a contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project; the bidder shall establish his financial and technical requirements under specification/ eligibility criteria exclusively for this bidding package. If not, the bidder will not be qualified for the award of this bid.
- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 (when relevant), before purchasing the Bidding Document from Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the Director, Project Management Unit, the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address referred to above item (8) is :

The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee,
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.

Tel : 0094-011-4209885
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
E-mail : pmudhq@gmail.com

Building Wanted

A leading bank require a building at Kollupitiya for long term lease.

1. Facing main road
2. Floor area 6,000 sq.ft.
3. Parking 10-12 slots
4. Fully completed building with Solar Power Supply

Contact: **011-2456555**



Consumer Affairs Authority
State Ministry of Cooperative Services, Marketing Development and Consumer Protection

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)

Assignment Title : Procurement of Designing, Developing, Implementing, Training and Maintaining of Digital Service Management System

Assignment No : CAA/Digital System/2021

The Consumer Affairs Authority (CAA) functions under the purview of State Ministry of Cooperative Services, Marketing Development and Consumer Protection and was established to provide better protection of consumers through regulation of trade and prices of goods and services, protect traders and manufacturers against unfair and restrictive trade practices.

In order to overcome current operational and administrative issues within the scope of CAA and to have advanced solutions in place catering the requirement of the CAA and thereby offering better service to all stakeholders, it has been stressed the necessity of developing a digital service management system.

Accordingly, the CAA intends to engage a software developing firm to designing, developing, implementing, training and maintaining of digital service management system with advanced features using the latest technology and to provide support and maintenance for three (03) years for the implemented solution.

The Department Consultants Procurement Committee now invites eligible software developing firms to express their interest for the Expressions of Interest (EOI). Responses must include the requested information as specified in the "EOI Information Form" along with documentary evidence in support of core business and financial, business administrative strength / standing, qualifications in the field of assignment, experience in carrying out assignments of similar nature and complexity, technical and managerial organization of the firm, technical capabilities and appropriate skills of key staff of the organization and other relevant information.

The "Description of Service" and "EOI Information Form" are now available at CAA website and interested firms may download these documents from the website <https://www.caa.gov.lk/download>

Software developing firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Government Procurement Guideline for : Selection and Employment of Consultants following Quality and Cost Base Selection (QCBS) method. All interested parties are informed that all documentations shall be in English Language. Joint Ventures, consortia, sub-consultancy or any other form of associations are not allowed under this assignment.

Interested eligible applicants may obtain further information from **Deputy Director (Administration & Human Resources), Phone : + 94117755456, E-Mail : caahredd@gmail.com** and inspect the EOI document at the Administration and Human Resource Division, Consumer Affairs Authority, 2nd Floor, CWE Secretariat Building, 27, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.

Responses to REOI including all requested information must be delivered no later than **15.00 hrs on 22nd March, 2021** either (i) electronically to ; dgcaa@sltnet.lk and (ii) hand delivered or (iii) by post to the address ; Chairman (CPCD), Consumer Affairs Authority, 2nd Floor, CWE Secretariat Building, 27, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.

The Envelope containing the EOI and subject field of the e-mail should be marked **"REOI for CAA/Digital System/2021"**

The Chairman, Department Consultants Procurement Committee, Consumer Affairs Authority, 2nd Floor, CWE Secretariat Building, 27, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02, Sri Lanka.

Phone : +94117755456 Fax : +94112399149
www.caa.gov.lk

07th March 2021

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TENDER NOTICE



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இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) wishes to invite Expressions of Interest (EOI) from eligible consultancy firms for providing consultancy service for developing a comprehensive Human Resources Strategy for the CBSL.

Tender Number	05/03/003/0032/001
Tender Description	Tender for obtaining Consultancy Services for Developing a Comprehensive Human Resources Strategy for the CBSL.
Issuing of Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)	The REOI can be obtained via email upon written request submitted through email to hprocurement@cbsl.lk indicating the tender description appropriately, on or before 1500 hrs on 19.03.2021. The REOI is available in English language only.
EOI Closing and Opening	Date : 22.03.2021 Time : 1430 hrs Location : Head Office Building, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, No 30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo-01,
For further information	Director, Human Resources Department 0112-477330

Director/Human Resources - Central Bank of Sri Lanka
No.30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo 01

INVITATION FOR BIDS MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

BID FOR SUPPLYING AND LAYING OF ASPHALT CONCRETE AT PHASE II ROAD NETWORK (LLO3 AREA) AND BLOCK 02, 03, 04 (PODIUM AREA AND PUMP HOUSE AREA) OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO : DHQC/PROC/2021/SER/07

1. This refers to the Invitation for Bids published in Sunday Observer on 31st January 2021 and the Amendment to Invitation for Bids published in Sunday Observer on 14th February 2021 in respect of the above mentioned contract.
2. **It is hereby announced that the above mentioned contract is CANCELLED.**

The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), C/o The Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatte, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka.

Tel: 0094-011-4209885
Fax: 0094-011-4209885

MINISTRY OF TRADE CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE ESTABLISHMENT



REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS FOR GRANTING OF OFFICE PREMISES AND STORAGES MENTIONED BELOW ON LEASE BASIS

Tenders are invited for granting of office premises and storages belonging to the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment on Lease basis.

Serial No.	Location	Extent in Sq.Ft.
01	Rajagiriya, No. 01/274	508
02	165, Sangaraja Mawatha, Colombo 10 - Building No. 05	90.44
03	160, CWE Stores Complex, Maligawatta, Colombo 10.	-
	Building No. 1	2190
	Building No. 2	117
	Building No. 3	100
04	595, CWE Stores Complex, Negombo Road, Welisara.	286
05	Negril Building, No. 109, York Street, Colombo 01.	25092
06	Badulla CWE Premises, No. 29, Bandarawela Road, Badulla.	21522
07	Matara CWE, No. 16, Goodshed Road, Matara.	21507
08	Kandy D.S. Senanayaka Mawatha, No. 137, First Floor	3450
09	D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, No. 40, Colombo 10	15508
10	CWE Stores, Kaduruwela, Manikkam Pattiya, No. 04.	9124
11	CWE Stores, Hulandawa Junction, No. 519, Moneragala.	8607
12	CWE Premises, Nandimithra Mawatha, Kataragama, First Floor	1350

Tender applications could be obtained from the Procurement Division after paying a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1000.00 to the Cashier. A refundable Tender Deposit of Rs. 25,000.00 should be paid before 10.00 a.m. on 23.03.2021 when submitting Tenders.

Tender applications should be inserted in the Tender Box No.04 before 12.00 hours on 23.03.2021 and Bids will be opened at this very moment. The Bidder or an authorized representative could be present on this occasion.

The office premises could be inspected on Government working days from 15.03.2021 up to 19.03.2021 from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Please contact on the Telephone Nos. mentioned below to obtain further information and for inspection of the office premises.

- Tel. Nos. 0112-337549 / 2435554
- Mobile Tel. No. 077-6939606 (Mr Sampath)

The Tender Board retains the right of the final decision.

Chairman, Procurement Committee, Co-operative Wholesale Establishment, No. 27, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.

A private company is looking for a two-storey building
Upstairs – 1500 – 3000 sq ft,
Down Stairs – 2500 – 3000 sq ft

to facilitate a food city facing to the main road with minimum of five car parking slots in front of the building.
Battaramulla – Kaduwela (177 route), Mount Lavinia – Panadura (100 route), Koluwala – Kesbawa (120 route), Kirulapone – Homagama (138 route), Orugodawatta – Kaduwela (122 route), Peliyagoda – Kadawatha (Kandy Road), Peliyagoda – Negombo (Alawattha Road).

Contact - Mohan 077 366 3275

TENDER NOTICE



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இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

Tender Number	09/04/082/2021/001
Description	TENDER FOR SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING, HANDING OVER AND MAINTENANCE OF 02 NUMBERS OF BAGGAGE X-RAY SCANNERS FOR THE CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA (CBSL) – 2021
Closing of Bid Submission and Bid Opening	Date: 26 March 2021 Time: 14.00 hrs. The Bid Document can be downloaded from CBSL Website

For further information please refer <https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/tenders> or

contact
Assistant Secretary on 011-2477300
Senior Assistant Controller of Security on 011 2398741.

