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SRI LANKA'S ENGLISH NEWSPAPER WITH THE LARGEST CIRCULATION

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NO INTENTION TO SWEEP INCIDENT UNDER THE CARPET

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HANDAGAMA RETURNS TO THEATRE WITH A DEATH AT AN ANTIQUE SHOP



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COMMITTEE TO STUDY PCOI REPORT

Fourteen-day extension sought to submit findings

By Uditha Kumarasinghe

The six-member ministerial committee appointed to study the final report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) that probed the Easter Sunday attacks has sought an extension of 14 days to submit its findings considering the sensitivities and complexities in the issue.

“Earlier, the committee was scheduled to submit its report on March 15. However, we want to study the PCoI recommendations in depth due to the sensitivities and complexities before arriving at a final conclusion. That is why we decided to seek ...



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Actress Corinne protests naked at 'French Oscars' ceremony

PARIS, March 13. (BBC) - A French actress protested naked at a César Awards dominated by demands the Government do more to support culture during the coronavirus pandemic.

Corinne Masiero, 57, wore a donkey costume over a blood-stained dress before stripping on stage at France's equivalent of the Oscars. Cinemas have been shut in France for more than three months. The best film award at the ceremony went to Albert Dupontel's dark comedy Adieu Les Cons (Goodbye Morons). The film which...

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“LEVEL ACCUSATIONS, BUT WITH CORRECT INFORMATION”
OPPOSITION SHOULD NOT MISLEAD PUBLIC - President

By Uditha Kumarasinghe

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said the Opposition can level accusations, but with factually correct information. They should not divulge false information to mislead the public and that is not what we expect from politicians.

The President was addressing the 14th “Discussion with the Village” program at Galagoda, Galle yesterday. The President said that an Opposition MP had told a public gathering that it was myself, Sri Lanka Podujana Perumana (SLPP)

National Organiser, former Minister Basil Rajapaksa and Avant Garde Chairman Nissanka Senadhipathi who were behind the Easter Sunday attacks. “Therefore, I instructed the CID to summon the MP and obtain all the information that is available with him regarding that. Otherwise, hiding the information is some sort of criminal act,” he said.

However, when the MP was questioned by the CID, he had said that he had fainted and was unconscious and was not aware of such information. That is how

they give false and unknown information to mislead the people. If we didn't question that false information given by the Opposition MP, it would have been in the public domain.

President Rajapaksa said the Opposition always levels such baseless allegations. Actually, the Easter Sunday carnage is not an issue which can be looked at from a political perspective. This is an issue of national importance.

If the Opposition levels such baseless allegations in a national issue like this, the people can

imagine how they would complain about other issues.

A group of parliamentarians from the SLPP subsequently filed a complaint with the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) against the comments by MP Ashok Abeysinghe.

The CID on Thursday recorded a statement from SJB parliamentarian Ashok Abeysinghe for almost five hours regarding the controversial speech he had made pertaining to the Easter Sunday terror attacks and about the people involved in it.



Maha Sivaratri, the annual Hindu festival held in honour of God Siva was celebrated by Tamils, the world over on Thursday. The name also refers to the night when Siva performed the heavenly dance. Maha Sivaratri is very significant for those on the spiritual path. People observe Maha Sivaratri as Siva's wedding anniversary. Here devotees observe rituals at the Ganadevi Kovil in Sella Kataragama. Pic: Sulochana Gamage in Kataragama

QUARANTINE FOR LANKAN SEAFARERS

NUSS chief calls for a re-think, fears job losses

By Leon Berenger

An international maritime trade union yesterday appealed to the Government to have a re-think on the mandatory quarantine for Sri Lankan Seafarers who return to the country since it has threatened future jobs in the sector. Foreign shipping companies have stopped re-

cruitment of Sri Lankan Seafarers since they do not wish to pay for the quarantine process cost which is around Rs. 200,000 per person, President of the National Union of Seafarers Sri Lanka (NUSS) Palitha Atukorale said.

Sri Lankan Seafarers returning to the country are told to enter paid quarantine centres at selected...

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MOVES UNDER WAY TO CLOSE OVER 1,000 MADRASAS

Government bans burqa

By Aanya Wipulasena

The burqa was yesterday banned by the Government after a Cabinet paper was signed by the Minister of Public Security, Rear Admiral (Rtd) Sarath Weerasekara on Friday.

He said this step was taken because the burqa was posing a direct threat to national security. He said while he was growing up he had Muslim friends and ‘none of them wore a burqa’.

“It is a symbol of religious

extremism that came into the country recently. Therefore, we are banning it (the burqa),” Minister Weerasekara told a gathering in Munasinghe Aramaya in Kalutara yesterday.

He added that there are over 2,000 Madrasas in the country and this was problematic as no one can arbitrarily open a school and teach what they desire to students. He said all children aged between five and 16 years should be taught under the national ...

SEE PAGE 2

LAW TO BE AMENDED

PC polls by year's end?

By Manjula Fernando

Plans are under way to overcome obstacles related to the Provincial Councils Act and hold the long overdue Provincial Council Election under a mixed system by the end of the year.

A senior official of the Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government Ministry said the existing law will be amended shortly to make way to hold the election.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has called upon the relevant offi-

cial to expedite the process to the election, after meeting SLPP Provincial Councillors at the Presidential Secretariat on Friday afternoon.

A program to bring in a new system of election adopted by the previous Government was abandoned midway leading to a three-year delay in holding the election.

According to the existing law, amended by the last Government, the elections cannot be held under the old system. Therefore, the Ministry is planning to bring in a new amendment to facilitate early elections to...

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SRI LANKA'S FLAG ON CHINA DOORMATS

Embassy takes up matter with Beijing

ADVERT REMOVED FROM WEBSITE

By Aanya Wipulasena

The Sri Lankan Embassy in Beijing is closely monitoring the developments regarding the use of the national flag on doormats by a Chinese-based company and advertised online. The Sri Lankan mission in a media release stat-

ed that the matter has already been taken up with the relevant authorities in Beijing to stop the production and sale of any product that has the image of Sri Lanka's national flag.

The Sri Lankan Embassy was responding to the concerns raised by the Foreign Ministry about the sale of a doormat depicting the Sri Lankan flag and being sold on a social me-

dia site. “Immediately upon receiving the information, the Embassy informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China and requested it to take action to stop the production of doormats and any such products misusing the Sri Lankan flag.

“The company which marketed the product on Amazon was requested by letter from the Embassy to im-

mediately cease selling the doormats and any such products, misusing the Sri Lanka flag. The advertisement has since been removed from Amazon,” it said.

The advertisement of the non-slip doormat that was produced in China sparked concerns here while some local social media users said that it was an act of disrespect for a country.



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SLTMOBTEL The Connection

Lanka confined to limited fields of education - Ali Sabry

Justice Minister Ali Sabry, PC said that education has grown exponentially with modern technological approaches, yet Sri Lanka is still limited to the fields of medicine, law and engineering.

The Minister, who was the chief guest, was addressing the 24th graduation ceremony of the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT) on March 5.

Delivering the keynote speech, Minister Sabry said that education is not simply the transmission of knowledge from one generation to another, but an individual should be moulded to meet the social expectations while improving attitudes and skills needed to become a socially adjustable person.

The Minister said, "With the rapid spread of knowledge around the globe, modern technology and technological ap-

proaches have grown exponentially when compared to two decades ago, with companies such as Microsoft, Facebook, Google and Apple.

Although progress is being made through various modern methods, we are still sticking to the fields of medicine, law and engineering which can have long-term effects on our development."

The Minister said that the examination system hinders many talented people coming out and the real talented or excellent ones lose the opportunity in the written practice examination system.

Chancellor Prof. Lakshman Ratnayake, Vice Chancellor Prof. Lalith Gamage, Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Nimal Rajapaksa, Private Secretary to the Minister of Justice Janaka Ranatunga, Heads of Departments, directors and lecturers were also present.



At the 24th Graduation ceremony of the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT): (From left) Private Secretary to the Minister of Justice Janaka Ranatunga, Vice Chancellor of SLIIT Prof. Lalith Gamage, Justice Minister Ali Sabry PC and Chancellor of SLIIT Prof. Lakshman Ratnayake.

Actress Corinne protests... From page 1

depicts a desperate search by a seriously ill woman for her child, won seven Césars, including one for the best director. The best foreign film went to Denmark's Another Round, directed by Thomas Vinterberg, which shows a group of friends trying to improve their lives by maintaining a permanent level of alcohol in their blood. Masiero was invited to Friday's socially-distanced ceremony to present the award for the best costumes.

But she shocked those present in the concert hall by stripping naked on stage to reveal the message, "No culture, no future" written across her torso.

And appealing directly to French Prime Minister Jean Castex, Masiero had another slogan on her back which read, "Give us back art, Jean."

Other actors and directors made similar demands during the show.

"My children can go to Zara but not the cinema... it's incomprehensi-



ble," said Stephane Demoustier as he accepted a screenplay award, referring to a high street clothes chain.

Last December, hundreds of actors, theatre directors, musicians, film technicians and critics, and many others from the world of French culture protested in Paris and other cities against the Government's shutdown of culture venues.

NUSS chief... From page 1

...hotels set up for the purpose even though they wish to do otherwise such as self-quarantine at home, Atukorale said.

He added that Sri Lanka is the only country that requires its Seafarers to enter the stipulated 14-day quarantine for a fee and this has caused concern among global shipping companies and, therefore, they have opted to look elsewhere for such manpower.

"At present, there is an estimated active 18,000 Sri Lankan Seafarers who rake in a foreign exchange remittance of around Rs. 10 billion annually and this vital income is now under threat.

Therefore, we earnestly call upon the Government with the utmost urgency to have a re-think on the quarantine for Sri Lankan Seafarers if we are to save this vital sector.

It is suggested that if the quarantine period cannot be lifted altogether for seafarers then at least reduce the number of days or permit home quarantine as is the current practice in most other countries.

What is important here for both the NUSS and other stakeholders including the Government is the future safety of the job opportunities in this sector for Sri Lankan Seafarers', Atukorale said.

Fourteen-day extension... From page 1

...a two-week extension," Co-Cabinet Spokesman and Minister of Energy Udaya Gammanpila told the *Sunday Observer* yesterday.

The Minister who is also a member of the Committee said that it had already met on five occasions and had discussed the recommendations of the PCoI.

He said the main focus of the Committee is to evaluate the practicability of the implementation of the recommendations by the PCoI and the Parliament Sectorial Oversight Committee on National Security.

Minister Gammanpila said at present all 87 volumes of the PCoI report have been handed over to the Attorney General. Therefore, it is entirely up to the AG to decide on the legal action and there will be no political interference.

The Minister said the police through its investigations have identified 291 suspects and the AG will

take steps to file charges against them.

Thereafter, it is up to the court to decide whether they are found guilty or not and what kind of punishment should be imposed on them if they are convicted.

Chief Government Whip and Minister of Highways Johnston Fernando who is also a Committee member said it is not the mandate entrusted upon the Committee to punish the Easter Sunday culprits or provide instructions to the Attorney General.

He said the mandate of the Committee is to study the final report of the PCoI and provide guidelines to the relevant ministries to formulate fresh laws and amend some of the existing laws.

The PCoI presented its final report to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on February 1.

The Commission had recorded

evidence from 457 people over 214 days.

Among them were former President Maithripala Sirisena, former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, Defence Ministry Secretaries, top-level security and intelligence service personnel, as well as those affected by the deadly attacks.

Later, the President appointed a six-member ministerial Committee to study in depth the facts and recommendations on the course of action contained in the final report of the PCoI and the report of the Sectorial Oversight Committee on National Security which has been submitted to Parliament.

The six-member Committee headed by Minister Chamal Rajapaksa consists of Ministers Johnston Fernando, Udaya Gammanpila, Ramesh Pathirana, Prasanna Ranatunga and Rohitha Abeygunawardana.

Government bans burqa From page 1

...education policy. "We will take steps to ban more than 1,000 Madrasas that have not been registered under the national education policy," he added.

The burqa was banned temporarily

soon after the Easter Sunday attacks that killed over 250 people and injured some 500 others in 2019.

The ban was lifted after rights groups and the Muslim community voiced their concerns.

PC polls by year's end? From page 1

...appoint the members to the Councils which have been defunct.

The Uva Provincial Council was the last to end its term 18 months ago, according to the sources. A senior Election Department official said

the election is likely to be held under a mixed system and the 25 percent quota reserved for female candidates at the nominations will also remain. The official said they needed at least three months to prepare for the elec-

tion, especially, if it is to be held under a new system, which would require altering the format of the ballot paper and other related work. Therefore, he ruled out the possibility of holding the election in July.

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Travellers to Sri Lanka

Health Ministry mulls relaxing quarantine regulations

BY AANYA WIPULASENA

The Technical Committee of the Health Ministry will meet to discuss relaxing quarantine regulations for travellers to Sri Lanka, Primary Health Care, Epidemics and Covid-19 Disease Control State Minister Dr. Sudarshani Fernandopulle told the *Sunday Observer*.

She said the committee will have to weigh-in scientific information regarding vaccines before taking a decision.

"It is found that even though a vaccinated person is protected, he or she can spread the infection. They still have to wear masks and observe social distancing. We have also to consider information regarding new variants," Dr. Fernandopulle said, adding that the protection of Sri Lankans is the paramount interest of the Government.

Travellers to the country are required to undergo a mandatory 14-day quarantine at state-run quarantine centres or at paid facilities.

The process was, however, relaxed for diplomats, the staff of the United Nations and their family members. They can undergo home quarantine after getting prior approval from the Director General of Health and the Medical Officer of Health (MoH) who will give the approval after inspecting the arranged place of quarantining.

Director General of Health Services Dr. Asela Gunawardena said a mandatory 14-day home-quarantine is applicable only for the staff members and their accompanying parents, spouses and children arriving from overseas.

"They should abide by the strict home quarantine procedures recommended by the Health Ministry. Other family members in the same household need not undergo home quarantine," he said.

Army Commander General Shavendra Silva told the media that one of the possibilities the committee will be exploring is obtaining a vaccination report and a PCR taken within 48 hours before arrival.

Vaccination drive

According to statistics by the Epidemiology Unit of the Health Ministry, by March 11, 75,9548 people were given the Covid-19 vaccines since the drive commenced on January 29.

On March 7, the country received the first doses (264,000) from the World Health Organization's (WHO's) COVAX facility, which has pledged to provide doses to vaccinate 20 percent of the population that is 8.4 million doses. By May, 1,440,000 doses will arrive in the country.

COVAX is a global vaccine initiative co-led by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), funded by donations from governments, multilateral institutions and foundations; with UNICEF leading on procurement, logistics and storage globally in what will be the largest vaccine procurement and supply operation in history, a statement by the WHO stated.

Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi said, "Sri Lanka is one of the first countries to initiate vaccine roll out. We thank our partners for their contributions to protect our population against Covid-19 and for their continuous collaboration in strengthening the country's capacities and building a more resilient health system for better preparedness and response to future health emergencies."

The country also received free vaccine doses from India and China. The Government will purchase doses of the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine from the Serum Institute of India (SII).

New variants

As countries race to vaccinate their people against Covid-19, concerns have arose regarding its mutations and emergence of new variants.

The Allergy Immunology and Cell Biology Unit, Department of Immunology and Molecular Medicine, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, raised concerns about B.1.1.7 (the virus with UK lineage) which was detected in Sri Lanka. The variant is said to be more infectious than the other variants detected in the country.

During an interview, the World Health Organization's technical lead on Covid-19 and Infectious Disease Epidemiologist Dr Maria Van Kerkhove said protection against this is all about individual level measures, "physical distancing, hand hygiene, wearing a mask, respiratory etiquette, opening a window, avoiding crowded spaces, staying at home if you're unwell and making sure you get tested if needed".

The WHO is studying different variants. "The first is the B.1.1.7 that was first identified in the United Kingdom. The second is the B.1.351 that was first identified in South Africa. The third is the P.1, which was first circulating in Brazil, but it was identified among travellers arriving in Japan."

We are tracking changes in the virus and what this means in terms of transmission, severity and impact or potential impact on diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines.

"The information that we have is that there is increased transmissibility in the B.1.1.7 and the B.1.351 virus variants. This results from a mutation that allows this virus variant to bind to the human cell more easily. We do not see an increase yet in transmission with the P.1, but that is under investigation. In terms of severity, there are some studies from the United Kingdom that suggest that the B.1.1.7 has increased severity," she said.

Dr. Kerkhove added that the information they have gathered shows that the vaccines work against the new virus variants.

Tourism


The tourism sector is confident that the relaxing of quarantine measures as part of vaccination will encourage more tourists to the country. Borders were reopened for tourists on January 21 after nearly a year of closure that brought the tourism industry to a standstill.

In February, since the reopening, 3,366 tourists have arrived in the island, according to statistics by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA). The largest source markets were Kazakhstan, followed by Ukraine and Germany.

In February last year, 207,507 tourists arrived in the country and in March 71,370. Since then, the number of arrivals plunged as the Government closed all borders to keep Covid-19 at bay.

The Government has also started to vaccinate people attached to the tourism industry and investment sector following a request by Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga. This includes about 300,000 employees of the tourism sector.

ONE OF THE POSSIBILITIES THE COMMITTEE WILL BE EXPLORING IS OBTAINING A VACCINATION REPORT AND A PCR TAKEN WITHIN 48 HOURS BEFORE ARRIVAL



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EASTER SUNDAY TERROR ATTACKS

No intention to sweep incident under the carpet

- DR. SARATH WEERASEKERA

■ MOVES UNDER WAY TO BAN BURQUA AND MADRASAS

■ ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM ENDORSED IN CERTAIN TEXT BOOKS

By
Uditha
Kumarasinghe

Minister of Public Security Rear Admiral (Retired) Dr. Sarath Weerasekera said the Government will bring about the maximum punishment against the perpetrators of the Easter Sunday carnage in order to mete out justice for the innocent victims adding that the Government has no intention whatsoever to sweep this incident under the carpet.

The Minister in an interview with the Sunday Observer said President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has appointed a six-member ministerial Committee to get a thorough idea about the recommendations of Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) that probed the Easter Sunday attacks and prioritise those recommendations and then act accordingly. The Minister said the former Yahapalana Government couldn't prevent those eight terror attacks on Easter Sunday due to its lethargic attitude towards national security and lack of coordination which eventually led to weaken the national intelligence service to a great extent.

Excerpts

Q: Many groups have expressed their disappointment over the report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) that the probed Easter Sunday attacks and say the PCoI has failed to mention the masterminds behind the Easter bombings. Your comments?

A: The PCoI was appointed by former President Maithripala Sirisena during the last Yahapalana regime. They have conducted the inquiry and questioned the people and they have submitted the final report. Before that we have submitted eight comprehensive reports to the Attorney General (AG) with regard to the eight terror attacks that happened on Easter Sunday.

Those reports have given enough evidence about 32 people who were directly involved with the massacre and the conspiracy. The PCoI is an additional source for the AG to indict people. He doesn't go only by the report of the Presidential Commission. We respect that Commission and we also take notice of its recommendations but there are certain people who have not been included in the PCoI report whom we are going to

indict. So, the Presidential Commission is only an additional source for the AG to file cases against the culprits. We have already given files with regard to the eight incidents and now the AG is going to peruse all the evidence that is available with him and then file cases.

Q: If the PCoI has made recommendations on what action should be taken against those who have not taken necessary steps to prevent the Easter Sunday carnage despite prior warnings, it is problematic that it has not made recommendations on what action should be taken against those who planned and carried out the bombings. Would you like to comment on this?

A: That is up to the AG to file cases. As far as the Public Security Ministry and the Police are concerned, our duty is to feed the AG with all the materials that are required for him to indict the culprits which we have already done. The AG was waiting for the Presidential Commission report and he said there can be some fresh evidence. Now he is going to find out whether there is any fresh evidence or any contradictions in the evidence that are being given to the Police and the Commission. So, that is up to the AG now to file cases. We have already given him all that we have and we are continuing our investigations on certain other people. When we get some fresh evidence, we are going to feed the AG as required.

Q: Certain sections raise concern on the appointment of a six-member ministerial Committee to study on the final report of the PCoI. Actually, what led to appoint yet another Committee?

A: Now the PCoI report is out to the public. They know all the materials that are there in the PCoI report. The President appointed another Committee to study those recommendations and look into what are the recommendations that could be implemented immediately. The six-member Committee was appointed just to get a thorough idea about the PCoI recommendations and to prioritize the recommendations and then act accordingly. I think that is why they have appointed a special six-member Committee.

Q: Speaking during the debate in Parliament on the PCoI that probed the Easter Sunday attacks, SJB Parliamentarian Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka said seeking justice for the victims of the Easter Sunday attacks

has turned into a political slogan. Your views?

A: Sarath Fonseka is a disgrace to the Army. He was with the Yahapalana Government when all those incidents happened. When eight terror attacks occurred on Easter Sunday severely affecting national security, he just kept quiet. When the intelligence services were weakened and intelligence officers were remanded without any evidence, he remained silent. When the morale of the entire armed forces was degraded, Fonseka didn't utter a single word. Fonseka is also one of the main persons held responsible for those terror attacks because being a senior military officer, he kept quiet when all those suspicious incidents happened before the Easter Sunday attacks. The Easter Sunday attacks never occurred suddenly. There were a series of incidents before that which I have also elaborated in my speech in Parliament.

When all those suspicious events took place, what did Fonseka do? Now he is trying to find fault with us and that is ridiculous. As I mentioned earlier, Fonseka is a disgrace to the Army. Being a military officer, he never even guided the Government or expressed his views with regard to those prior incidents. He easily averted those terror attacks. Actually, the assassins were able to easily launch those multiple terror attacks on Easter Sunday as the intelligence services were completely inactivated, the morale of the security forces was destroyed, the CID was politicised and national security was reduced to zero by the Yahapalana Government.

Q: Minister Wimal Weerawansa said that a group of ruling party politicians are pondering a future political marriage with some Muslim Ministers of the Yahapalana Government and therefore an attempt is being made to prevent the exposure of the masterminds behind the Easter Sunday carnage. Would you like to elaborate?

A: I don't think there is any truth in that statement. Nobody can prevent indictments against culprits. That is entirely up to the AG. As I said before, we have already given the material available. We are not going to keep them with us.

However, some of the materials that are being exposed in the Presidential Commission with regard to national security, it is up to the President and his discretion whether to go public with it or not. But with

FACT-FILE

Rear Admiral Sarath Weerasekera

- ▶ **1951:** Born in Colombo to a reputed family in the South, Rear Admiral Sarath Weerasekera had his education at Nalanda College and Ananda College, Colombo and higher education at the University of Kelaniya
- ▶ **1971:** Joined Royal Ceylon Navy, as an Officer Training at Naval and Maritime Academy, Trincomalee. Specialised in naval gunnery at INS Dronachary, India. Retired from Navy in 2006. Appointed as the first Director General of the Civil Security Force
- ▶ **He was awarded the Rana Sura Padakkama, Vishista Seva Vibhushanaya and the Uttama Seva Padakkama for a long and distinguished service for Sri Lanka Navy**
- ▶ **2010:** Elected to Parliament from Ampara district under United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) and was Deputy Minister of Labour and Labour Relations
- ▶ **2020:** Re-elected to Parliament from Colombo District having contested under Sri Lanka Padujana Peramuna (SLPP) and securing the highest number of preferential votes, 328,095 from Colombo District
- ▶ **2020:** State Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government
- ▶ **November, 2020:** Minister of Public Security in the Cabinet of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Source: Internet, Graphic: Mahil Wijesinghe

regard to indict the people, we have now given almost all the materials that are required. So, nobody in the Government will go to prevent that. Why should we do that? Sarath Fonseka speaking in Parliament implied that we are now playing into the tune of the Muslim community. I told Parliament that I am going to ban the burqa within the next two to three weeks. We are also going to ban all Madrasa schools which have not adhered to the Government education policy. Will I ever do that if I am going to rely on these minority votes? That is why I say Sarath Fonseka is talking nonsense.

Q: Has any decision taken by the Government to ban Madrasa schools as speculated by the media?

A: I have already spoken to the Justice Minister and Muslim organisations. We agree in principle that all children aged five to sixteen have to get the education as per the education policy laid down by the Government. You and I can't open schools tomorrow and teach whatever we want to the children. Nobody can do that.

Even the pirivenas and the international schools, they teach the

bhikkhus and children as per the syllabus of the Government. After 16 years, if somebody wants to become a Moulavi, then he can learn only the religion.

However, up to 16 years, if the schools teach the religion and the language, it has to be done according to the Government education policy.

We are going to ban all the schools including Madrasa schools which are not adhered to that principle.

In addition, steps have already been taken to revise the contents related to Islamic fundamentalism in school textbooks. Certain syllabuses and text books from Year 1 to 13 refer to revolts against other religions and subtly incorporate the fundamentalist principles of Wahad and Salab in a way that is detrimental to religious harmony. Therefore, steps have to be taken to remove them from the syllabus.

Q: Have you made any request to ban the Burqua?

A: Yes. We have already taken up that issue. I am going to submit a Cabinet paper within the next few days regarding this. After that it would be taken up in Parliament.

Q: The Attorney General has directed the Inspector General of Police to conduct investigations on the import of swords, daggers and other such weapons to the country following the writ application filed by the Colombo Archbishop Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith. Could you explain?

A: Those swords were imported to the country in 2015 and not just before the Easter Sunday attacks. A few months before the attacks, they had brought 300 swords and distributed them among their people. That is for any attack against Sinhalese. Another 1,440 swords had been imported from China. The company which imported those swords didn't have any buyers and those swords had been given to many hardware stores. However, we are concerned about 300 swords bought by Ibrahim Brothers and given to the people in Slave Island, Kattankudy and Beruwala.

Q: Former Governor of the Western Province Azath Salley who spoke against changing separate laws told the media that they won't allow to change the Muslim law as demanded by certain sections. Your comments?

A: If Azath Salley wants to adhere to the Sharia law, he must go to a country where Sharia law is being implemented. He can't be in Sri Lanka and then promote Sharia law. He will be dealt with legally within the next few days. If Azath Salley is in Sri Lanka, he must adhere to the Sri Lankan law. There has to be one law in the country. This is one country and there should be one law. We can't have certain laws for the Muslims, Tamils and Sinhalese. All the people are equal in our country. In that case, all the people must respect one law in this country.

Q: Is there any confrontation among the constituent parties in the Government as some party leaders express some controversial remarks to the media?

A: We are a democratic party. In a democratic party, our coalition partners can freely express their views but there is no division in our broad political alliance. We have a very good understanding among all political parties but our leaders have given freedom to all the constituent parties to express their views freely. That is what they are doing but that doesn't mean there is a division in the SLPP led Government.

Let us have a goal of not celebrating a Women's Day

"WOMEN'S CHAINS HAVE BEEN FORGED BY MEN, NOT BY ANATOMY" – DR. ESTELLE R. RAMEY

By
Dr. Thilan U.
Hewage

It was in 1970 that Dr. Edgar Berman, physician to the 38th Vice President of the United States, Hubert Humphrey, told the Committee of National Priorities of the Democratic Party that women were unfit for leadership because of "raging hormonal imbalances". Among the furious women who reacted to this declaration was Dr. Estelle Ramey, a professor of physiology and biophysics at Georgetown University, who wrote a letter to the leaders of Democratic Party asking them to fire Dr. Berman from the committee.

Her efforts ended up in a nationally televised debate with Dr. Berman, which established her name as an authentic leader contradicting Dr. Berman's claim instantly in front of a live audience.