Secretary
Central Bank of Sri Lanka

OFFICE SPACE WANTED (LONG - TERM LEASE)

A government office is looking for an office space in **Colombo 01 to Colombo 10** area with average **5,000 sqft to 10,000 sqft** with parking space for about 10 vehicles.

Kotte, Rajagiriya and Battaramulla areas are also Preferred.

Forward Us the full details of the proposed building to reach the following address under registered post to **Chairman, No.224, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07**

or email to supplychain.selacine@gmail.com

(Building for lease to be marked on the top left hand corner of the envelope) within 14 days of the Publishing of this advertisement and for further details if required kindly contact

Manager (HR) 071 053 9065/ 011 432 0777



Chairman
No: 224, Bauddhaloka Mawatha
Colombo 07.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

CARS		
300-XXXX	TOYOTA CARINA 1490.00 CC	1995
NW KP-XXXX	MARUTI ZEN ESTILO 998.00 CC	2011
LORRY		
WP DAB-XXXX	MAHINDRA BOLERO MAXI TRUCK 2523.00 CC	2015
TRACTOR		
SG RF-XXXX	MASSEY FERGUSON MF 1540 1498.00 CC	2017
MOTOR COACH		
CP GE-XXXX	NISSAN CIVILIAN 4160.00 CC (SEATERS 28)	1996
THREE WHEELERS		
CP QV-XXXX	BAJAJ 4S 173.50 CC	2009
SG QO-XXXX	BAJAJ AUTO AR45 173.00 CC	2008
CP YA-XXXX	BAJAJ AR45-UG 173.50 CC	2010
SG QP-XXXX	BAJAJ AUTO AR 4S 173.50 CC	2008
CP QU-XXXX	BAJAJ 4S 173.50 CC	2009
CP QU-XXXX	BAJAJ 4 S 173.50 CC	2009
WP QL-XXXX	BAJAJ AUTO AR 4S 173.00 CC	2007
CP AAF-XXXX	BAJAJ RE 205 198.75 CC	2012
SP YC-XXXX	BAJAJ AR45-UG 173.50 CC	2010
CP AAF-XXXX	BAJAJ RE 205 198.75 CC	2012
CP QJ-XXXX	BAJAJ AUTO AR45 173.00 CC	2007
CP ABM-XXXX	BAJAJ RE 198.88 CC	2016
CP QL-XXXX	BAJAJ AUTO AR45 173.00 CC	2007
CP QS-XXXX	BAJAJ 4S 173.00 CC	2009
CP QC-XXXX	BAJAJ AUTO RE 2 STROKE 145.45 CC	2005
CP QS-XXXX	BAJAJ 4S 173.50 CC	2009
CP AA-XXXX	PIAGGIO APE 395.00 CC	2014
CP YB-XXXX	BAJAJ AR 45-UG 173.50 CC	2010
UP QT-XXXX	BAJAJ 4S 173.50 CC	2009

On view to vehicles 8.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

INQUIRY - 0768578119, 0766851575, 0775260124

Kurunegala Auto fair, No. 156/ B, Colombo Road, Waduragala, Kurunegala.

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Hotline: 1949



STATE MINISTRY OF COCONUT, KITHUL, PALMYRAH AND RUBBER CULTIVATION PROMOTION AND RELATED INDUSTRIAL PRODUCT MANUFACTURING & EXPORT DIVERSIFICATION

COCONUT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Provision of Investment Concession for Encouraging the Promotion of Construction of Coconut Shell Incinerators

Applications are invited for providing investment concessions to the industrialists to construct incinerators for encouraging the promotion of manufacture of environment friendly quality coconut shell charcoal.

Industrialists who have the financial and business capabilities with space (at least about 01 acre) and are able to collect around 7500 coconut shells per day may apply for this.

Authority will provide 50% of the expenses (subject to a maximum of Rs. 100,000/-) incurred for the incinerator as an investment concession.

If you are anticipating to obtain this investment concession you may obtain the relevant application either from the Coconut Development Authority / Regional Offices of the Coconut Development Authority or downloaded from the www.cda.gov.lk website. Duly perfected applications should be sent by registered post to the address given below to receive on or before 30.03.2021.

North Western, Eastern and Uva Provinces – Mr. H.R. Chandana – Tel. No. 071-4406874, Mr. Chanaka Ranasinghe – Tel. No. 071-3376526, Western Province - Mr. K. Somachandra – Tel. No. 071-8364081, Southern Province – Mrs. Thisum Madhiwage – 071-4817487, North Central and Northern Provinces – Mr. Nalaka Herath – Tel. No. 071-9609226, Sabaragamuwa Province – Mrs. W. D. Madhushani – Tel. No. 071-2504989, Central Province – Mr. Chanaka Ranasinghe – Tel. No. 071-3376526.

Please mention "Obtaining Investment Concession – Construction of Incinerator" on the left hand top corner of the envelope containing the application. (Applications received after the specified date will be rejected.)

Chairman
Coconut Development Authority
No. 54, Nawala Road,
Narahenpita
Colombo 05
Inquiries: 011-2322793-6

AMENDMENT TO INVITATION FOR BIDS

FABRICATION & SUPPLY OF PRE-STRESSED CONCRETE (PSC) BEAMS OF INTERNAL ROAD BRIDGE FOR DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO : DHQC/PROC/2021/YARD/16

1. This refers to the Invitation for Bids published in Sunday Observer on 21st February 2021 in respective of the abovementioned Contract.

2. Following amendments are made to the above referred Invitation for Bids.

- Minimum qualification requirements for "to be eligible for Contract Award" under Sub Clause 4 shall be revised as follows :

- (i) Bidder shall have been registered as a business entity in Sri Lanka for at least five (5) years.
- (ii) Bidder shall be a Manufacturer of pre-stressed elements having ISO 9001 certification and shall have manufactured pre-stressed concrete beams during last three years.
- (iii) Bidder shall demonstrate the above qualifications through submitted documentation.

- Delivery period for total quantity shall be 140 days.

3. All other terms and conditions of the previous Invitation for Bids remain unchanged.

The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatte, Battaramulla,

Tel: 0094-011-4209885
Fax: 0094-011-4209885
E-mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com

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WANTED INDUSTRIAL LAND

A leading company is looking out for 50 to 100 acres of Industrial Land for outright settlement. The land should be located within either Puttalam or Kurunegala Districts with good accessibility (Min 40 feet Access Roads)

Land from a non-residential area is preferred. Interested parties with clear land titles can get in touch with us immediately.

Call: 077 7748871

WANTED

WAREHOUSE FOR SALE

Around Ekala, Ja-ela, Bopitiya with 40' container access

E-mail: hr@afacsl.com
Tel: 0772724403, 0722444860

WANTED - PEARL WHITE TOYOTA PRADO

A LEADING COMPANY REQUIRES ON HIRE - A MINT CONDITION TOYOTA PRADO FOR 12 MONTHS (CAN BE EXTENDED) IMMEDIATELY ENGAGEMENT.

Vehicle should be

- Registered nearly within two years
- Interior beige colour (Prefer)
- Auto gear

Your quotation, pictures & details of vehicle
Email to qs.rmm@maga.lk
Contact number - Mr. Ajith 0769990080

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INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA SUPPLY OF COMMERCIAL GRADE CERAMIC WARE, FITTINGS & ACCESSORIES FOR BLOCK 03 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO : DHQC/CER FITTING 3/2020

- The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee of the Ministry of Defence invites competitive sealed Bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply of Commercial Grade Ceramic Ware, Fittings & Accessories for Block 03 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda.**
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the above address from 0900 hrs. to 1500 hrs. on any working day between **08th March 2021 and 29th March 2021** Tel: 0094-011-4209885, Fax: 0094-011-4209885, E-mail: pmudhqc@gmail.com
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure under Standard Bidding Document of NPA/Goods/SBD 01 and Government Procurement Guidelines.
- To be eligible for Contract award;
 - The manufacturer of the offered ceramic fittings shall possess ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certifications and shall have an in house product testing laboratory.
 - A bidder to be eligible for the prospective awarding of this contract shall be either the manufacturer and/or the local agent of the manufacturer for the offered sanitary ware, fittings and accessories.
 - Bidder shall possess business registration in the Sri Lanka for the last ten (10) consecutive years and shall be continuously engaged in the business of either manufacturing and/or trading of Sanitary Ware and Bathroom Fittings, for the same duration.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address: **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla from 08th March 2021 and 29th March 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Sri Lankan Rupees Thirteen Thousand (Rs. 13,000.00)**. The method of payment shall be cash or bank draft in favour of **Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project.**
- A pre bid meeting will be held at **1100 hrs on 15th March 2021 at Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda, Palawatta, Battaramulla.**
- Duly completed Bids shall be delivered to: **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** at or before **1000 hrs on 29th March 2021**. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid-Security of **Sri Lankan Rupees Six Hundred Forty Thousand (LKR. 640,000.00)** in the form of an unconditional and on demand Guarantee obtained from a bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, which shall be valid up to **26th July 2021** (119 Days after the date of closing of the Bid).
- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 (when relevant), before purchasing the Bidding Document.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee,
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.

Tel: 0094-011-4209885
Fax: 0094-011-4209885
E-mail: pmudhqc@gmail.com

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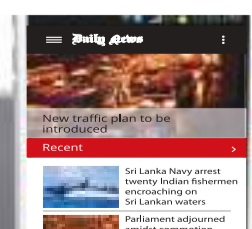


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Ministry of Education

Open Competitive Examination For the recruitment to Grade 3-I (C) of Sri Lanka Teachers' Service for English teacher vacancies in National and Provincial Schools and for the vacancies in Information Technology, Home Science and Aesthetic Subjects (Arts, Music, Dancing) in Northern and Eastern Provinces - 2021

The applications are invited from both male and female qualified Diploma Holders for recruiting to Grade 3-I (C) of Sri Lanka Teachers' Service for English teacher vacancies in National and Provincial Schools and for the vacancies in Information Technology, Home Science and Aesthetic Subjects (Arts, Music, Dancing) in Northern and Eastern Provinces. The applications prepared in accordance with the specimen application should be sent on or before 19.03.2021 by registered post addressed to "The Commissioner General of Examinations, Organizations and Foreign Examinations Branch, Department of Examinations - Sri Lanka, Post Box 1503, Colombo." For further details, please log in www.moe.gov.lk website of the Ministry of Education.

**Secretary
Ministry of Education**

AMENDMENT TO INVITATION FOR BIDS

SUPPLY, COORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SUPERVISION OF CEILINGS FOR BLOCK 03 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO: DHQC/CEILING 3/2020

- This refers to the Invitation for Bids, published in Sunday Observer on 14.02.2021 in respect of the above mentioned Contract.
- Following amendments are made to the above referred Invitation for Bids.
 - The Bid opening/closing time has been extended up to 1400 hrs on 15th March 2021
 - Bids shall be valid up to 9th August 2021
 - Bid Security shall be valid up to 6th September 2021
- All other terms and conditions of the previous Invitation for Bids remain unchanged.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information, inspect and purchase the bidding documents from **The Chairman, Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC), Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03,** on working days during 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs until 14th March 2021.

**The Chairman,
Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC)
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03,
Sri Lanka**
Tel : 0094-11-2390719
Fax : 0094-11-2390720
E-mail : procurement@defence.lk

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ETI Finance Limited

Public Auction Sale Of Unredeemed Pawned Gold Articles

Articles pawned up to 30th November 2019, 31st December 2019 & 31st January 2020 at the following branches of ETI Finance Ltd. Which were not redeemed or renewed on or before 16th March 2021, will be sold by Public Auction at Head Office. Auction will be commenced at 9.30 a.m in each day.

Pawned Date	Pawned Branches	Place & Date Of Auction
30-11-2019 31-12-2019 31-01-2020 Up to	Ampara, Ambalangoda, Badulla, Bandarawela, Eheliyagoda, Embilipitiya, Galle, Tissamaharama, Kegalle, Kurunegala, Matara, Monaragala, Welimada, Rathnapura, Avissawella, Bambalapitiya, Battaramulla, Dematagoda, Gampaha, Grandpass, Homagama, Horana, Kalutara, Kadawatha, Kaduwela, Kandana, Kiribathgoda, Kotahena, Kottawa, Piliyandala, Maharagama, Malay Street, Maradana-143, Maradana-435, Pettah, Moratuwa, Mt. Lavinia, Negombo, Nugegoda, Panadura, Ward Place (Col-07), Borella (D.S.S. Mw), Wellawatta-307, Wellawatta-99, Sea Street, Mathugama, Dambulla	No-114, Ward Place, Colombo - 07 Borella Branch 17-03-2021, 18-03-2021,

All Participants should produce their National Identity Cards.
The Company reserves the right to cancel, amalgamate or postpone the Auction without any further notice.

No. 114, Ward Place, Colombo 07
Telephone No: 0117534200, Fax No: 0112674435

AMENDMENT TO INVITATION FOR BIDS

SUPPLY, COORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SUPERVISION OF CEILINGS FOR BLOCK 04 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA


CONTRACT NO: DHQC/CEILING 4/2020

- This refers to the Invitation for Bids, published in Sunday Observer on 14.02.2021 in respect of the above mentioned Contract.
- Following amendments are made to the above referred Invitation for Bids.
 - The Bid opening/closing time has been extended up to 1000 hrs on 15th March 2021
 - Bids shall valid up to 9th August 2021
 - Bid Security Shall be valid up to 6th September 2021
- All other terms and conditions of the previous Invitation for Bids remain unchanged.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information, inspect and purchase the bidding documents from **The Chairman, Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC), Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03,** on working days during 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs until 14th March 2021.




**The Chairman,
Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC)
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03,
Sri Lanka**
Tel : 0094-11-2390719
Fax : 0094-11-2390720
E-mail : procurement@defence.lk

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INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MATERIALS REQUIREMENT FOR STUD IRON FILE RACKS AT RECORD ROOMS BLOCK NO.01 & 02 AT DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO : DHQC/PROC/2021/H/85

- The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified tenderers for **Supply of undermentioned Items for the Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.**
- Description of Item - Slotted Angels and Accessories**
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful tenderers shall not have been black listed and shall possess a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least 05 years. Documentary evidence shall be established with the Bids.**
- Bidders are strongly advised to present Registration Certificate issued by the Registrar of Companies as per the 8th paragraph of Public Contracts Act No 03 of 1987 for every Bid which exceeds tenderable amount of Rs. 5.0 million, and copy of certificate to be presented when purchasing the bidding document**
- A complete set of Bidding Document in English Language can be purchased upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Rupees Twenty Thousand (LKR.20,000.00)** (The method of payment shall be cash) by the interested bidder on the submission of written application to the address below, from **0900 hrs to 1600 hrs during 08th March 2021 to 1000hrs on 29th March 2021.**
- All Tenders shall be accompanied by a Tender Security, to the value of **One Million Forty Four Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Sri Lanka Rupees (LKR. 1,044,570.00)** obtained from any commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Tender Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand guarantee and shall be **valid from 29th March 2021 to 26th July 2021** (120 days including Both Days).
- Validity of Bids - Bids shall be valid for 90 days from the date of Bids Opening (From 29th March 2021 to 26th June 2021).**
- Duly completed Bids shall be delivered to: **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** on or before **1000 hrs on 29th March 2021.** Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at **Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.**

The address referred in para 6 & 9 is as follows.

**The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee,
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.**

Tel: 0094-011-4209885, Fax: 0094-011-4209885
E-mail: pmudhqc@gmail.com, dhqcproc2015@gmail.com



PRICE SETTER TO THE NATION



BID INVITATION

SUPPLY OF JANITORIAL SERVICES TO LANKA SATHOSA WAREHOUSES

Chairman, Lanka Sathosa Limited (LSL) invites sealed Bids from service providers who wish to **Supply Janitorial Services** to the Lanka Sathosa Ltd Warehouses for a period of **two years.**

Interested Bidders shall obtain Bidding Documents by submitting authorization letter to the Procurement Division (3rd floor), Lanka Sathosa Limited Head Office, No 27, CWE Secretariat Building, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02, **from 07.03.2021 to 30.03.2021 by paying Rs.1,500/= (Nonrefundable).**

Pre Bid meeting will be held on **15.03.2021, 11.00 a.m.**

Bids should be sent by Registered post or deposited in the tender box placed at the Procurement Division (3rd floor) Lanka Sathosa Ltd, No 27, CWE Secretariat Building Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02, on or before **30.03.2021, 1.00 p.m.** The top left hand corner of the envelope containing the sealed bid should be marked as **"Supply of Janitorial Services to LSL Warehouses"**.