The world just celebrated "International Women's Day" on March 8 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". There were numerous celebrations in Sri Lanka also, some at ministries and other government insti-

tutions, universities and NGOs. Most, if not all, of these events were designed to showcase women's achievements despite all the constraints and to raise awareness about the hardships and all the discriminatory practices of today's society.

Some were aimed at teaching young girls and women about their rights and what they should do if they feel that any of their rights were violated. Those are the most common themes in such celebrations all over the world and they certainly create a significant impact on the society. All those efforts should be highly appreciated.

Main pillars

It probably would have been better if some of those events focused on the women's contribution to the country's economy in general and whether the main contributors are getting their due recognition and/or treated as they should have been treated. While the contribution of each and every citizen is important, those of women who send money back from other countries, while working as housemaids, those working in the apparel sector, estate workers and the family farmer should have been highlighted and admired much more, not just by words but by deed as well. The apparel industry is the number one exporter in the coun-



try and they would not have survived if not for the dedication of all the women employees who are the backbone of the industry.

We, as a nation, should be ashamed to say that our number one foreign exchange earner is the group of domestic helpers working in the Middle-Eastern countries. They are our mothers, daughters and in some cases even grandmothers who are going through all the hardships, including physical and sexual assaults, some even ending with death, in these foreign lands that are known to have no respect even for their own women.

Therefore, while we celebrate the high achieving females such as the first female DIG of Police, singers, actors, doctors, engineers, professors, judges, athletes and business women

of the country we should not forget the fact that one of the main supporters of those achievements is the economic condition of the country and the main pillars holding that economy up are the domestic aids in the Middle-East, employees in the apparel industry, the estate workers and the farmers.

Challenge

Most of us are aware of the 'International Women's Day', 'Father's Day', 'Mother's Day', 'Children's Day / Elders' Day' and even 'Valentine's Day' now in Sri Lanka but not so much about the 'International Girls' Day' (October 11), 'International Men's Day' (November 19) and 'International Boys' Day' (May 16). It may be worthwhile to think about the reasons why the celebrations of 'Inter-

national Men's Day' and 'International Boys' Day' are not as prominent in the world calendar and in the media as the Women's Day and/or the Girls' Day. Perhaps men and the boys feel that there is nothing much to celebrate because they didn't have to struggle or fight for their rights or their achievements since the social norms were already designed for them to reach those heights. May be there is not much money to make in the business world by promoting those days compared to Women's Day, Girls' day or the Valentine's Day. It probably is the time to start celebrating Men's Day and Boys' Day and think about what we can celebrate. If our mothers, sisters and daughters are still struggling to win their rights, get equal pay for the same jobs that we do and/or get the promotions that they deserve then, who are they struggling against?

They are struggling against men and the boys. That is why Dr. Ramey said that "Women's chains are forged by men, not by anatomy". Therefore, this year's theme for the Women's Day: "Choose to Challenge; a challenged world is an alert world and from challenge comes change" perhaps means that the male domination should be challenged. It would even be better if we can find out how a newborn baby boy becomes an adult male who could discriminate against women while revering his own mother as the most im-

portant woman in the world.

As the history shows, International Women's Day celebrations started in 1914 as a consequence of the women's movement started in 1908 in New York City. Though there have been remarkable achievements such as voting rights for women and shorter working hours in some places the world has a long way to go in recognising the negative effects of male domination. Therefore, it may not be a bad idea to start focusing on boys and men and do everything we can to make the boys understand the value of respecting girls and giving them the equal treatment in terms of their rights yet treat them even better than other boys because these girls are going to be mothers in just a few more years.

Perhaps, if we can make the man understand that every other mother, sister or daughter is like his own and treat them the way he would treat his own then, the women in the world will not have anything to challenge or fight against except their own kind.

Boys, girls, men and women can celebrate their achievements on days of their choices and make all the struggles, rallies, protests and marches on the Women's Day a thing of the past.

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

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No room for separatist terrorism or Islamic extremism under our Govt - President

The Government moved an Adjournment Motion in Parliament on Wednesday (March 10) on the report submitted by the Presidential Commission of inquiry (PCoI) that probed the Easter Sunday attacks.

The motion was moved by MP Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC and was seconded by MP Nalin Fernando. Commencing the debate, MP Weerasinghe said that every person responsible for the Easter Sunday attacks should be brought before justice despite their position or rank.

He said, "The report states that the former Yahapalana Government should be held responsible. I request the Prime Minister to forward this Commission's report to the Attorney General so that he can take legal action against all those responsible."

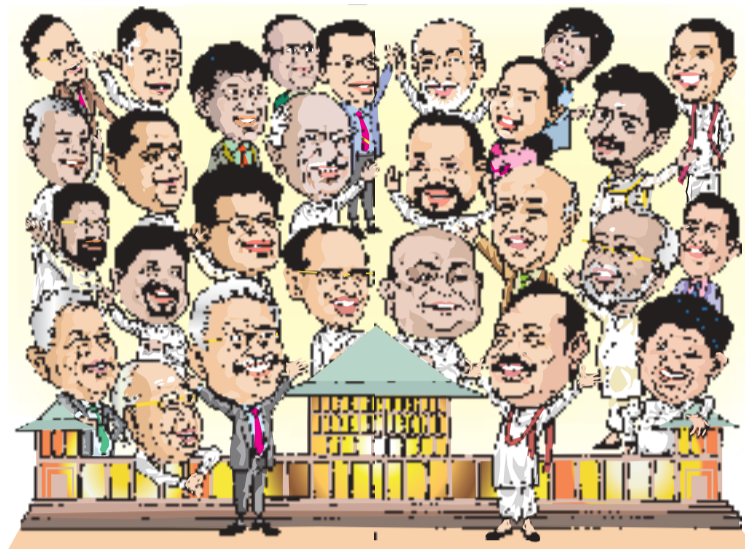
"We have no animosity towards the Muslim community. However, we reject Islamic extremism. According to the PCoI report, several witnesses have said that the former Government was not in favour of taking action against extremism as it relied on political parties of the minority," he said.

Joining the debate on the PCoI report on Easter Sunday attacks, Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage said the main reason behind the Easter attacks was the former Yahapalana Government's inability to prioritise national security.

Western influence

He said, "Especially in 2015, Western influences helped the former Government to come to power. They carried out the contract." The then Government also acted according to the agenda of these Western powers. During our Government's tenure, we gave priority to national security as the country can progress only if national security is assured. Minister Aluthgamage said that after the previous regime won the 2015 election, they co-sponsored the UNHRC Resolution against the Forces.

He said that it was former President Maithripala Sirisena who appointed the Presidential Commission to investigate the Easter attacks. A Parliamentary Select Committee was also appointed to safeguard



University of Politics

By Prof. Backbencher

Government cannot exercise capital punishment to the guilty. The punishments are determined by the Judiciary. Our Government will take the responsibility of punishing the perpetrators. We will leave no room for separatist terrorism or Islamic extremism under our Government."

No visitors

SJB Parliamentarian Ranjan Ramanayake, serving a four-year prison sentence with hard labour for Contempt of Court has been banned from meeting visitors for two weeks after pleading guilty to taking selfie pictures with SJB MP Harshana Rajakaruna who visited him. Ramanayake who is at the Angunakolapelessa Prison was produced before the Angunakolapelessa Prisons Superintendent on March 11 on a charge sheet for violating Section 78 of the Prisons Ordinance. The Prisons Department has suspended the services of a jailer attached to the Prison for allowing Parliamentarian Harshana Rajakaruna to bring his mobile phone into the prison premises.

Serious threat

National Freedom Front (NFF) Spokesman MP Mohamed Muzamil called upon the IGP to take action against Azath Salley over several remarks he had allegedly made recently.

Muzamil told the media in Colombo, that Azath Salley has spoken against changing separate laws and thereby had challenged the law of the country.

He said, "This is a very serious threat to other communities in this country and to those who are against extremist views. These separate laws called for by Azath Salley and others will create more suicide bombers and will help followers of Zahran to pursue their narrow political interests. We believe that the Attorney General and the Police Department will take action against



Azath Salley who is challenging the law of the land."

Will not leave Govt

SLFP National Organiser and State Minister Duminda Dissanayake told the media although their Party does not agree with the recommendations of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) into the Easter Sunday attacks, it does not mean that SLFP has any intention of leaving the present Government.

He said the SLFP made great sacrifices to help set up the present Government and as a result no one will leave the Government they helped to set up. Dissanayake said he is pleased that certain facts mentioned in the report of the PCoI are about preventing extremism and steps should be taken soon to implement the recommendations made regarding that.

He said although some injustice was done to the SLFP and the party was not considered, he said that everyone has to think of the country and as a result those things are being tolerated. He also said the SLFP will protect the present Government on behalf of the country and in the future too will provide assistance to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Legal action

Co-Cabinet Spokesman Minister Dr. Ramesh Pathirana said that the Government has no intention of hiding the report of the PCoI on the Easter Sunday attack. Responding to a question by a journalist at the weekly Cabinet press briefing, he said that it is with the utmost respect that the Government will take measures to institute legal action against the perpetrators of the Easter Sunday attack.

Minister Pathirana said that the Easter attack took place in 2019 when the former Yahapalana Gov-

ernment was in power and the Presidential Commission was also appointed by the same Government and the present Government did not interfere with the proceedings of the Commission.

The Minister said that the report of the Committee clearly states that the national security of the country was completely neglected during the previous Yahapalana Government and that all those who were involved in the governance of the country should be held responsible for that.

First anniversary

The first anniversary of the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) will be celebrated on March 15 at Hyde Park, Colombo under the theme *Ekata Sitagamu* (Let's stand together), starting from 2.30 pm.

At the press conference at the Opposition Leader's office, SJB Parliamentarian Harin Fernando said that the ceremony will be held in compliance with the health guidelines in response to the prevailing Covid-19 situation.

He said the new concept of standing together is being held with pride, while maintaining Social Distance. Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa is expected to make a statement pertaining to the future plans of the party.

Bond scam

Minister Johnston Fernando said those who had insulted the Colombo Archbishop Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith when the Easter Sunday attacks took place, were now trying to use him to gain political mileage.

Opening the first Home Shop at Piyagala, the Minister said, "When President Mahinda Rajapaksa was defeated in 2015, our GDP growth was second only to China. A lot of development activities were taking place here and the country was secure.

The Treasury had a lot of reserves. That's why the Yahapalana crooks carried out the bond scam." Fernando said that the Opposition now claimed that the Government was not punishing those who had carried out the Easter Sunday attacks. "After the attacks, the Cardinal asked Catholic MPs to push for a Presidential Commission of Inquiry. We also asked the former President to appoint a PCoI.

Earlier, there was a Parliamentary Select Committee on the attacks. Rauff Hakeem was also in that Committee whose party members were associated with terrorists. There were JVP members who had fielded Ibrahim who had links with terrorists on their National List and his sons blew themselves up during the terror attacks.

Minister Fernando said, "It will take months for them to study the PCoI report. Even the Cardinal said he was studying the report. Most people have not read it. This is the first time that such a sensitive Presidential Commission report has been made public."

Boat ride

SLPP Parliamentarian Madhura Vithanage came to Parliament by boat on Tuesday (March 9), after obtaining permission from Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena.

This will go down in Sri Lanka's Parliament history as the first occasion where an MP obtained the Speaker's permission to come to Parliament by boat. Serjeant-at-Arms Narendra Fernando confirmed the Speaker had given permission to Vithanage to come to Parliament by boat.

Vithanage also told the media he has commenced discussions with the authorities to start a boat service in Colombo, especially in Sri Jayawardanepura Kotte to reduce



traffic congestion.

Website

The official website of the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus was launched parallel to International Women's Day in Parliament on Tuesday (March 9).

The website was launched by the Prime Minister and the Speaker on the invitation of the Chairperson of the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus, State Minister Dr. Sudarshini Fernandopulle.

Leader of the House and Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunewardena, Chief Opposition Whip Lakshman Kiriella and Secretary General of Parliament Dhammika Dasanayake were also present.



FORMER PRESIDENT MAITHRIPALA SIRISENA DID NOT EVEN CARE TO RETURN IMMEDIATELY FROM ABROAD WHEN THE ATTACK TOOK PLACE - SARATH FONSEKA

THE THEN GOVERNMENT ALSO ACTED ACCORDING TO THE AGENDA OF THESE WESTERN POWERS. DURING OUR GOVERNMENT'S TENURE, WE GAVE PRIORITY TO NATIONAL SECURITY AS THE COUNTRY CAN PROGRESS ONLY IF NATIONAL SECURITY IS ASSURED

- MAHINANANDA ALUTHGAMAGE

their disciples.

Political slogan

At the Adjournment debate on the PCoI report, SJB Parliamentarian Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka said seeking justice for the victims of the Easter Sunday attacks has turned into a political slogan. Fonseka said, "Many groups have expressed their disappointment over the PCoI report. This report has turned into a postmortem.

Those who are now in power turned the Easter Sunday attacks into an election promise. They promised to seek justice for those who were victimised in the attacks within two months, yet no such thing has happened. These have become mere political promises."

Field Marshal Fonseka said that even if some were trying to cover up the truth by saying that Zaharan was the real mastermind behind the Easter Sunday attacks, it was not the truth. He said, "Zaharan was only a local who contributed to it. We never used a person called Zaharan as an intelligence agent in our missions against the LTTE. There was a lethargic attitude towards the country's national security during the previous Government.

Former President Maithripala Sirisena did not even care to return immediately from abroad when the attack took place."

Solid facts

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa during the 13th 'Discussion with the Village' program countered with solid facts the falsehoods, over the Report of the PCoI into the Easter Sunday attacks that was submitted to him on February 1, being propagated by certain groups seeking undue political advantage. The President said that his Government was not in power when the attacks took place and the report has concluded that the root cause behind this tragedy was the inefficiency on the part of the Yahapalana Government.