All bids shall be accompanied by a legibly filled **Bid Security Declaration** which is enclosed with the Bidding Document.

Accepting of Bids will be closed on **30.03.2021, 1.00 p.m.** and open immediately after closing, in the presence of Bidders. **Successful Bidder** is required to pay nonrefundable sum of **Rs.5,000/- and 8% VAT** as a Registration Fee (except for Registered Suppliers). 5% of first month invoice value will retain as a performance security (refundable on performance).

Contact under Mentioned officer for clarifications;
Deputy General Manager, Procurement LSL - 071 1506120
Chairman, Lanka Sathosa Ltd reserves the right to decide on awarding of the Tender/Contract.

**Lanka Sathosa Limited
No.27, CWE Secretariat Building,
Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.**

For classified advertisements and for replies

received in response to advertisements published under Lake House box numbers

Please Contact → **MANAGER FRONT OFFICE** → Hotline 1949





State Ministry of Internal Security and Disaster Management
Disaster Management Center



Procurement Notice

Quotations are invited including project proposals to establish a system to operate early warning towers installed on the coast around the island for early warning of disasters using mobile communication network technology.

The tender document can be obtained on any working day from **March 08, 2021 to March 22, 2021** between 0009 hours - 1500 hours from the Finance Division located on the third floor of the Disaster Management Center at Vidya Mawatha, Colombo 07 by paying a non-refundable fee of **Rs.1000.00** Bids should be submitted along with the tender document.

Accordingly, the bids can be sent on or before **Tuesday, 23rd March, 2021, 10.00 a.m** mentioning "Operating Early Warning Towers using a Mobile Communication Network" on the top left corner of the envelope by registered post to the below mentioned address or can be deposited in the tender box kept at the Procurement Division. Bids will be opened on the same day at the Main Hall of Disaster Mangement Center at 10.30 a.m.

**Chairman,
Procurement Committee,
Disaster Management Center
No 120/2, Vidya Mawatha,
Colombo 07.**





Invitation for Bids

Ministry of Education | Silvermill Foundation


Proposed Three Storied Building for Paranagama Vidyalaya – Giriulla

Group General Manager – Supply Chain invites sealed bids from eligible & qualified bidders for the following work

Bid No	Description	CIDA Grade	Contract Period	Bid Closing Date
SMF/TB/01/2021	Construction of ground floor of Three Storied Building for Paranagama Vidyalaya in Giriulla	C7 or above	06 months	31st March 2021 at 15.00 hrs

A complete set of Bidding documents in English language shall be purchased by interested bidders from Procurement Department of Silvermill Group Loluwagoda Office On Monday to Friday starting from 15th March 2021 to 22nd March 2021 between 10.00 hrs to 16.00 hrs upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rs. 4,000/=.

**Group General Manager – Supply Chain
Silvermill Group of Companies
Loluwagoda Mills
Loluwagoda
Meerigama
Tel : 033-7389377 Ext : 849
071-8694706**



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

For the Establishment of a "Mini Super Market" at Lanka Hospital (LH) Plaza Area

The Lanka Hospitals Corporation PLC wishes to invite Bids/Proposals to renting out the existing free space for a "Mini Super Market" in the LH Plaza area

- **Reference Number** - LH/21/MINISUPER/MS/057
- **Closing Date and Time** -24/03/2021 -11.00 AM

Description

Lanka Hospitals wish to establish a "Mini Super Market "at LH Plaza Area

1. **Floor Area** – 375 Sqft (Width 10' and Length 37.5')
2. **Duration** – Initially for two (02) years and can be extended on mutual negotiation
3. **Branding and Internal Arrangement** – Can be done with the LH management approval. All expenses to be borne by the selected service provider.
4. **Special Note** – Selected service provider needs to pay a non-refundable one-time payment to the Urban Development Authority (UDA) through LH (Appropriate one-time charges will be decided by the UDA and will be informed by LH).
5. **Electricity and Water** – Service provider needs to pay utility bills on actual consumption.
6. **Rent** – Minimum Sqft rate is Rs.1250/= per Month (negotiable) with 10% annual increment
7. **Inspection** – Site visit can be arranged upon the request
8. **Refundable Security Deposit** - Rent amount of 03 Months
9. **Agreement** – The standard agreement will be made available to sign between LH & the service provider
10. **Submit followings with your proposal**
 - Business Registration (BR)
 - If it is a Company: the Articles of the Association, form 01 or 13 and latest form 20
 - If it is a sole proprietorship/partnership- ID copy (ies) of the proprietor or all partners
 - Project Proposal

General Information

Duly perfected Bids/Proposals marked "The Ref No. & Title of the Proposal" on the left-hand top corner of the envelope, sealed Bids/Proposals may either be deposited in the tender box located in **Procurement Department, 04th Floor, No 598, Administration Building, The Lanka Hospitals Corporation PLC, Narahenpita, Colombo 05** or sent by registered post to the same address.

Proposals will be opened soon after deadline & late proposals will be rejected & The Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject proposals received or part thereof.

For Further details, please contact, **Tel : 011-5438581, 8587**

**The Chairman-Procurement Committee,
The Lanka Hospitals Corporation PLC (180) No.578,
Elvitigala Mawatha,
Narahenpita, Colombo 05.**



EASTERN UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

OUTSOURCING SERVICES OF CLEANING, JANITORIAL AND GARDEN MAINTENANCE

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka invites sealed bid from eligible and qualified bidders for Outsourcing Services of Cleaning, Janitorial and Garden Maintenance at the Eastern University, Sri Lanka.

A complete set of Bidding Document in the English languages may be purchased by interested bidders from the Senior Assistant Registrar (General Services Division), Eastern University, Sri Lanka, Vantharumoolai, Chenkalady on the submission of a written application addressed to the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, Vantharumoolai, Chenkalady along with the receipt for the payment of Rs. 15,000.00 per document (Rupees Fifteen Thousand only) made as non-refundable fee credited to any branch of the People's Bank to the A/C No. 227-1-001-4-0000024, People's Bank, Chenkalady in favour of the "Bursar, Eastern University, Sri Lanka" from 08.03.2021 to 26.03.2021 during office hours from 10.00 hrs to 14.00 hrs.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Senior Assistant Registrar (General Services Division) (065-2241518) or Works Engineer (065-2240582) of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka, Vantharumoolai, Chenkalady and inspect the bidding document free of charge at the above mentioned address during any working days from 10.00 to 14.00 hrs.


The Bidders are also invited for a pre bid meeting scheduled to be held at 11.00 a.m. on 10.03.2021 in the **Board Room** of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka, Vantharumoolai.

Bid marked as mentioned in the bidding document, on the top left corner of the envelope should be sent it by registered post to the address given below or deposit in the Bid Box kept at the Office of the Registrar, EUSL, to be received before 02.00 p.m. on 29.03.2021. Late bids will not be accepted.

Bids will be opened at the address given below soon after closing the time and the date of the bids in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.

Bids shall be valid up to 91 calendar days from the date of closing of bids. All bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security Rs. 750,000.00 obtained from any Commercial Bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. Bid Security shall be valid up to 119 calendar days from the date of closing of bids.

**Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee
Eastern University, Sri Lanka
Vantharumoolai, Chenkalady
04.03.2021**



DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
Ministry of Urban Development and Housing
Strategic Cities Development Project (Credit Number: 5428 lk)

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Proposed Precast Concrete Piling Works at Moragoda Ela in Galle
SCDP/WB/WK/GL/30

1. The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received a credit from the World Bank towards the cost of Strategic Cities Development Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for **Proposed Pre cast Concrete Piling Works at Moragoda Ela in Galle - SCDP/WB/WK/GL/30**.
2. The Chairman PPC on behalf of the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the said works as described below.

Contract No.	Contract Title	CIDA (ICTAD) Minimum Grade & Field of Specialization	Non-Refundable Bid Fee per set of Bidding Documents	Construction Duration	Engineering Estimate LKR Mn
SCDP/WB/WK/GL/30	Proposed Precast Concrete Piling Works at Moragoda Ela in Galle	C4 or above and GP-B2 or above under Piling	Rs.22,000/=	120 Days	112.0

The works consist of construction of 300 mm x 250 mm, 9m long Pre cast Piling works including capping beam for Moragoda Ela Canal Bank Protection in following locations.

	Chainage	Length (Approximately) m
1	0 + 007 - 0 + 019 RHS	12
2	0 + 134 - 0 + 180 RHS	46
3	1 + 547 - 1 + 1610 RHS	63
4	1 + 616 - 1 + 704 RHS	88
5	1 + 608 - 1 + 618 LHS	10

3. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
4. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted.
5. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award for the project are given in the Table below.

Contract No.	Contract Title	Average Annual Volume of Construction Work performed in last 5 years	Liquid Assets and / or Credit Facilities required	Amount of Bid Security
SCDP/WB/WK/GL/30	Proposed Precast Concrete Piling Works at Moragoda Ela in Galle	> Rs.504.0Mn	> Rs.84.0Mn	Rs.1,120,000/=

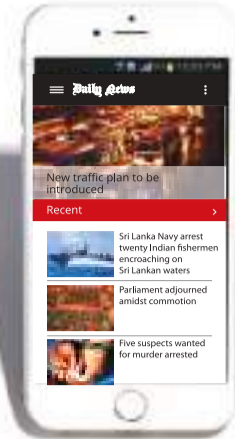
6. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Additional Project Director (Galle) Project Implementation Unit (Galle), Strategic Cities Development Project, 2nd Floor, Central Shopping Complex, Talbot Town, Galle. -T.P.-0912225570, Fax - 0912225570 and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from **08.03.2021 until 26.03.2021** between 09.00 hrs & 15.00 hrs.
7. Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **17.03.2021** at 10.00 a.m. at Strategic Cities Development Project office at 2nd Floor, Central Shopping Complex, Talbot Town, Galle. A site visit will be conducted at 9.00 a.m. by the Employer before the Pre-Bid meeting.
8. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application and payment of a non-refundable fee as mentioned above, by cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of "Strategic Cities Development Project" to the address given below or Project Implementation Unit (Galle), 2nd Floor, Central Shopping Complex, Talbot Town, Galle from **08.03.2021 until 26.03.2021** from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs.
9. Bids shall be delivered to the address below at or before **2.00 p.m on 29.03.2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
10. All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security" as mentioned above.
11. The address referred to above is:

**Project Director,
Strategic Cities Development Project,
Ministry of Urban Development and Housing,
4th Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage 1, Battaramulla.**

**Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee,
Strategic Cities Development Project,
Ministry of Urban Development and Housing,
4th Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage 1,
Battaramulla,
Sri Lanka.**

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PROCUREMENT NOTICE

STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

The Chairman, Procurement Committee of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, Colombo 01 invites sealed quotations from registered and previous sources for following items and bids will be closed at the respective times on the dates given below and will be opened immediately thereafter.
(E.mail/Fax offers as well as FOB offers are not acceptable).

Sealed Bids may be sent by post under Registered Cover or may be personally deposited in the Box available for this purpose at Internal Audit Department in the Mezzanine Floor of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka.

Bidders or their authorized Representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

TENDER NO.	CLOSING DATE	CLOSING TIME	ITEM	QTY.
DHS/RL/116NK/19	18.03.2021	02.30 P.M.	43008802-Sodium Metabisulphate AR	3,500 g
DHS/RL/11RS/21	18.03.2021	02.30 P.M.	58907901-Goggles, Classic, Fit comfortably over most prescription spectacles and nose bridge work well with respirators. Frosted top to reduce glare, high-quality, easily adjustable headband. Optically correct lens, does not distort view.(BDH Cat. No. 222/0817/00) 58907902-Goggles, Cover-all, For general use. Soft clear PVC frame, adjustable headband and clear polycarbonate lens.(BDH Cat. No. 222/0774/00) 58907903-Goggles, Super Cover - all, A front polycarbonate clear lens and rear non-fog acetate lens with a clear PVC housing and adjustable headband for increased safety and excellent visibility. Fits comfortably over most spectacles, with recesses so that the side arms do not interfere with the fit of the goggle and ensures a 6mm gap between goggle and spectacle lens. (BDH Cat. No. 222/0775/00) 58907904-Goggles, Classic, Fit comfortably over most prescription spectacles and nose bridge work well with respirators, Frosted top to reduce glare, high-quality, easily adjustable headband. Optically correct lens, does not distort view. (BDH Cat.No. 222/0817/00) 58907905-Goggles, Cover-all, For general use. Soft clear PVC frame, adjustable headband and clear polycarbonate lens.(BDH Cat. No. 222/0774/00) 58907906-Goggles, Super Cover - all, A front polycarbonate clear lens and rear non-fog acetate lens with a clear PVC housing and adjustable headband for increased safety and excellent visibility. Fits comfortably over most spectacles, with recesses so that the side arms do not interfere with the fit of the goggle and ensures a 6mm gap between goggle and spectacle lens. (BDH Cat. No. 222/0775/00) 58908001-Safety Spectacles, Laser Protection (BDH Cat. No. 222/0785/00).	12 56 4 12 16 5 6
DHS/RL/114SR/19	18.03.2021	02.30 P.M.	9756102701-Thermocouple to test autoclave - up to 500C 10/56607701-Anaerobic Jar (full assembly) 13/56609901-Goggles, super cover - all, A front polycarbonate clear lens and rear non-fog acetate lens with a clear PVC housing and adjustable headband for increased safety and excellent visibility. Fits comfortably over most spectacles, with recesses so that the side arms do not interfere with the fit of the goggle and ensures a 6mm gap between goggle and spectacle lens. (BDH Cat. No. 222/0775/00) 19/58915701-Lab-Tek chamber slides (glass sterile slides with 8 chambers with lid)	1 No. 1 No. 1 No. 108 Nos.
DHS/RL/115SR/19	18.03.2021	02.30 P.M.	01/50400209-EDTA Vacutainer Blood collecting glass tube with purple cap with rubber lid K2 is 2ml - 2.5ml Packing: 1 No. x 500 packs	4,000,000 Nos.

SURGICAL SPECIAL ITEMS

Tender No.	Closing Date	Closing Time	Item	Quantity
DHS/RSS/RQ/47/21	26.03.2021	2.00 p.m.	Implant set for Total Hip Replacement - cemented & Trabecular Metal Implant	Pls. refer RQ item list
DHS/RSS/RQ/48/21	26.03.2021	2.00 p.m.	Guidewire in various sizes	Pls. refer RQ item list
DHS/RSS/RQ/49/21	26.03.2021	2.00 p.m.	Double Lumen Coronary Guiding Catheter & Coronary Guiding Catheter	Pls. refer RQ item list
DHS/RSS/RQ/114/20	26.03.2021	2.00 p.m.	Peritoneal Dialysis Catheter, curl cath, 2 cuffs, 67 cm length (compatible with CAPD transfer set)	40 Nos.

Bids should be prepared as per the particulars given in the Bidding documents available at the Head Office of State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1.

Wherever necessary potential Bidder/Bidders should get registered in terms of the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 before collecting the Bid Documents and also should get the contract registered after the award.

CHAIRMAN - PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE
STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA
75, SIR BARON JAYATILLAKE MAWATHA,
COLOMBO 1, SRI LANKA.