President Rajapaksa said, "We do not want to hide the Report. The people did not even get a glance of the reports of some Presidential Commissions that were appointed in the past. We released the current Report within a month. The



ACCORDING TO THE PCOI REPORT, SEVERAL WITNESSES HAVE SAID THAT THE FORMER GOVERNMENT WAS NOT IN FAVOUR OF TAKING ACTION AGAINST EXTREMISM AS IT RELIED ON POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE MINORITY

- JAYANTHA WEERASINGHE

Plea to lift vehicle import ban

Discussions to resume shortly

By **Rajitha Jagoda Arachchi**



Following false media reports on granting a quota to import vehicles by the Government, vehicle importers are hopeful of another round of discussion promised by the Government within next two weeks.

President of Vehicle Importers Association of Lanka (VIAL), Indika Sampath Meranchige told the *Sunday Observer* that the Association will continue to urge the government to take steps to protect the industry.

"We understand that there has to be some measures to prevent the drain of foreign reserves from the country. However, the industry also has to survive," he said.

Last week several media reports stated that the Government has agreed to permit vehicle imports, ending the ban which came into effect in April last year.

The Government implemented this ban along with several other imports to face economic challenges due to the global pandemic. In September 2020, Government spokesman Minister Keheliya Rambukwella made known the stance of the Government regarding the ban on imports of vehicles.

"There are enough and more vehicles in the country for a year. We need to have certain controls where foreign exchange is concerned," he told the media.

In 2020, Sri Lanka secured nearly US\$ 700 million in foreign reserves helped by a 45% decrease in the annual vehicle import cost, compared to 2019.

"Currently the prices of vehicles have gone sky high. Therefore, our request for an annual quota for vehicle imports is fair.



Indika Meranchige
Pic: Courtesy- BBC.com

We do not ask the government to go back to the status-quo. We understand the economic challenges of the Government. But there should be a mechanism to protect traders in the vehicle import market," Meranchige said.

"No country has developed without the expansion of the private sector. A government cannot only upgrade the economy while being engaged in welfare activities," he said.

Currently there are about 600 registered vehicle importers in Sri Lanka and only about 200 of them are actively involved in the business. Asked about the possibility of a monopoly following a quota system, Meranchige said, "We are requesting a quota for every player

in the market, not for a select few traders. We never intend to create a monopoly in the vehicle market. There has to be a reasonable and fair quota system where the total imports are divided among all the players. By doing that, a competition among traders would be created instead of a monopoly.

"Such competition will be benefit customers. If there are malpractices in the industry, the Government can always intervene and regulate the market" he explained.

VIAL also prefers a tax revision for vehicle imports which will benefit end-customers and the Treasury. Meranchige commended the tax reforms introduced by then Secretary to the Ministry of Finance (currently the Secretary to the President) Dr. P.B. Jayasundera in the last budget presented by the Mahinda Rajapaksa Government in November 2014.

Dr. Jayasundera simplified the tax scheme for vehicle importation in the 2015 Budget. But the previous Government could not implement the benefits of those reforms and failed to maintain tax percentages correctly. Therefore, we request the present Government to revisit the tax structure for vehicle imports when imports are permitted," the VIAL President said.

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SUNDAY OBSERVER

A pandemic year

It has been exactly one year since the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared Covid-19 as a global pandemic. Within that one year, Covid-19, a viral disease caused by a Coronavirus, has infected 120 million around the world and claimed 2.6 million lives. In Sri Lanka, 87,000 people have been infected while just over 500 have died as a result of Covid-19.

Needless to say, it was a year that turned the world upside down. The virus that originated in Wuhan, China (the exact origins are still being probed), quickly spread to all four corners of the world thanks to international travel. By the time most countries closed their borders, it was too late. Most countries including Sri Lanka went into lockdown for months on end. While this approach did reduce infections, it was untenable especially for developing countries from a socio-economic perspective. Thus most countries have now learned to live with the virus, albeit in 'New Normal' conditions, where we have to constantly wash hands, wear a mask, keep the distance from the next person and avoid travel as much as possible.

The last time the world faced a pandemic of this magnitude was a century ago. The Spanish Flu claimed an estimated 50 million lives. While we have indeed learned a lot more about viruses since then (in 1920, it was not even possible to see them), the basic precautions outlined above are still the same. Moreover, there is still no cure for any viral disease.

But we do have one weapon against Covid-19 that they did not have back in 1920 – a vaccine. Not one, but several. In fact, this can be hailed as the biggest scientific breakthrough in this century as no vaccines have been manufactured and introduced to the market in less than one year (It took four years to develop the Ebola vaccine). A combination of inventions, almost unlimited funding and international cooperation made this possible.

Margaret Keenan, a 91-year-old grandmother from the UK made history last December by becoming the first person in the world to receive a Covid-19 vaccine outside of a trial. This was a magical moment indeed for humanity and science, for scientists managed to create a fully safe and scientifically endorsed vaccine for the dreaded Coronavirus in under one year.

The vaccine in question was made by a small German pharma firm (BioNTech) in partnership with US pharma giant Pfizer. Other vaccines made by Moderna, AstraZeneca/Oxford University, Johnson and Johnson, Gamaleya Institute of Russia (Sputnik V) and China's Sinopharm and Sinovac are also on the market. Many countries including Sri Lanka (750,000 vaccinated and counting) have begun vaccination campaigns aimed at reaching 'herd immunity' whereby the virus cannot find any new hosts to infect as around 80 percent of the population have gained immunity. Scientists are also trying to find a 'cure' with limited success - so far, only a few drugs and drug 'cocktails' including Remdisivir have shown some viability.

With a global pandemic, only one thing is certain – no one is safe until everyone is safe. Unfortunately, mankind's penchant for self-preservation has come through even amid a pandemic as rich countries have been accused of 'vaccine nationalism', which means that they have been ordering and hoarding multiple vaccines far in excess of their populations. Canada, for example, has ordered enough vaccines to inoculate its population nine times over. The UK and EU are not far behind. This leaves poor nations in the dust – more than 100 countries have not even given a single dose.

In fact, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement marking one year since the WHO declared Covid-19 a pandemic that 'the global vaccination campaign represents the greatest moral test of our times.' The UN Chief criticised the "many examples of vaccine nationalism and vaccine hoarding" as well as side deals with Covid-19 vaccine manufacturers that undermine access to all people in the world. Guterres reiterated his call for Covid-19 vaccines to be seen as "a global public good." "The world needs to unite to produce and distribute sufficient vaccines for all, which means at least doubling manufacturing capacity around the world," he said. "That effort must start now."

Vaccine equity is a must for getting the world economy on track as well - the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has warned that the global economy could lose US\$ 9.2 trillion if developing countries are left behind in the vaccine rollout. Rich nations must immediately provide more funds to the WHO's COVAX facility which aims to provide vaccines to 92 developing countries including Sri Lanka. It is in their own interest to do so.

In any case, the pandemic is showing no signs of slowing down, with more transmissible and potentially more lethal variants of the virus cropping up in several countries. Some scientists fear that at least a few of their variants could be more resistant to the existing vaccines. Vaccine makers, on their part, are already designing booster shots that can tame the new variants. More research is also needed on 'Long Covid' where 'recovered' patients experience long-term effects such as fatigue, chest pains and brain fog even months after their first encounter with Covid-19.

This is unlikely to be the last pandemic, given that millions of Coronaviruses are residing in bats and other animals.

It is only a matter of time before another Zoonotic (animal to human) virus transmission takes place and the next time, it could be even more lethal than Covid-19. It is thus important to revamp the entire global health system to face a bigger pandemic.

Opposition's new low 'haul others for Contempt, but never us'

by
Rajpal Abeynayake



The Opposition's political survival these days seems to hinge on contempt – Contempt of Court, that is, and not for each other.

Opposition politicians and Opposition sidekicks in the various guises they appear such as NGO and civil society folk, etc., say that our Contempt laws are scandalous. They are making such a loud din about the fact that 'Contempt of Court' law is not codified, which they say leaves the Judges to do as they please when handing down sentences for Contempt, and deciding who is in Contempt of Court, and who isn't.

Irony of ironies, no Judge has thought it fit to haul any of these agitators up for Contempt, for casting aspersions on the competencies of the Bench, or their motives with regard to any of the sentences Judges handed down for Contempt of Court. It may be that these busybodies wish to be martyred for Contempt of Court, but alas, Judges only haul for Contempt those who they believe are truly in Contempt.

Why the sudden interest evinced by Opposition operatives with regard to Contempt of Court? There is no hiding the fact that it's because their man was sentenced to four years RI for Contempt. Ranjan Ramanayake may be a buffoon, a garrulous loose-cannon who has been caught speaking to policemen and Judges in attempts to coerce them into taking political opponents into custody. Worse, he tried to frame political opponents with concocted narratives – and the phone calls are all there on the record, and the recordings are his own.

He wasn't sentenced for Contempt for these issues however – but for calling Judges corrupt in a fit of pique, just because he couldn't fling his opposition political opponents in jail as he wished. None of these things matter to the Opposition SJB operatives who want the Contempt laws codified now, because their man was flung in jail for Contempt. Their visceral motivation is the same as that of Ranjan Ramanayake. They want to see political opponents in jail, irrespective of whether the latter have broken the law or not. They fought an entire election aiming essentially false accusations at the Opposition – and are therefore, invested in the cause of jailing opponents.

Arbitrary

So, in short, now they want Contempt laws codified. That's not in the interests of society – it's in the interests of making a political martyr out of their man.

Where is the proof, you ask? Well, the Opposition has no genuine interest in changing Contempt laws as we know them – because last week, the Opposition SJB went in delegation before the Chief Justice, asking that the Commissioners making up the Political Victimization Commission be hauled up – wait for it, for Contempt.

This is how the *Daily News* reported that story:

"The Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) yesterday made a complaint to the Chief Justice urging to institute Contempt of Court action against the commissioners of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry appointed to probe incidents of political



THIS DUAL CYNICISM, AND THIS MEALY-MOUTHED HYPOCRISY OF DECRYING CONTEMPT AND ADVOCATING CONTEMPT IN THE SAME BREATH, AND FURTHERING BOTH CAUSES SIMULTANEOUSLY TO CYNICALLY JAIL POLITICAL OPPONENTS, IS WANTON HYPOCRISY AT ITS MOST EGREGIOUS

victimisation. The complaint consisting of 40 signatures of SJB parliamentarians including its leader Sajith Premadasa, General Secretary Ranjith Madduma Bandara, Tissa Attanayake, Lakshman Kiriella and Sarath Fonseka, was handed over to the registrar's office of the Supreme Court."

Now, isn't that a jolly, dandy way of codifying Contempt, you'd think? Your party swears that the Contempt laws are unjust, and all of the pro-SJB NGOs and other lobby groups try their best to create an issue out of the 'unjust' Contempt laws, and call for their codification. While they do all this, they never fail to say that their man is unjustly behind bars 'because Contempt laws are arbitrary and not codified.'

But the first chance they get, they petition the Chief Justice asking that honourable members of a Presidential Commission – former Judges themselves – be charged for Contempt, under these same 'unjust' laws. Or, are they unjust only for Ranjan Ramanayake and fellow SJB rankers? How did yesterday's most fervent activists against Contempt of Court – as we know it in the law at present – become flag bearers advocating Contempt, that are goading the Judges to use Contempt laws when the Judges themselves haven't thought to do so?

Compunctions

The SJB, make no mistake, is never shy in enforcing Contempt laws – as long as they are not used against Ranjan Ramanayake or any of their own. When Ven. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara there was sentenced for Contempt and subsequently released after a Presidential pardon, the most vocal critics were SJB types and fellow travellers.

The Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA), a transparently pro-SJB right wing NGO, challenged the President's decision

to pardon Bodu Bala Sena (BBS) General Secretary Ven. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara Ther, filing a fundamental rights petition in Court. There were no compunctions – nobody said that the Ven. Gnanasara may be undesirable in our estimation, but even he deserves to be exempt from current Contempt laws 'that are arbitrary and have not been codified.' The GMOA's then president Dr. Padeniya was hauled before the Court of Appeal during the tenure of the previous Yahapalana regime, and guess who pressed the case for Contempt on those two occasions? It was two civil society activists very much in tow with the SJB and its politics, Prof. Sarath Wijesuriya, the Convener of National Movement for Social Justice (NMSJ), and Gamini Vijayagoda, the co-convenor of the so called Puravasi Balaya Social Movement that filed the Contempt of Court action against Padeniya.

Either the SJB Opposition types think Contempt law which according to them is bad and un-codified is bad for the SJB and not for its political opponents – or the SJB relishes knowingly throwing its political opponents to the wolves, and obtains a sadistic delight in doing so.

As for the SJB asking the Chief Justice to haul up the Political Victimization Commission members for Contempt, they forget that a few nolle prosequi actions from the AG are all that's required to toss all those cases they are complaining about, out of Court. The PCOI (Commission on Political Victimization) has also recommended that these cases be thrown out.

The Attorney General has the power to withdraw cases before the Court, often with the permission of the Court (which is rarely refused) and in some cases he can enter a *nolle prosequi*, informing the court that he is not proceeding with the case, and then the case against the accused will come to an end.

For all the zealotry of the Opposition in trying to haul the members of the Victimization Commission for Contempt, they should be aware that under the circumstances in which a cloud has been cast over these prosecutions, there is ample room for the entering of nolle prosequi, or to withdraw these cases with the consent of Court.

Instigated

That would be in the normal course of things if the Court and the AG so decide, considering that hundreds of nolle prosequi actions have been entered into in Sri Lankan Courts in the remembered past.

Nobody can deny the backdrop in which the PCOI on political victimization made its recommendations. There was a witch hunt against Opposition politicians, and as an AG's Department officer Suhada Gamlath said in a public interview, there was politically motivated coercion of officials to prosecute without reasonable cause. This makes the Commission's findings credible for the simple fact that they have been corroborated – by Gamlath, by the phone calls that were made to Judges by Ranjan Ramanayake, and as a result of there being many amply documented incidents of the State going on witchhunts instigated by the then Government, by digging up swimming pools etc., and unearthing nothing except pairs of rubber slippers.