FAX : 00 94-11-2335008 / 2344082
TELEPHONE : 00 94-11-2335008 / 2326227 / 2335374
E-MAIL : mgrsurgical@spc.lk

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INVITATION FOR BIDS



PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES FOR THE SRI LANKA AIR FORCE

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee of the Sri Lanka Air Force invites sealed Bids from eligible bidders for the following services:

S No	Procurement Identification Number	Description	Date and time of Bid closing / opening	Non Refundable Fee (Rs.)
01	AHQ/21/PUB/MED/1001	a. Procurement of Coronary Angiogram services. (on Annual rate approval basis for the year 2021) b. Procurement of CT-Cardiac Angiogram. (on Annual rate approval basis for the year 2021)	29 th March 2021 at 1030 Hrs	2,000.00
02	AHQ/21/PUB/D/1001	Procurement of inspection and cleaning services of Fuel Tanks at SLAF Bases and Stations.	29 th March 2021 at 1030 Hrs	2,000.00

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure and tender mentioned in Ser No 01 of para 01 is subjected to two envelop method.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English could be inspected by the prospective bidders from the Sri Lanka Air Force website www.airforce.lk and may be purchased from the Procurement Division (Tender Section) during 1000 hrs to 1400 hrs on any working day from 08th March 2021 to 26th March 2021 upon payment of the above non-refundable fee to the Shroff at Sri Lanka Air Force Station Colombo. The bids without the receipt of the payment will not be accepted.
- The sealed bids in duplicate, shall be addressed to "The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee and may either be dispatched by registered post or deposited in the Tender Box at the Main Guardroom well before the closing time. Late bids will not be accepted. Bids will be opened soon after closing of the bids. Bidders or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening the bids, upon presentation of their National Identity Card and letters of authorization from their employers. No bidder or his representative will be permitted to attend the bid opening after the bid closing time.
- The required services are specified in the "Activity Schedule" of the bidding document and the applicable rates shall be indicated for each item listed therein. The offered rates shall not be subjected to variation on any account.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Chief Procurement Officer (Tel. 011-2325468 Extension 23550) or Procurement Officer Tenders (Tel. 011-2441553 or 011-2441044 Extension 23569 Fax: 011- 2441553 and 011-2347694).
- The address referred to above is:

The Chairman
Departmental Procurement Committee
Sri Lanka Air Force
Air Force Headquarters
P.O. Box 1592
Colombo 02.

COMMANDER OF THE AIR FORCE



Ministry of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol

Supplier Registration -2021/2022

Applications are invited from suppliers, distributors and corporations willing to register with the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol for the purpose of providing the following goods and services for one year time period (1st of April 2021- 31st March 2022).

A Supply

01. Stationery (A) Photocopying Paper, Duplicate Paper, Fax Machine Paper, Computer Paper, Stencil, CR Books, File Envelopes, Attachment Sheets, Sophists, All Pens, Book Binding Materials (B) CD, toner type, cartridge, ink, master roll. (C) Various envelopes (D) Supplying Daily Newspapers 02. Office Equipment (A) Calculators, mobile phones and accessories, fax machines, photocopiers, duplicate machines, header projections, multimedia projections, etc. (B) Computers and accessories, Computer printers, Scanners, Computer software, Pen drives, Network cables, etc (C) Baggages, Executive Bags (D) To manufacture and supply block seals and rubber seals date seals. (E) Thread Attachments, Panzers (F) Box Files, Magazine Folders 03. Office Supplies (A) Furniture and steel goods (B) Computer tables and chairs (C) Fiberglass and Plastic Goods (D) Glass Pads (E) Electronic goods	04. Healthcare products (A) Various soaps and washing powder (B) Vehicle Dust Removal Liquid, Serviette Papers, Paper Plates, Air Freshener 05. Auto Parts (A) Tire tubes and collars (B) Batteries for vehicles 06. Electrical appliances and electronic items (A) Fans, electric kettles, boilers, multipurpose torches, dry cells (B) Integrated fluorescent lamps, filament lamps, CFLs and LED bulbs (C) Other electrical and mechanical maintenance tools (D) Communication equipment 07. Maintenance Equipment (A) Electrical and telephone wiring accessories (B) Nails, testers, screwdrivers etc. 08. Printing photo items (A) Cameras and Camera Accessories, Camera Batteries, etc. (B) DVD / CD
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B Services

- Repairing, polishing and coloring of office goods, steel cupboards, cupboards, tables, computer chairs etc.
- Repair of duplicate machines, fax machines, photocopiers, cameras, electrical kits and computer equipment.
- Construction, Office Maintenance, etc.
- All Printing
- Catering / snacks
- Supply of water bottles
- Vehicle Supply, Vehicle Repair, Vehicle Service, Auto Mechanical
- Short Drama Creation, Video Recording, Photo Cameras
- Translation, Graphic Designing, Website Design
- CD / DVD writing
- Design and supply of souvenirs
- Design and supply of Exhibition Materials
- LED Backdrops and Sounds

General Matters

Suppliers who wish to register for the year 2021/2022 to submit the above goods and services must submit their applications per item. These applications are issued for Rs.1,000/- non-refundable charge and sent to the office of the address given below from 08/03/2021-29/03/2021 during 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (except Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays)

Completed applications are marked "2021/2022 Suppliers / Services Registration" at the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

Chairman,
National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol,
11th Floor A, Sethsiripaya Second Stage,
Battaramulla.

Completed applications must be sent by registered mail on or before 29/03/2021 before 3.00 pm. Alternatively, can be handed over to the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol office at Sethsiripaya. All the applicants should submit the following documents with the application.

- A copy of the Business Name Registration Certificate.
- Receipt issued by the Authority for the payment of the registration fee. (Original).

Incomplete applications and applications received after the due date will be rejected.

Quotations are invited from registered suppliers and the Chairman of the Authority has the right to request quotations from unrecognized/recognized institutions.

At the time of request, the supplier, who does not make a bid but does not deliver the goods in time for the order, will be struck off the name list of supplies without any notice.

Chairman,
National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol,
11th Floor A, Sethsiripaya Second Stage,
Battaramulla.

Tel: 011-2187140 Fax: 011-2186024



JOBS
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විශේෂ රැකියා අතිරේකය දෙසැම්බර් 6 වනදා සිට



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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Opportunity exists to invest in a well-managed Licensed Finance Institution and become the Majority Shareholder.

The Company is one of the oldest in the Non-Banking Finance Institutions sector and possesses best of processes and systems with no debt obligations.

Please submit your contact details to mslr@slt.net.lk within 07 days of this advertisement quoting **MSL Ref. No 7589** in the subject line of your e-mail.



No: 08 Tickell Road, Colombo 08.
mslr@slt.net.lk
www.bposrilanka.com

VEHICLES FOR SALE

KADAWATHA VEHICLE YARD

THREE WHEEL

AAB-68XX	AAO-31XX	JZ-52XX	QQ-25XX	QW-69XX	YC-45XX	YQ-13XX
AAE-86XX	AAP-87XX	QE-56XX	QQ-32XX	QW-69XX	YD-36XX	YT-58XX
AAE-89XX	AAQ-84XX	QF-11XX	QR-68XX	QX-26XX	YE-18XX	YW-50XX
AAF-94XX	AAR-78XX	QF-20XX	QT-30XX	QX-46XX	YG-72XX	YX-50XX
AAH-32XX	AAJ-71XX	QJ-70XX	QT-82XX	QX-56XX	YH-41XX	YX-99XX
AAJ-43XX	AAK-35XX	QK-53XX	QT-90XX	QX-72XX	YL-74XX	YY-08XX
AAK-00XX	AAZ-65XX	QK-57XX	QT-93XX	QZ-80XX	YM-12XX	YY-55XX
AAK-14XX	ABA-09XX	QL-73XX	QV-87XX	YA-00XX	YO-14XX	YZ-31XX
AAL-64XX	ABD-20XX	QL-82XX	QW-10XX	YA-73XX	YO-79XX	YZ-69XX
AAN-15XX	ABH-12XX	QM-39XX	QW-57XX	YB-11XX	YP-35XX	

OTHER VEHICLES

VEHICLE NO	MODEL	MAKE	VEHICLE NO	MODEL	MAKE
BET-59XX	DEMARK	MOTOR CYCLE	BIY-14XX	TVS	MOTOR CYCLE
BHV-23XX	HERO	MOTOR CYCLE	BHI-19XX	APACHE	MOTOR CYCLE
BHW-28XX	SUZUKI	MOTOR CYCLE	DAF-62XX	FORTON	MOTOR LORRY
BIA-53XX	HONDA	MOTOR CYCLE	PV-00XX	MAHINDRA	DUAL PURPOSE
BIF-91XX	HERO	MOTOR CYCLE			

HORANA VEHICLE YARD

THREE WHEEL

AAA-55XX	AAJ-74XX	AAZ-32XX	QM-54XX	QV-79XX	YF-85XX	YQ-29XX
AAB-60XX	AAK-16XX	ABG-81XX	QM-65XX	QW-59XX	YI-24XX	YY-64XX
AAD-07XX	AAP-27XX	QA-18XX	QO-68XX	QW-72XX	YI-41XX	YY-15XX
AAE-78XX	AAP-64XX	QB-39XX	QS-98XX	QZ-66XX	YK-25XX	YY-96XX
AAF-02XX	AAR-16XX	QL-61XX	QU-40XX	QZ-78XX	YK-58XX	YZ-19XX
AAG-61XX	AAU-17XX	QL-73XX	QV-20XX	QZ-88XX	YM-77XX	YT-96XX
AAI-93XX	AAV-37XX	QM-37XX	QV-27XX	YB-01XX	YO-45XX	QZ-99XX

OTHER VEHICLES

VEHICLE NO	MODEL	MAKE	VEHICLE NO	MODEL	MAKE
BIC-64XX	BAJAJ	MOTOR CYCLE	BIJ-18XX	MAHINDRA	MOTOR CYCLE
BIF-21XX	HONDA	MOTOR CYCLE	BIL-38XX	HERO	MOTOR CYCLE
			13SRI78XX	MAHINDRA	MOTOR CAR

KULIYAPITIYA VEHICLE YARD

THREE WHEEL

AAG-37XX	AAL-81XX	AAZ-62XX	QL-56XX	QU-18XX	QZ-29XX	YS-18XX
AAH-65XX	AAW-56XX	ABF-99XX	QN-36XX	QZ-10XX	YQ-25XX	YS-29XX
				QZ-11XX	YQ-37XX	YY-85XX

OTHER VEHICLES

VEHICLE NO	MODEL	MAKE	VEHICLE NO	MODEL	MAKE
LN-69XX	ISUZU	MOTOR LORRY			

ANURADHAPURA VEHICLE YARD

THREE WHEEL

AAD-70XX	AAZ-20XX	QE-62XX	QO-46XX	QO-51XX	YE-44XX	YU-55XX
AAH-36XX	AAZ-58XX	QL-95XX	QQ-81XX	QV-66XX	YK-81XX	YU-74XX
AAN-08XX	ABA-28XX	QN-31XX	QP-09XX	QW-80XX	YU-52XX	YY-23XX
						AAA-95XX

OTHER VEHICLES

VEHICLE NO	MODEL	MAKE	VEHICLE NO	MODEL	MAKE
BGY-79XX	BAJAJ	MOTOR CYCLE	BHA-91XX	GIXXER	MOTOR CYCLE
BGN-72XX	HONDA	MOTOR CYCLE	BGZ-02XX	HERO	MOTOR CYCLE
BHI-64XX	HERO	MOTOR CYCLE	BHD-98XX	HONDA	MOTOR CYCLE
			227-92XX	TOYOTA	MOTOR LORRY

NITTAMBUWA VEHICLE YARD

THREE WHEEL

AAD-76XX	AAT-50XX	QG-19XX	QR-51XX	QV-46XX	YD-57XX	YW-21XX
AAE-56XX	AAT-95XX	QJ-31XX	QS-99XX	QW-06XX	YJ-13XX	YY-46XX
AAF-95XX	AAV-15XX	QM-46XX	QT-47XX	YQ-17XX	YQ-85XX	YY-87XX
AAJ-76XX	ABD-78XX	QN-95XX	QT-66XX	QX-18XX	YR-98XX	YY-98XX
AAP-91XX	ABE-19XX	QQ-12XX	QV-24XX	QZ-35XX	YS-01XX	YZ-98XX
AAT-07XX	ABG-68XX	QQ-77XX	QV-39XX	QZ-85XX	YV-33XX	HH-03XX
						YE-64XX

OTHER VEHICLES

VEHICLE NO	MODEL	MAKE	VEHICLE NO	MODEL	MAKE
BGX-07XX	SALUTO	MOTOR CYCLE	BHP-34XX	APACHE	MOTOR CYCLE

VEHICLE INSPECTION
 Kadawatha Vehicle Yard. No. 125/F, Ragama Road, Kadawatha.
 Horana Vehicle Yard. No. 166, Anguruwathota Road, Horana.
 Kuliyaipitiya Vehicle Yard. No. 259, Madampe Road, Kuliyaipitiya.
 Anuradhapura Vehicle Yard. Chanaal 05, Kurunegala Road, Rathmale, Shrawasthipura.
 Nittambuwa Yard. No.655, Jayasooriya Mawatha, Nittambuwa.

08th, 09th, 10th and 11th March 2021 between 10.00 am and 04.00 pm at the above address. Tenders will close at 04.00 pm on 11th March 2021.

Tender forms could be obtained from Kuliyaipitiya, Anuradhapura, Nittambuwa, Mahara & Horana CDB Branches. Non-refundable payment of Rs.250.00

Successful bidders will be informed by telephone, and within 7 days from such notification the full amount must be paid as well as vehicle must be removed from our premises. Company reserves the right to withdraw any vehicle from the sale without assigning any reason for it. Bidders have to accept the vehicle in the present condition it is, and it is the relevant bidder's responsibility to settle any outstanding payments with regards to revenue license and other government taxes.

* The Company reserves the right to withdraw any vehicle from the sale without prior notice.

CITIZENS DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS FINANCE PLC

No. 125/F, Ragama Road, Kadawatha.
 Tel: 0112 920 665 / 0112 925 044 / 034-22 66 244 / 025-205 26 32

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Department of Social Welfare, Probation and Childcare Services - Southern Province

SUPPLYING OF NECESSARY EQUIPMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS - YEAR 2021

The Chairman of the Procurement Committee on behalf of Department of Social Services - Southern Province which is located at Galle District Secretariat Building, now invites bids for supplying of equipment as described below to be distributed for the individuals with special needs for the year 2021.

Category	Quantity
1. Spectacles	To be purchased according to the requirement throughout the year
2. Folding wheelchairs (Ordinary / with commode)	
3. Paediatric wheelchairs (Ordinary)	
4. Elbow crutches	
5. Crutches	
6. Elderly walking frames	
7. Paediatric posterior walkers	
8. Adult tricycles	
9. Paediatric standing frames	

- Bid documents can be obtained from March 08, 2021, to March 26, 2021, during weekdays (exclusive of public holidays) between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. via payment of a nominal fee worth 1,000/- LKR upon a written request at the Accountant of the Department of Social Services - Southern Province. All the bid documents are in the Sinhala language.
- Separate applications should be submitted for each aforementioned equipment and the specifications and conditions of these equipment will be provided along with the bid documents.
- Enclosed bid documents must be delivered either by registered post or deposited in the tender box kept at the Accountant's room of the Social Services Department of Southern Province before March 29, 2021, at 10 a.m.
- All bids shall be accompanied by an unconditional bid-security bond of 10,000/- LKR in favour of the Social Services Commissioner of Southern Province obtained from a licensed commercial bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, valid till June 30, 2021.
- Bid opening will take place on March 29, 2021, at 10.30 a.m. and bidders or their representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of bid opening. Late bids will not be entertained.
- For more information, please contact 091-4936724.
- Final decision rests with the Procurement Committee.

Mahesh Rajitha Karunanayake
 Provincial Commissioner
 March 03, 2021

Address - Department of Social Welfare, Probation and Childcare Services - Southern Province, Fifth Floor, District Secretariat Building, Galle.

Replies to Classifieds

&

Casual Advertisements published C/o the

Daily News

should only be sent by ordinary post.

Replies sent under registered cover will not be accepted.

TENDER NOTICE

PLENTY FOODS (PVT) LTD.

Sealed Tenders are invited for supply of following items from companies or any other interested parties.