The SJB Opposition may not like the faces of the PCOI Commissioners because they stand in the way of their pet project to jail political opponents – but their position that these Commissioners were guilty of Contempt of Court – an offence they are campaigning against – is so overtly political, as is their cynical political campaign against Contempt, which helps them in another matter, that of martyring of their fellow political coverage.

This dual cynicism, and this mealy-mouthed hypocrisy of decrying Contempt and advocating Contempt in the same breath, and furthering both causes simultaneously to cynically jail political opponents, is wanton hypocrisy at its most egregious. It's amazing the Opposition can plunge such enormous depths in this – their new nadir.



Rear Admiral (Rtd.) Sarath Weerasekera's statement in Parliament on the Easter Sunday attacks

Govt assures maximum punishment for perpetrators

Public Security Minister, Rear Admiral (Rtd.) Sarath Weerasekera in a special statement to Parliament on March 10, 2021 said the investigators have uncovered by now how the Easter Sunday terror attacks were conceived, the purpose of the attack, the masterminds behind it, who funded it and the foreign and local links associated with it.

Minister Weerasekera told the House of the Government's intended actions to ensure maximum punishment to the perpetrators of the Easter Sunday carnage and the masterminds behind it.

He said it was his duty as the Minister in charge of Public Security to keep the House updated on the investigations by the Law enforcement units and the findings of the Presidential Commission.

Excerpts of the speech

Police have arrested 676 persons in connection with the terror attacks, of them 202 are currently in remand custody, 66 have been detained for questioning and 408 were released on bail, yet investigations on them continuing.

Former President Maithripala Sirisena has taken action to ban three extremist organizations including the National Thowheed Jamaath and Jamaate Millet Ibrahim, after the attack.

On May 22 - The Parliament Select Committee was appointed to report on the attack, then a Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security was appointed, later on September 21, 2019 a special presidential commission was appointed to probe the terror attacks and make recommendations to the President with the objective of bringing the culprits to book.

Yet, the investigations so far have revealed that, unfortunately, nothing was done to prevent the disaster and save lives when the attack could have been averted easily.

Telltale signs

A sequence of events before the Easter Sunday attack shed ample light on what was going to happen, if only they were given enough attention. But the intelligence wings of the law enforcement institutions were made completely inactive and the officers were demoralised. The sequence of events which shed light to the impending calamity were:

1. The house of a member of the 'National Front on Good Governance' came under a bomb attack on February 6, 2018
2. Six days later the Kathankudi branch of the National Front on good Governance came under a bomb attack
3. Six months later Saharan's brother Rilwan was injured in an explosion in Batticaloa while testing explosives. A proper investigation was not initiated on the Nuwara Eliya training camp although a site visit was made.
4. Two weeks later two police officers were killed in Vavunathivu.
5. A month later two Buddha statues in Mawanella were vandalised.
6. Three weeks from that, a huge stock of explosives were discovered in Wathawilluwa.
7. Two months later on March 8, 2019, a CID informant Thaslim, was shot.
8. Five weeks later on April 16, 2019, a dry-run of the suicide attack was carried out by the bombers in Thalakudah by exploding motor bikes.

The Easter Sunday attack was carried out exactly five days later. The then government's tepid attitude towards national security, lack of action by relevant units including the CID, Terrorism Investigation Division to follow up on intelligence reports and lack

of coordination as well as sharing of intelligence between agencies had been a major cause that led to these horrific series of explosions by terrorists. As a result the above telltale signs had gone unnoticed.

The current government restored the dignity of the intelligence arms of the law enforcement agencies while making them independent of any political interference.

Arrests

Soon after assuming office the present Government arrested 99 people suspected of having direct and indirect links with the bombers, in Sri Lanka and further 35 Sri Lankans were arrested in overseas destinations. They are currently being investigated.

The Government has coordinated with foreign intelligence agencies in five countries and successfully repatriated 50 suspects in connection with the attack. Four more are to be brought down once the court cases in their respective countries are finalised. These suspects have been spreading extremism in their host countries and funding similar activities back in Sri Lanka.

They will be classified according to the crimes committed and court cases are to be filed accordingly. A proper mechanism has been devised to maintain regular links between State Intelligence Service (SIS) and foreign intelligence services in future.

The domestic intelligence services uncovered a women's wing of suicide bombers trained under Saharan in early 2020. Seventeen such women have given an oath before Saharan. Of them five have died, three are in prison and seven are in remand custody. Investigations are continuing to arrest the two who are still at large.

Swords

A Sri Lankan company had imported 1,440 swords to the country in 2015. In 2018, under the direction of Ibrahim brothers of Dematagoda 300 of those swords have been distributed among men in Slave Island, Kattankudy and Beruwala.

In addition, 27 more swords have been manufactured at the Negombo and Kurunegala factories. After a lengthy investigation 35 persons in connection with this have been arrested and against seven cases have been filed in Court. The investigators are trying to find out to whom these swords were sold by the company since 2015.

In addition to the three organisations already banned, leaders of One Umma, Hizbut Thahir, Mujahideen Allah and Super-Muslim have been arrested.

Intelligence sleuths have also uncovered eight training centres operated by Saharan in Medawachchiya, Malwana, Lewella, Hambantota, Nuwara Eliya and Hingula. The suspects who took part in these training camps with the aim of creating an Islamic territory have now been arrested.

Ibrahim brothers

Since 2018, Saharan's entire project was funded and facilitated by the Dematagoda Ibrahim brothers who finally became human bombs themselves on Easter Sunday. They have pumped in Rs.50 million from 2018 to 2019 April.

In addition, they have provided Rs.4.5 million, to the father of a Sri Lankan named Nilam who died while training as an ISIS member in Syria. The funds were meant to be distributed among Sri Lankans training in Syria. These funds are now with the TID investigators.

Ibrahim Ilham, one of the Dematagoda brothers had provided Rs.37 million from his business earnings to Saharan's brother Rilwan to plot the Easter Sunday terror attacks. Rs.5 million of these funds were recovered from a house in Sainthamaruthu, five days after the attack.

Save the Pearl

In 2015, an NGO called Save the Pearl was formed. Ibrahim brothers and Jameel who were involved



Minister, Rear Admiral (Rtd.) Sarath Weerasekera

EIGHT SUICIDE TERRORISTS CARRIED OUT DEADLY ATTACKS ON APRIL 21, 2019 TARGETING HOTELS AND CATHOLIC CHURCHES. THEY EXPLODED BOMBS AT ST. ANTHONY'S SHRINE IN KOCHCHIKADE, ST. SEBASTIAN'S CHURCH IN KATUWAPITIYA, ZION CHURCH IN BATTICALOA AND HOTELS SHANGRI-LA, THE KINGSBURY AND CINNAMON GRAND COLOMBO. TWO TERRORISTS KILLED THEMSELVES BY DETONATING BOMBS IN DEMATAGODA AND DEHIWALA. THE SERIES OF ATTACKS COST 270 LIVES AND NJURED AROUND 500

in the terror attacks and Jameel's brother who is now under arrest, have been members of this NGO.

In schools run by this organisation small children were taught extremist views. Saharan has lectured students in these schools.

This organisation, through Saharan, has also provided legal support to the suspect arrested in connection with vandalising the Buddha statues in Mawanella in 2018.

Considering the masterminds behind the attack and how it was planned initially, it is important to find out the brains behind the attack, those who provided logistical support, those who are directly and indirectly involved and the external links. This is important to prevent future attacks as well as to bring the culprits to book.

I would like to table the following findings for this purpose. On June 29, 2014, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared an Islamic state in Iraq and Syria. In January 2015, 37 Sri Lankans have escaped in groups to Syria to work for the ISIS.

The locals who swore allegiance to the Islamic state were rallying round an organisation called Jamaate Millat Ibrahim (JMI).

The intelligence services have deployed informants to report back on the team that went to Syria, how they travelled to that country, their funding sources, and about the JMI organisation.

Security Council

That information was shared during Security Council meetings and also shared with other relevant officials both in writing and orally.

During these submissions the officials were briefed on the threats posed by these developments to the country and what counter strategies were needed to be adopted by relevant departments and Ministries. The report of the Presidential Commission on Easter Sunday attacks have clearly mentioned about these briefings.

When an individual transforms himself into a terrorist based on religious ideologies, he will first go through a phase of fundamen-

talism and religious extremism before being drifted towards violence and terrorism.

Islamic State

The Easter Sunday terrorists were inspired by the Islamic State ideology and some of the followers were still in different stages of this evolutionary process, investigations so far on these men have revealed.

Saharan who was driven by the Islamic State ideology after Baghdad's announcement in 2014, had transformed himself from a strict fundamentalist to a religious extremist by 2015.

Since early 2017, he had moved from religious extremism to violence. An assault on a group of different opinion holders at Aliyar junction in Kattankudi has been recorded as the first incident of violence by Saharan.

It is important to examine about his associates and organisations he was involved in during the period of this transformation.

Naufer and Saharan

Therefore, investigators inquired about the close association Saharan had with a man named Mohamed Ibrahim Mohamed Naufer who is now under detention.

He had returned to Sri Lanka after spending years in Qatar. Investigations have found this man had made a significant contribution to indoctrinate Saharan and make him a follower of Baghdad's ideology.

It has also been revealed that this man was constantly in touch with Saharan and had ideologically guided him until the Easter Sunday attacks.

Thus, Naufer has been identified as the main fundamentalist and one of the key persons behind Saharan's transformation.

Before the Easter Sunday terror attacks, Saharan had pledged allegiance to Baghdadi and vowed the attack was in the name of Islamic State (Caliphate).

A video was issued in Colombo before the men detonated themselves.

Hideout

On April 26, 2019, when the security forces surrounded their hideout in Sainthamaruthu, they released a video which showed the people at the hideout chanting that they will sacrifice their lives for the IS and the ideology they believed in, before detonating a bomb.

This shows that Naufer had played a crucial role to nurture Saharan and his followers to become fanatics. The former Head of the Sri Lanka Jamaat e Islami Hajjalkbath Islam had also been a follower of Caliphate and had been conscripting members into their ring. He had also closely associated with the suicide bombers.

Maldivian link

During this time, four Maldivian religious extremists were introduced to Saharan by Lukeman Thalib and his son Dukeman Thalib Ahmed who were Australian citizens hailing from Sri Lanka.

It has been found that since 2016, the four Maldivian terrorists had arrived here and met the Easter Sunday suicide bombers as well as some others currently in SL custody in connection with the terror attacks, from time to time.

The father and son duo had visited Sri Lanka to facilitate their meetings, according to the Counter Terrorism and Investigation Division and State Intelligence Service. Lukeman Thalib has been arrested in Qatar, Qatari state intelligence units reported.

Easter Sunday attacks

The background for the Easter Sunday attacks was set as follows.

Naufer and a few Maulavis have nurtured the ideology of IS leader Baghdadi. He had promoted those fundamentalist ideologies here and youth were conscripted.

Setting up of organisations such as, 'Save the Pearl' to address legal issues that could arise due to their activities.

Funds for the Easter Sunday attack and other resources were supplied by Ilham and Inshaf brothers, and overseas extremist organisa-

tions and IS groups in the Middle East.

Under Saharan's leadership the attacks were planned, trained and carried out by Rilwan Hasthun Milhan and Sadiq, Fairros and Fazrool have made videos to propagate IS ideology and uploaded them.

The ring members have communicated with each other via whatsapp and viber. To gather intelligence on these communications, Sri Lankan law enforcement agencies have collaborated with foreign intelligence units.

In addition, action is being taken by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa via the Cabinet of Ministers to implement the recommendations of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security of Parliament.

It has been emphasised, Madrasas need to be regulated, children of all ethnicities between 5 - 16 must attend schools where state education policy is implemented. There are Madrasa schools which have been functioning for many years peacefully under proper standards.

Eleven organisations which have helped to lay the background for the attacks directly and indirectly have been identified and the Government will take action to ban them in the near future.

Extremist teachings in text books

Action has already been taken to correct state text books which included teachings of Islamic fundamentalism and promoted enmity towards other faiths.

It has been observed from Grades 1 to 13, in teacher guides and student textbooks on Islamic religion, Wahhabi and Salafi fundamental ideas have been subtly included.

The Government has identified the present and future threats posed by extremism and taken several measures to counter them. As one of the steps, the Government will ban wearing the Burka in public places in the near future.

The Muslim Marriage and Divorce law affecting children and women will be brought under the common law. A proper rehabilitation process is to be introduced for youth who have been misguided by religious extremism, etc.

Justice

Every single person directly and indirectly linked to the Easter Sunday terror attacks will soon be brought to justice and they will face severe punishment. It has been uncovered by now how the attacks were conceived, the purpose of the attack, who were the masterminds, who funded it and the foreign and local links associated with it.

Amid the global pandemic, the Ministries of Defence and Public Security, the Sri Lanka Police, the Army, State Intelligence Service, Military Intelligence and other intelligence services are working hard to identify the local and foreign individuals connected to the attacks and prevent a recurrence of such a calamity.

There are political forces, trying to mislead the masses, and block the truth from coming out. We will take legal action against such persons who try to interfere in investigations.

We must denounce religious extremism and not a particular religion. All institutions and organisations inspired by the Salafi-Wahhabi doctrine of Al-Wala Wal-Bara which propagate enmity towards people of other faith will be banned in Sri Lanka soon.

War heroes

Peaceful Muslims who love this country are helping us in the investigations. I acknowledge their assistance with honour.

We still remember with gratitude the services of Colonel Aslam Fazly Laphir, Colonel Tuan Nizam Muthaliff and Colonel Tuan Rizly Meedin of the Sri Lanka Army.

Plans are afoot to implement the recommendations of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry on the Easter attacks. Every single person who had a hand in the terror attacks, as exposed in investigations, will be brought to book.