Category		Quantity
Seeds	Hybrid maize seeds	1500 kg
Weedicide	Topramezone 336 g/L SC	15 L
	Metribuzin 70% WP/WG	2050 kg
	Nicosulfuron 40 g/L OD	150 L
	Pretilachlor 300 g/L EC	30 L
Inoculants	Rhizobium inoculant 250 g	1405.25 kg
Fungicide	Captan 50% WP	28 kg
	Thiram 80% WP	28 kg
Insecticide	Novaluron 100g/L SC	1025 L
	Chloranthraniliprole 200 g/kg + Thiomethoxam 200 g/kg WG	225 kg
	Thiamethoxam 70% WP	300 g
	Fipronil 0.3% WG	150 kg
	Carbosulfan 200g/L SC	2250 L
	Spinotram 25% WG	225 kg
Fertilizer	Albert solution foliar spray	5625 L
Traps	Pheromone trap for FAW	600 nos
Polysack Bags	60 x 100 cm (850 Denier)	100000
	50 x 80 cm (750 Denier)	15000
	50 x 75 cm (750 Denier)	5000
	40 x 60 cm	5000
Lino Net Bags	65 x 90 cm	10000
Polythiene	22" - 300G	100 kg
Sanel		2000 kg
Bag Closer Thread cone		2000 Nos

Those who are interested may visit Plenty Foods (Pvt.) Limited, Pallekelle Office complex and insert your tender application(s) during office hours on or before March 14, 2021.

Plenty Foods Private Limited
 Janasavigama, Pallekelle.
 Telephone: 0815004400, 0812420230
 Fax: 081 - 2423427

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BOGAWANTALAWA TEA ESTATES PLC

REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR GOODS AND SERVICES

Applications are hereby called from reputed Suppliers/ Manufacturers/ Local Agents/ Contractors / service providers who wish to register themselves to provide goods and services for our estates located at Bogawantalawa, Hatton / Dickoya, Deraniyagala Regions and Colombo for the year 2021.

Application Forms can be collected upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rs.500.00 from following locations,

1. Administration Division, No. 153, Nawala Road, Narahenpita
2. Norwood Estate, Norwood.
3. Kotiyagalla Estate, Bogawantalawa
4. Anhettigama Estate, Deraniyagala

Completed Applications should be sent under registered cover to reach the Chairperson, Procurement Committee, Bogawantalawa Tea Estates PLC, No. 153, Nawala Road, Narahenpita on or before 31st of March 2021. Please mark "Registration of Suppliers" on the top left hand corner of the envelope. If registration is sought for more than one item of supply as mentioned above, separate applications for each such item to be sent, under one cover.

For more information, call : 0112 510 000

PUBLIC NOTICE



Mr D M Sameera P Dasanayake
NIC 860470136V

This is to notify the general public that Mr D M Sameera P Dasanayake is no longer employed with Royal Ceramics Lanka PLC, Nawala Projects Division. Please note that Royal Ceramics Lanka PLC will not be responsible for any transactions conducted by him.



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Sunday Observer



- Auto Focus



- Vehicle Rent / Wanted

ADZ Magazine Issued with Sunday Observer



- Photo Classifieds

Hot Line - 011 2 429 369 / 011 2 429 368
E-mail - adzsuo@gmail.com

AMENDMENT FOR THE INVITATION FOR BIDS



PROCUREMENT OF GOODS FOR THE SRI LANKA AIR FORCE

1. This is with reference to the Procurement notice published in Silumina and Sunday Observer Newspapers on 14th February 2021 and Dinamina and Daily News Newspapers on 17th February 2021, the closing date of the invitation for bids has been amended as follows:

Procurement Identification Number	Description	Date and time of Bid closing / opening	
		Initial	Amended
AHQ/21/PUB/CLO/1002	Purchase of jogging shoes for Airmen and Airwomen	8 th March 2021 at 1030 HRS	22 nd March 2021 at 1030 HRS

2. Last date of issuing of bids will be 19th March 2021. (This date is valid for the last date of issuing of bids indicated in the paragraph 02 of the advertisement published on 05th March 2021 in Dinamina and Dailynews Newspapers)
3. All other details in the notice referred in above Para 01 will remain unchanged.
4. Interested eligible bidder may obtain further information from the Chief Procurement Officer (Tel: 011 2325468 or 011 2441044, Extension 23550) or Procurement Officer Tenders (Tel: 011 2441553 or 011 2441044 extension 23569, Fax: 011 2441553 and 011 2347694).

Air force headquarters
P.O. Box 1592
Colombo 02

COMMANDER OF THE AIR FORCE

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PROCUREMENT NOTICE - GLOBAL

STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

The Chairman, Procurement Committee of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka will receive sealed bids for supply of following items to the Department of Health Services for year 2021.

Bid Number	Closing Date & Time	Item Description	Date of Issue of Bid Documents From	Non Refundable Bid Fee
DHS/P/WW/667/20	20.04.2021 At 9.00 a.m.	37,500 Ampoules of Pralidoxime Chloride Injection 1g/20ml	08.03.2021	Rs. 3,000/= + Taxes

Bids should be prepared as per particulars given in the Bidding Documents available to prospective bidders on working days between 0930 hours and 1500 hours at the Head Office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, No.75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1. These could be purchased on cash payment of a **non-refundable Bidding document Fee per set as mentioned above**. Offers received without enclosing original payment receipt are liable to be rejected.

Wherever applicable potential bidder/bidders should get registered in terms of the Public Contract Act No.3 of 1987 before collecting the Bid Documents and also should get the contract registered after the tender is awarded.

All Bids should be accompanied by a Bid Bond as specified in the Bidding Documents.

Sealed Bids may be sent by post under registered cover or may be personally deposited in the box available for this purpose at Internal Audit Department in Mezzanine Floor of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka.

Bids will be closed at the Head office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation on the dates and time mentioned above and will be opened immediately thereafter.

Bidders or their authorised representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

Bidding Documents are being sent to Sri Lanka Missions abroad and foreign Missions in Sri Lanka.

CHAIRMAN - DEPARTMENTAL PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE
STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA
75, SIR BARON JAYATILLAKE MAWATHA,
COLOMBO 1, SRI LANKA.

FAX : 00 94-11-2344082
TELEPHONE : 00 94-11-2326227 / 94-11-2335374
E-MAIL : pharma.manager@spc.lk



UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Preserving Examination Records in Electronic Mode
Photographic Coverage – General and Postgraduate Convocations

The Chairman of the Department of Procurement Committee (Major / Minor), University of Colombo, Colombo 03 invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the above services

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bid Number / Item Description	Bid Closing Date & Time	Place of the Purchase Bid Documents / T.P. Numbers	Non - Refundable Fee (Rs.)	Value of the Bid Security (Rs.)	Source of Funding	Cost Estimate (Rs.)
SAB/SUP/NCB/2020/08 Preserving Examination Records in Electronic Mode for the University of Colombo	01 st April 2021 2.30 p.m.	Supply Division University of Colombo Senior Assistant Bursar T.P. 0112-055948 / 0112-503394	1,500.00	10,000.00	Treasury Funds	1,300,000.00
SAB/SUP/NCB/2021/03 Photographic Coverage – General and Postgraduate Convocation - 2019, University of Colombo	25 th March 2021 2.30 p.m.	Supply Division University of Colombo Senior Assistant Bursar T.P. 0112-055948 / 0112-503394	1,000.00	-	-	-

1. A complete set of bidding documents in English language could be purchased by interested bidders upon submission of a written request upon a payment of a non-refundable fee mentioned in column 04 of the above table for each set of bid documents during the office hours (9.00 a.m to 3.30 p.m. on any working day) till the day prior to the bid closing date. The method of payment will be only by bank deposit to the University of Colombo to the any branch of the People's Bank using the reference number 505170600013.
2. The bids shall be deposited in the "Tender Box" available in the Registrar's Office of the University of Colombo or sent under the registered post to be received before the deadline to reach "The Chairman Procurement Committee, College House, University of Colombo, No: 94, Cumarathunga Munidasa Mawatha, Colombo - 03". Bids will be opened immediately after the bid closing time and date as indicated in column number 02, in the presence of Bidders and their authorized representatives. Late Bids will be rejected.
3. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents from place mentioned in the column 03 of the above table from 9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m free of charge or by accessing the University website <http://www.cmb.ac.lk> to inspect the document.

The Chairman
Department Procurement Committee
University of Colombo
94, Cumarathunga Munidasa Mawatha,
Colombo - 03