Translated by Manjula Fernando

The unique significance of vocational education

by
Hemantha Kulatunga



Of late 18th century, progress and prosperity have been predominantly identified with the economic growth. One of the key factors of the economic competitiveness of a country is the skills of its workforce. The skills and training of the workforce are completely dependent on the quality of the country's vocational education systems and the level of training provided to apprentices. Hence, vocational education is one of the important elements in enhancing the economic productivity of Sri Lanka.

It is fair to mention that governments in the past several decades have given attention to this at different scales. However, due to various setbacks, mainly due to administrative and financial issues, the quality of vocational education has not shown a significant improvement during this period. Mostly, the curricula were not updated or upgraded reasonably to suit the prevailing job market requirements.

However, in proportion with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's vision, a new program was inaugurated recently by the State Ministry of Skills Development and Vocational Education to create a skilled workforce to cater to the needs of Sri Lanka and international labour markets.

Professional skills

The goal of the 'Skills Sri Lanka' program is to equip the youth in Sri Lanka with the professional skills needed to match the advanced requirements of the modern world. If the program becomes a success, the outcome will provide solutions to many recurring issues related to labour skills that were common during the past many years.

Although the State Ministry functions under a seemingly capable state minister, regrettably, this writer's attempts to communicate with the Media section of the State Ministry to obtain further useful information was not successful. The state ministry website has not enclosed any information about

this important program at the time of this article. The website only contains obsolete news as yet.

Vocational education is a tool for addressing the economic, political, and social issues in a developing country such as Sri Lanka where economic and political stability becomes frequently volatile. Rising unemployment, continuous scarcity of skilled workers, the high youth dropout rate from technical education, and the recent job losses due to the Covid-19 pandemic have produced a situation to rethink and recreate vocational education and training from a new angle.

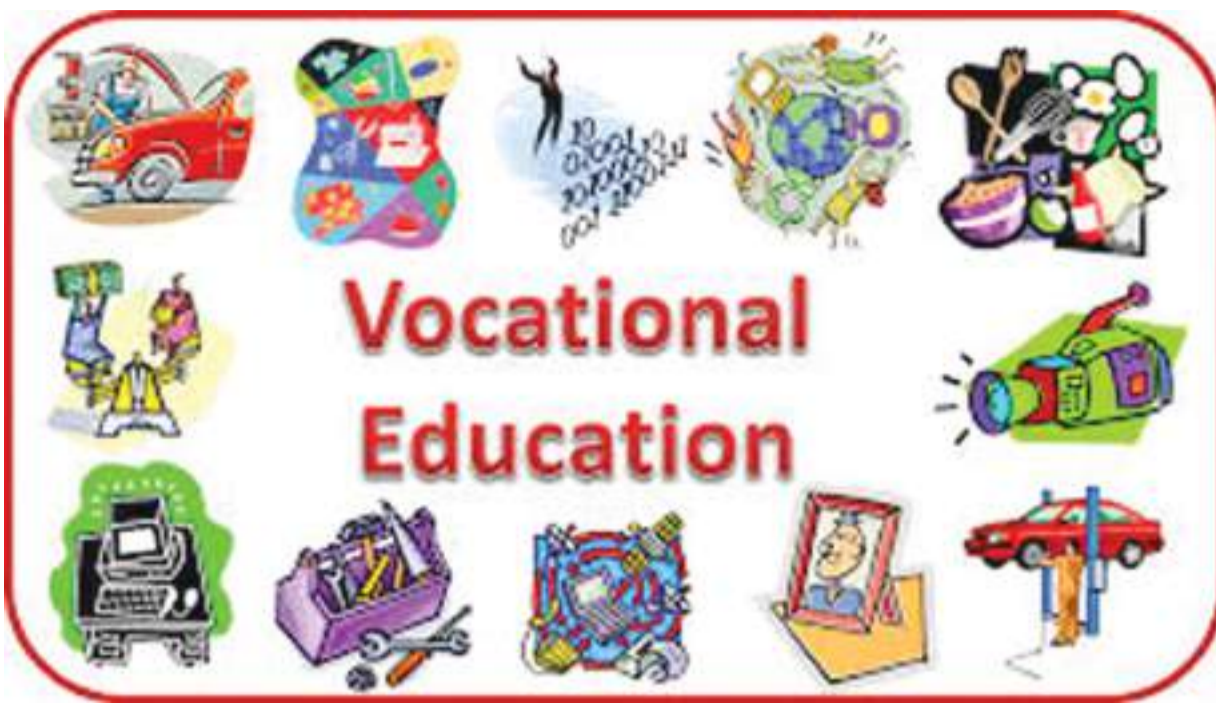
With new policies of the 'Vistas of prosperity and splendour', the Presidential vision, Sri Lanka is attempting to change over to an efficiency-driven economic development system. Therefore, in order to move up the value chain, efficient and effective technical and vocational education and training have become exceedingly vital. A Higher and value-added production capacity is a key factor to improve the country's competitiveness and growth momentum.

Unemployment

Sri Lanka's overall unemployment rate was around 4% during the past several years whilst youth unemployment (ages between 20 years to 29 years) stands at a significantly higher rate of approximately 19%. Despite the high youth unemployment, on the demand side, employers find it difficult to recruit skilled labour at the operational levels. The issue of scarcity of skilled labour is a continuous pressing issue for Sri Lankan entrepreneurs.

According to reports, the Sri Lankan TVET sector comprises approximately 400 service providers in the public, private, and NGO sectors. The National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) introduced by the Tertiary and Vocational Training Commission (TVETC) predominantly aims at GCE (A/L) students and also GCE (O/L) dropouts. This was an extremely useful step taken towards upgrading vocational education.

Certification from level 3 to level 7 has given a good vocational background to those who opted to go on with vocational subjects after secondary education. The authority of award of The NVQ certifications was granted



CREATING A MORE EFFECTIVE COMBINED EFFORT WITH THE EDUCATION MINISTRY SOURCES TO ATTRACT SECONDARY LEVEL STUDENTS FOR TECHNICAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IS ANOTHER OPTIMISTIC STEP THE GOVERNMENT CAN EASILY CONCENTRATE ON. CURRENTLY, THE REALITY AND THE TREND ARE THAT MOST PARENTS DISCOURAGE CHILDREN FROM EVEN THINKING OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION UNTIL THEIR GCE (A/L) EXAMINATIONS ARE OVER

to key public institutions such as the Department of Technical Education and Training (DTET), National Industrial and Apprenticeship Training Authority (NAITA), Vocational Training Authority (VTA), National Youth Services Council (NYSC) and some of the selected institutions of the private and NGO sectors.

The Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission, the apex body was established in 1991 with a mandate of taking responsibility for policy formulation, planning, coordinating, and developing of vocational education monitor the registration, accreditation, and

quality management systems of the approved TVET institutions.

Despite monitoring, the quality of programs varies depending on the institution substantially. Employers, particularly the private sector declare that the quality and the education systems do not meet the actual skill needs up to now.

The general complaint is that the TVET students who seek employment in the private sector are not adequately exposed to the private sector culture and that they lack business sense. Perhaps, it is time for the authorities to concentrate on including modules on

business practices such as marketing, logistics, human resources, etc. These modules should contain simple subject matter with basic information.

Several important factors contribute to weak TVET outcomes that need prompt action. Some of them are poor quality of secondary education in rural schools, outdated standards and curricula, lack of properly trained instructors, shortage of material and equipment, inadequate facilities at training centers, and incompatibility of the courses offered with employability, limited financial resources provided by the government, etc.

Job market

Escalating youth unemployment has become a major social and economic setback for many countries in the world including Sri Lanka. Every year hundreds of thousands of youth enter the job market in Sri Lanka that has limited space in employment. The consequence is a threat to society and is substantial due to the frustration created by lack of income, and even potentially soaring criminality among youth.

Properly planned and managed vocational education is vital for two major reasons primarily. Firstly, it is regarded as a tool for promoting economic growth. Secondly, vocational

education is one of the best remedies for growing youth unemployment, thus fostering social inclusion. Vocational education and training provide opportunities for the youth to access the labour market with dignity with recognised educational qualifications. It provides a better opportunity for the employer to recruit workers with skills, training, and qualifications.

No doubt that the government is exerting a conscious and fresh effort to meet the challenges in the TVET sector with the 'Skills Sri Lanka' program. Their effort to obtain more collaboration of the private sector is an absolute necessity. The key factor is the assistance of the private sector as they only can provide adequate on-job training for TVET students that is one of the most important aspects. The participation of the private sector in creating new curricula suited to private sector requirements is also an important factor.

Technical skills

Creating a more effective combined effort with Education Ministry sources to attract secondary level students for technical skills development is another optimistic step the government can easily concentrate on. Currently, the reality and the trend are that most parents discourage children from even thinking of vocational education until their GCE (A/L) examinations are over.

Justifiably, they expect their children to get through the hurdle and move on. If these parents can be convinced that vocational qualifications are as good or maybe better than higher education, there will be more students interested in TVET education. However, the authorities must ensure that the quality of education through TVET institutions is also of high quality.

Vocational education can enhance the quality of life of participants through work and values along with formal schooling. It can play a vital role in enhancing employment or self-employment and thus economic productivity. It certainly is an important tool to alleviate poverty. Vocational education and training improve individual productivity and increase efficiency for better participation in Sri Lanka's overall development.

Gazette on rehabilitating people arrested over extremist activities

An extraordinary gazette notification containing new regulations to rehabilitate individuals who surrender or are taken into custody over extremist activities was issued on Friday (12).

The regulations were issued by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa under Section 27 of Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act, No. 48 of 1979.

The new regulations 'may be cited as Prevention of Terrorism (De-Radicalization from holding violent extremist religious ideology) Regulations No. 1 of 2021'.

'Reintegration Centres' will be set up for the purpose of rehabilitating the persons who surrender

or are arrested, according to the gazette.

Objective of the regulations is to ensure that any individual who surrenders or is arrested over extremist activities are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

"The Attorney-General is of the opinion that according to the nature of the offence committed the person who surrender or detainee shall be rehabilitated at a Centre in lieu of instituting criminal proceedings against him, such as surrenderee or detainee shall be produced before a Magistrate with the written approval of the Attorney-General."

Sri Lankan and Indian leaders discuss bilateral issues

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Gotabaya Rajapaksa spoke on Saturday and discussed issues relevant to the bilateral and multilateral cooperation, including the coronavirus pandemic, a government statement said. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said the leaders "reviewed topical developments and the ongoing cooperation between both countries in bilateral and multilateral forums."

"They agreed to maintain regular contact between officials, including in the context of the continuing Covid-19 challenges. Prime Minister reiterated the importance of Sri Lanka to India's Neighbourhood First policy," the PMO's statement added.

Prime Minister Modi also tweeted about the conversation with the Sri Lankan leader. "Had a telephone conversation with President @GotabayaR. We discussed issues relevant to our bilateral and multilateral cooperation, including in the context of Covid-19," PM Modi said.

India gifted 500,000 doses of the Oxford University-AstraZeneca vaccine from the Serum Institute of India (SII) to Sri Lanka, which kicked off the island nation's vaccine rollout in late January. Rajapaksa thanked India in January for its generosity after he received the doses of Covishield vaccine donated by the country under the 'Neighbourhood First' policy. (Hindustan Times)



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi exchanging mementoes

Bolivia ex-President Anez arrested in 'coup' probe - Minister

Bolivia's former interim president Jeanine Anez was arrested Saturday on terrorism and sedition charges over what the government claims was a coup attempt against her predecessor and political rival Evo Morales.

Police were also rounding up former ministers who backed the conservative politician's caretaker government, which was in place for a year after Morales fled the country in November 2019 amid disputed elections, media reports said.

The arrests came months after Morales returned to Bolivia from exile on the back of a fresh election victory in October 2020 for the leftist Movement for Socialism (MAS) party he founded. Both the presidency and congress are now under the control of MAS.

"I inform the Bolivian people that Mrs. Jeanine Anez has already been apprehended and is currently in the hands of the police," government minister Carlos Eduardo del Castillo wrote on Twitter and Facebook.

Castillo congratulated the police for their "great work" in the "historic task of giving justice" to the Bolivian people.

Bolivia's public prosecutor issued

an arrest warrant Friday for the conservative politician and others on charges of terrorism, sedition and conspiracy.

Anez tweeted a copy of the warrant with the response: "The political persecution has begun." She added the government was accusing her "of having participated in a coup d'etat that never happened."

In the early hours of Saturday, Bolivian television showed images of Anez, not handcuffed, arriving at La Paz's El Alto airport, accompanied by Castillo and several police officers.

In brief remarks to the press, she denounced her arrest as "illegal." It was not immediately known where she was taken.

Anez's former energy minister Rodrigo Guzman and his justice counterpart Alvaro Coimbra, both listed on the prosecutor's warrant, were detained on Friday.

Coimbra protested the "illegal and abusive" arrest of his former colleague Guzman, before he, too, was brought in.

"We have said that we will always make ourselves available to the law," Coimbra told Bolivian TV as he was placed into a police vehicle.

Anez, a former senator, took over as caretaker president after Morales left Bolivia. He had lost the support of the armed forces amid violent protests against his re-election to an unconstitutional fourth term.

Several Morales allies who held senior posts also fled, leaving Anez the most senior Senate official still standing.

Morales returned from exile last November, and took over the leadership of the ruling MAS party.

Bolivia's congress is dominated by the MAS, which romped to victory in an October 2020 general election that saw the party's Luis Arce win the presidency.

Last month, congress voted to give amnesty to those prosecuted during Anez's presidency for acts of violence during the chaos that followed Morales' resignation.

MAS party member Lidia Patty filed a complaint against Anez last December, claiming she, several of her former ministers, ex-military and police members, and others had promoted the overthrow of Morales, who had been in power for 14 years.

"The MAS has decided to return to

the style of dictatorship. It is a shame because Bolivia does not need dictators, it needs freedom and solutions," Anez tweeted Friday.

Luis Fernando Camacho, who recently won elections for the governorship of Bolivia's Santa Cruz region, is also targeted for prosecution.

He vowed that "Bolivians will not stand idly by in the face of abuse" and said he had no intention of leaving the country.

Anez, a former lawyer, is a long-time critic of leftist Morales, who has branded her "a coup-mongering right-wing senator." He said Anez had "declared herself interim president without a legislative quorum, surrounded by a group of accomplices." Ex-presidents Jorge Quiroga and Carlos Mesa separately condemned the arrests.

"We are in a process of political persecution worse than in dictatorships. It is executed against those who defended democracy and freedom in 2019," Mesa said on Twitter.

Quiroga accused Arce of being "a tyrant's apprentice." But Justice Minister Ivan Lima insisted the system was independent from the government.

- AFP

Pressure mounts as Senators tell New York Governor to quit

The US senators for New York joined growing calls for Andrew Cuomo to resign as a seventh woman came forward with allegations of sexual misconduct against the governor.

Fellow Democrats Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand said Mr Cuomo had "lost the confidence" of New Yorkers.

Six women have accused Mr Cuomo of unwanted kissing and groping.

On Friday, another woman, a former New York reporter, said Mr Cuomo harassed her.

Cuomo has denied the allegations against him and has defied calls to resign from Democrats.

"I did not do what has been alleged," Mr Cuomo said before facing the seventh complaint on Friday. "I never harassed anyone, I never assaulted anyone, I never abused anyone."

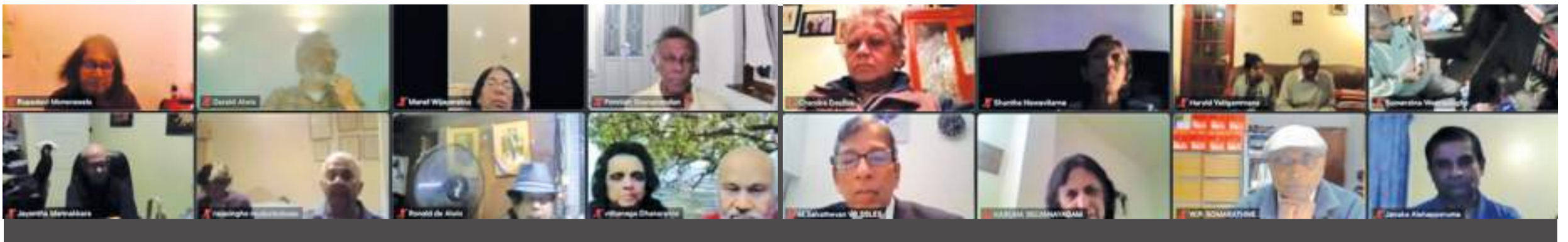
In their statement, Mr Schumer, who is also the Senate majority leader, and Ms Gillibrand, said: "Due to the multi-

ple, credible sexual harassment and misconduct allegations, it is clear that Governor Cuomo has lost the confidence of his governing partners and the people of New York. Governor Cuomo should resign."

Earlier, New York Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Congressman Jamaal Bowman also released a joint statement that said, "we believe these women, we believe the reporting, we believe the Attorney General, and we believe the fifty-five members of the New York State legislature," referring to a group of legislators who have called on Mr Cuomo to resign.

"Governor Cuomo can no longer effectively lead in the face of so many challenges," the statement said.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, a long-time political rival of Democrat Governor Cuomo, told reporters on Thursday that the latest allegation is "disgusting to me, and he can no longer serve as governor." - BBC



London HC launches platform to showcase Lankan achievers

The High Commission of Sri Lanka in the UK launched a platform to showcase Sri Lankans who have excelled, thanks to the public goods provided by the successive Governments of Sri Lanka since Independence and decades of solid investment in its people.

Launching this initiative, the High Commission presented a brief video outlining the milestones of the life of Counsellor of the High Commission, Abdul Haleem. The video highlighted his steps and reflects Sri Lanka's commitment to its citizens.

The video was screened for the British Sri Lankan community on Zoom platform last week.

High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in the UK, Saroja Sirisena said, "Western perceptions of Sri Lanka fail to reflect the reality of the Sri Lanka we all know."

She said that the vicious attempts to brainwash the youth of Sri Lankan origin is particularly alarming and should be of concern to all of us.

Sri Lanka, despite its modest resources, has achieved impressive social development indicators.

Despite having a GDP per capita which is less than 10% of that of the UK, Sri Lanka maintains a doctor patient ratio of one doctor per 1,000 patients and a teacher-student ratio of 16.5. Of over 10,000 government schools in Sri Lanka, 6,925 are Sinhala medium schools, and 3,240 are Tamil medium schools.

There has been much discussion on religious freedom in Sri Lanka. Pointing out that there are almost 20,000 places of worship in Sri Lanka; 10,089 Buddhist temples, 7,630 Hindu Temples, 2,066 Churches and 2,452 Mosques, she queried whether this reflected a country where religious freedoms were curtailed.

Haleem said that he is a proud Sri Lankan who is thankful to his motherland because he is a product of free education and free health.

His life was not easy as he had to go through the terrorist battle that ended in

2009 and his hometown was in the affected area. Nevertheless, despite the terrorist battle, he had uninterrupted access to school and university education.

Haleem said that his rural upbringing or the fact that he was from a minority community was not a hindrance to join the Sri Lanka Foreign Service in 2009.

He is one of the eleven officers selected to the Sri Lanka Foreign Service through an open competitive examination that year in which five out of the eleven officers were Tamil-speaking, three of them being Muslims.

Contrary to attempts by detractors to show otherwise, one's ethnicity or social background is not a hindrance for any Sri Lankan to achieve their goals if they have the determination and perseverance.



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Ambassadors' Forum launches book

Geneva Crisis - The Way Forward compiled by the Ambassadors' Forum of Sri Lanka was launched on Friday at the Foreign Ministry. Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena and Foreign Secretary Admiral Professor Jayanath Colombage were present.

This book contains 28 articles related to the Geneva issue. The writers of the articles consist of a number of key personalities including the incumbent Foreign Minister and Foreign Secretary. In addition, retired diplomats, experts, legislators, academics and others contributed to this book.

Former Ambassador Sarath Wijesinghe commended the immense contribution by the writers of the book. It was launched as a solution focused on the entire future of the Geneva issue, not as a temporary measure to address the upcoming UNHRC resolution, he stated.

Minister Gunawardena affirmed Sri Lanka's commitment to uphold the democratic principles. Commenting on the UNHRC resolution, the Minister said that priority must be given to every human being in the world at present, in view of the prevailing pandemic. Targeting certain countries should not be a priority of the world at present.

Foreign Secretary Colombage outlined Sri Lanka's way forward in relation to the UNHRC resolution. Providing a background on the current situation at Geneva, he commended the voluntary contribution being rendered by various non-government individuals and institutes across the world, in support of Sri Lanka's position.

The book will be distributed among Sri Lanka's missions abroad and other interested parties.

Mahinda OBA Colombo branch AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Mahinda College Old Boys' Association, Colombo branch will be held at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, Independence Square, Colombo 7 on Sunday, March 21 at 10.00 am. Fellowship lunch will be at the same venue after the meeting.

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News/Obituaries

Bhagavad Gita - online discourse

Sunandaji, the daughter-disciple of Swami Parthasarathy, a Vedanta philosopher, has been studying and researching Vedanta for over three decades. She will deliver the last of her online discourses on Chapter 3 of the Bhagavad Gita at the SLST today from 5.30 p.m. - 6.45 p.m.



Catholic Bishops Conference welcomes PCol Report

Calls on Govt to implement recommendations without delay

The Catholic Bishops' Conference in Sri Lanka (CBCSL) has welcomed the report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) into the Easter Sunday attacks and has called on the Government to take immediate action to implement the recommendations and as a matter of priority with regard to those against whom criminal charges have been levelled.

The statement was signed by all 15 member Bishops of the Conference.

Excerpts of the statement:

"The Catholic Bishops' Conference in Sri Lanka has closely assessed the present situation in the aftermath

of the Easter Sunday bomb attacks on April 21, 2019.

"While welcoming the recommendations made therein, the Bishops Conference requests that the Attorney General be given full power and the freedom to prosecute immediately the perpetrators, those who aided and abetted in this dastardly terrorist act and those who were found to be negligent in carrying out their duties.

"We urge that the judicial mechanism be set in motion with immediate effect."

"The CBCSL in an extraordinary meeting on March 9, closely assessed

the present situation in the aftermath of the Easter Sunday bomb attack on April 21, 2019.

"Almost two years have lapsed and the affected people are still longing for justice. The CBCSL along with the Archbishop of Colombo, has studied the Commission of Inquiry (COI) Report.

"We welcome the findings of this report and the specific recommendations that have been made. We urge the Government to take immediate action in the implementation of these recommendations and as a matter of priority with regard to those individuals against whom criminal charges have been lev-

elled. "We, therefore, appeal that the Attorney General be given full power and the freedom to prosecute immediately the perpetrators, those who aided and abetted in this dastardly terrorist act and those who were found to be negligent in carrying out their duties.

"We urge that the judicial mechanism to do that be set in motion with immediate effect.

"We have been made to understand that 22 sensitive documents have been withheld from the Attorney General and we feel that these documents should be given to him as soon as possible."

DEATH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Emeritus Professor Daya Edirisinghe D. Litt.

Passed away most peacefully on 12th February, and cremation was held on 17th February 2021.

The family of the late Professor Daya Edirisinghe wishes to express their deep appreciation to those who have offered such kindness, support, and messages of condolence and comfort in our grief. We especially like to thank the professors, lecturers, students, and all staff members of the University of Kelaniya, University of the Visual & Performing Arts, University of Sri Jayawardanepura, Pali and Buddhist University and also Yora Buddhist Community Korea, Thapodana Ramya Temple, Mount Lavinia, Sri Saddharmakara Pirivena, Panadura, Chairman & Staff Members of NARA, Board of Directors & Staff Members of The Official Languages Commission, Mayor & Staff Members of Dehiwala-Mount Lavinia Municipal Council, Staff Members of Jayaratne Funeral Directors, local and international dignitaries, friends, and family members.

Kanthi Zoysa Edirisinghe (Beloved wife), Wathsala Edirisinghe (Loving daughter), Chamara Edirisinghe (Elder son), Dayan Edirisinghe (Younger son), Sanjeewa De-Silva (Son-in-Law), Ramindu & Sithindu (Grandchildren), relatives & Professor Daya Edirisinghe Foundation.

Five EU states seek summit on 'unfair' vaccine handouts

VIENNA, March 13 (AFP) - Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Latvia have called for an EU summit to discuss "huge disparities" in the distribution of vaccines, according to a letter published on Saturday.

Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz suggested on Friday that some members of the European Union may have signed "secret contracts" with vaccine companies to receive more doses than they were entitled to under EU-wide agreements.

An EU spokesman has said that it was up to members states to "ask less or more of a given vaccine", while an-

other EU official on Saturday said, "The coordination in the fight against the pandemic" will be the first point of discussions during the next summit, already scheduled for the end of March.

Kurz and his four counterparts on Friday sent a letter to the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, and President of the European Council, Charles Michel, claiming that "deliveries of vaccine doses by pharma companies to individual EU member states are not being implemented on an equal basis. If this system were to carry on, it would con-

tinue creating and exacerbating huge disparities among member states by this summer, whereby some would be able to reach herd immunity in a few weeks while others would lag far behind," the letter stated.

"We therefore call on you... to hold a discussion on this important matter among the leaders as soon as possible," it said.

Kurz on Friday described "bazaars" where some member states made additional agreements with vaccine companies.

The Austrian Health Ministry also dismissed Kurz's claims, reiterating

the EU's statement that each member state was allowed to say how many doses of the various vaccines it wanted to procure.

"These were very balanced and transparent negotiations," General Secretary of the Austrian Health Ministry, Ines Stilling, said in an interview on Saturday.

The European Union has blamed its sluggish vaccine rollout on supply and delivery problems and continues to lag behind the United States, Israel and Britain in terms of the percentage of the population that has received at least one dose.

80th Birthday Remembrance In Precious Memory of Late MERVYN HERATH March 14, 1941



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BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



LUKE MOHAN WISIDAGAMA

Eternal Rest grant unto him O'Lord And let perpetual light shine upon him May he rest in peace Amen

Lovingly remembered by your only sister, brother-in-law, niece and her family.

Holy Mass will be offered on Monday at 6.30 a.m. at the Home for the Elderly - Maradana.



Mar 13 - People distributing watermelons to protesters make the three-finger salute in Yangon as security forces continue to crackdown on demonstrations against the military coup. - AFP

Myanmar protests continue after overnight violence

Three dead

YANGON, March 13 (AFP) - At least three people were killed when demonstrators took to the streets again across Myanmar on Saturday, after a deadly overnight crackdown as hundreds defied a curfew to hold vigils in honour of those killed since the military seized power.

The junta has deployed increasing force against daily protests since the February 1 coup, with more than 70 people killed according to the UN's top rights expert on the country.

But hundreds of thousands have continued to gather across the country to call for the release of civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi -- who was detained in the February 1 putsch -- and a return to democracy.

Saturday brought early crackdowns by security forces in Myanmar's second largest city Mandalay, which saw more than 20 injured, including a monk.

At least three were killed, including a 21-year-old, according to an AFP reporter and a doctor on the scene.

The sister of Saw Pyae Naing sobbed as she uncovered her brother's body and gently touched his face at a makeshift medical centre.

Further south along the Irrawaddy river, protesters in Pyay wearing hard hats and carrying homemade shields attempted to hold off authorities as they retrieved an injured man.

"Come! Come and protect with the shields!" they yelled as they carried a slumped bleeding man to safety.

The fresh violence against protesters comes after three people were killed overnight in commercial hub Yangon.

Footage shared on social media late Friday and verified by AFP showed police pulling three residents out on the streets of Thaketa township, beating them on the head and hauling them away. Angry residents went to the police station to protest, and sounds of gunshots were heard hours later in the township, including by an AFP reporter.

"Security forces arrested three young men, and as we followed to get them back, they cracked down on us," recounted a resident Saturday, requesting anonymity.

"Two were killed -- with one shot in his head and another one hit with a shot that penetrated his cheek to the neck," he said, adding that they had to wait until the police stopped shooting to retrieve the bodies.

OBITUARY



M.H. Hema Mendis

Retired Commerce teacher of Gonsalves Maha Vidyalaya -Bolawaththa

Loving wife of Mr. A.D. Sunil Wijethunga (Retired People's Bank Manager), Loving mother of Sahan Wijethunga, Dineth Wijethunga Passed away.

Her mortal remains lies at No. 551/3, Janapada mawatha, Daluwakottuwa, Kochchikade. Funeral at Palsagathuraya Roman Catholic Cemetery on 15th of March 2021. Cortege leaves residence at 3.30 p.m. (077 101 89 08)

OBITUARY NOTICE

MRS. INDRANI RITA MYLVAGANAM

Dearly beloved wife of the late Dr.C. Mylvaganam and loving mother of Dushyanthi, Kaushali, Ajantha & Shobana, mother - in - law of Kumar, Jeyaraj, Ravi & Charnain, much loved grandmother of Shamilka, Dhinuka, Pravin, Pramila,Shalindra, Amrit, Rohini & Raman, passed away on Thursday 4th March. A private funeral was held at the Respect (By Jayaratne's), Borella and Cremation took place at the Borella Kanatte Crematorium on Sunday 7th March.

Despite Pope's euphoria, Iraq Christians left without illusions



BAGHDAD, March 13 (AFP) - Iraqi Christians say they will "never forget the joy" of Pope Francis' historic visit to the country but they don't expect it to stem the minority's exodus from the country.

Wajdane Nouri, a Christian in her fifties, will soon join her daughters in the United States.

At St. Joseph Cathedral, where she has long led the choir, huge posters and a red carpet still bear witness to the first ever papal visit to Iraq.

Earlier this month, Francis led a mass in Baghdad, ravaged for 40 years by wars and economic crises, shortly after having prayed in a church that was the scene a decade ago of the bloodiest anti-Christian attack in Iraq.

For Nouri and the estimated 400,000 other Christians left in Iraq, the pope's words that no one should be treated like a "second class citizen" and against "the plague of corruption" in the country resonated deep.

Those who were reluctant to speak to the media before Francis flew in are today irrepensible.

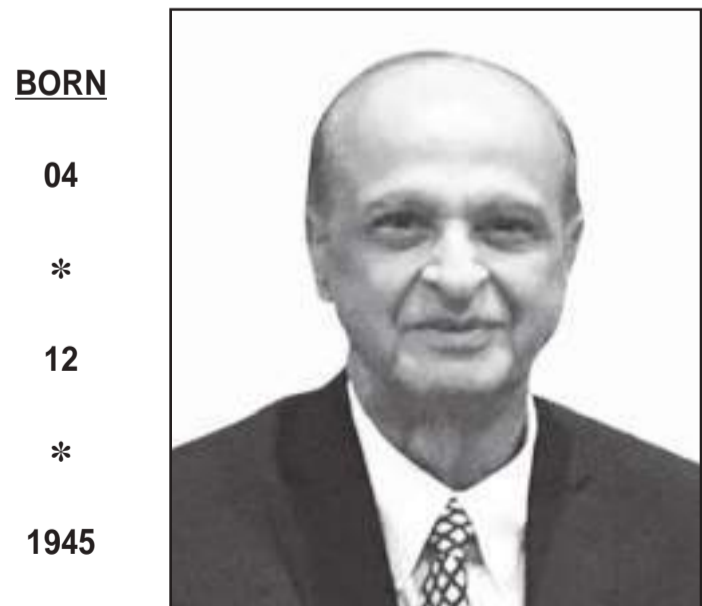
The pontiff has emboldened them to air their grievances.

But since the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime in the 2003 US-led invasion, the Christian community has shrunk from six to just one percent of the predominantly Muslim country's population.

And only large job creation projects can head off emigrations, warned Father Nadheer Dakko, a priest at Saint Joseph.

OBITUARY

A precious one from us has gone, a voice we love is stilled, A place is vacant in our hearts, which never can be filled.



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ANVER ALI CHATOOR

Chairman and Managing Director of A.S. Chatoor & Co., Ltd,

Beloved father of Neena Chatoor and grandfather of Fatema and Ilana, passed away on February 23rd 2021.

MAY HE REST IN ETERNAL PEACE!

Obituaries

FERNANDO - Mr. ALBERTHULAGE MACKDONALD PATRICK. Beloved son of late Mr & Mrs Peter Paul Fernando, loving husband of Mrs Moreen Silva, loving father of Dinika, Eron, Nalaka, Sonali and loving grandfather of Shaveen, Sheraya and Ethan, passed away on 12th March 2021. Family funeral will take place on Sunday 14th March at 4.00 p.m. at **St. Michael's Church, Korawalwella.** 020355

Mr. JAYANTHA Y.P. Former Manager, People's Bank. Beloved husband of late Mala Mohotti, loving father of Methmini (Switzerland), Thejapriya and Dhammini, deceased after a brief illness. Remains lie at **Mahinda Funeral Parlour, Mt. Lavinia.** Cortege leaves at 1.30 p.m. on Sunday 14th for Mt. Lavinia Cemetery. Residence: **No. 118, Airport Road, Rathmalana.** 020358

Green light to cultivate cardamom close to Knuckle's range

BY ANYA WIPULASENA

State Minister of Development of Sugarcane, Maize, Cashew, Pepper, Cinnamon, Cloves, Betel Production and Promotion of Allied Products and Export Janaka Wakkumbura has permitted residents of Meemure, a village close to the Knuckle's range, to cultivate cardamom, a Forest Department spokesman said.

After a visit to Meemure, the State Minister said there is a plan to grow cardamoms in an area under the Forest Department.

Sajeewa Chamikara of the Movement for Land and Agriculture Reform (MONLAR) said, "The forest land of the undergrowth in the Knuckle's mountain range has been removed."

The Dumbara range has a unique eco-system. It is also where the main catchment areas of the country's longest river Mahaweli and also Kalu river is located. Environmentalists said that 30 percent of Mahaweli's catchment area is in the Dumbara range that covers 21,000 hectares. In addition to the 30 of the 33 bird species that are endemic to Sri Lanka live in the range.

The area is also protected by the laws, including the National Environment Act. In 1873, the then rulers declared it as a protected cloud forest.

Chamikara said that it was of geological and ecological value and serves as a heritage site.

"During the Matale district development committee meeting in April 2014, several officials were criticised for allowing people to encroach into this land,"



he said. Six years ago, the Local Industries Minister at the time, former Chairman of the Pradeshiya Sabha in Matale and the former District Secretary of Matale allowed people to encroach into the protected land to cultivate. A court order was later issued to remove the people from the area.

Chamikara said trees in the range are felled to make room to dry cardamom. "As a result, the impact this leaves on protected forest is large," he added.

The prices of cardamom shot up by over 100 percent after the Government's move to ban its import to promote local production.



Woman released after 21 years in remand

NEGOMBO: A woman held in remand prison for some 21 years on a drug-related charge was released earlier this week owing to the lack of evidence.

The woman was 30-years-old at the time she was imprisoned in the Negombo jail.

She had been arrested at Customs Control at the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) for allegedly being in possession of a kilogram of heroin.

The woman was arrested when she returned from a trip to the South Indian city of Trivandrum.

Dispute leads to nephew's death

BELLIATTE: An enraged man is alleged to have killed his 20-year-old nephew following a heated stand-off over a sack of paddy.

The incident was reported from the Thorapitiya village in Belliatte earlier this week.

According to police there had been a festering family dispute for a considerable period of time and it snowballed into a heated stand-off on Tuesday resulting in the death of the young man.

The suspect-identified as the younger brother of the victim's father is alleged to have repeatedly stabbed the victim who subsequently succumbed to his injuries at the Belliatte Base Hospital.

Drug addict steals bhikkhu's car

THALANGAMA: A 23-year-old man was arrested barely hours after he allegedly stole a car belonging to a bhikkhu residing at a temple in Colombo-7.



BY LEON BERENGER

The suspect had stolen the car when the driver had left the vehicle and visited a wayside shop.

The suspect was tracked down with the help of GPS technology to a safe house in the outskirts of Thalanga hours after the vehicle was reported stolen.

Investigators later found out that the man was addicted to hard drugs and some 1.5 grams of heroin was recovered from his possession.

The suspect had also removed the registration number plates from the car along with other accessories before the police could arrive.

Woman's head severed in bizarre accident

GALINBINDUNUWEWA: A woman's head was severed from the neck in a bizarre accident at a location in Nikawewa-Galinbinduwewa.

The victim-an apparel worker was proceeding to her workplace along with her colleagues when the vehicle in which they were travelling skipped the road and slammed on to a roadside tree.

Police believe that the victim, a mother of two was apparently peering out of the window at the time of the impact resulting in the fatal injury.

It was also revealed that the driver of the coach who was subsequently arrested was moving at an excessive speed and had apparently lost control of the vehicle and slammed into the tree.

Over 22 persons linked to crime gangs held

POLICE HQ: Some 22 persons with links to criminal gangs have been arrested since the start of this year following police raids across the country.

The suspects had close ties with notorious criminals such as Ruwan, Kudu Selvi, Hybrid Suranga, Ruwan Nadun Chinthaka also known as Harak Kata, Suren and Navy Heroin.

An assortment of narcotic substances and weapons were also seized from the possession of the suspects.

The raids were carried out by personnel from the Special Task Force (STF).

High Commissioner S. Amarasekara meets dignitaries in Pretoria

High Commissioner to Sri Lanka in South Africa S. Amarasekara paid courtesy calls recently to the dignitaries representing the Diplomatic Corps in Pretoria, South Africa.

The High Commissioner met Ambassador of the DRC to South Africa and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Pretoria Bene M'Poko, Ambassador of Philippines and the Dean of Asian Groups of Heads of the Mission in Pretoria Joseph Gerard Angeles and EU Ambassador to South Africa Dr. Riina Kionka.

High Commissioner Amarasekara briefed the dignitaries on recent



development of Sri Lanka on tourism sector with the reopening of the country for the tourists, post Covid-19



recovery strategies as well as the matters discussing at the UNHRC. Minister Counsellor to the

High Commission Priyangani Hewarathna also presented at the meetings.

Books on Dhamma launched



Two Dhamma books *Buddha Vandana* and *Bodhi Vandana* was launched at Mihilaka Medura, BMICH by the chief incumbent of the Maithri Monastery, Ven. Darangala Mangala Thera recently. Prof. Vijitha Walpola and State Minister Sanath Nishantha Perera were also present. The books will be distributed free as Dhamma dana.

Here Ven. Darangala Mangala Thera presents copies of the books to Principal, Southlands College, Sandya Irani Pathiranasam.

Covid-19: Italy to shut shops and schools amid infection spike

Shops, restaurants and schools will be closed across most of Italy on Monday, with PM Mario Draghi warning of a "new wave" of the coronavirus outbreak.

For three days over Easter, April 3-5, there will be a total shutdown.

Italy, which one year ago imposed one of the first national lockdowns, is once again struggling to contain the rapid spread of infections.

The country has reported more than 100,000 Covid-related deaths, Europe's second-highest tally after the UK.

Italy's vaccination campaign has been hit by delays, as has been seen elsewhere in the European Union.

Last week the government in Rome blocked the export of 250,000 doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine to Australia to address shortfalls of vaccines. - AFP

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Resolving Sri Lanka's issues internally is a sine qua non

By
Frances Bulathsinghala



A peacebuilding model should not be in the hands of NGOs and INGOs as it mostly is, where foreign agendas can be easily imported. While all countries have much to learn from each other and this knowledge can be sometimes routed through non-governmental entities, this learning should be mutual and holistic, without leaving room for the insidious and non-contextual.

A senior retired security official, holding the rank of Major General, in a recent conversation narrated how a General of a South American country years back had given a talk in New York on a peacebuilding model as applicable to that nation and had commented that it could be replicated by Sri Lanka.

In that context, guerrilla warfare, insurgency or terrorism had occurred in a different backdrop. The social context and the problems could not be compared to the Lankan scenario. The security official said, "While it is useful to look at different global contexts to understand the seeds of conflict and examine peacebuilding in these different circumstances, it is up to a nation and its people to work towards a local model for national unity."

Unity and national security

This is what should be Sri Lanka's priority. The people must understand that we are responsible for our people; all our people, whatever ethnicity or religion. To have a segment of them unhappy or feeling that their rights are violated and that they have only outside entities to depend on to obtain redress is detrimental to the country's unity and national security.

From 1983 to 2009, the country was in the throes of unspeakable terror, trauma and bloodshed. The time since 2009 was our chance to think our internal strategy for peace rooted in humanity, by engaging different voices within the country. Soon after May 18, 2009, we should have initiated action to assess the damage done by the LTTE to the country and the details of murder and atrocities to the masses (irrespective of the ethnicity of communities).

The anti-LTTE feeling was so high among the Lankan Tamils by May 18, 2009 that had we done this immediately after the battle against terrorism, the Government would have received ample support from these citizens to give testimonials and carry out assessment tasks. The UN may have been adequately educated to look at our problems differently.

The most unwanted complication for a country is for its people to consider leaders of other nations as their hope for justice in their home country. We have to consider this with all seriousness and never give



any community in the country reasons to have such sentiments. This is where we need a strategy.

A battle started as a guerilla warfare resorting to acts of terrorism is warped radicalisation that is a cancer in society. Any Government and its Security Forces will always attempt to quell such a crisis, if political action to prevent such circumstances from arising has failed.

Lessons learnt from such events are clear; we need wise political and social action to prevent any tyrant or opportunist forming their brand of terror as Velupillai Prabhakaran did. We must also at all cost prevent social unrest that is segmented across either religion or race and use every possible opportunity to create peace than division.

As of now, the biggest enemy of the Tamils is the Tamil diaspora. These are the collective words of my Tamil friends, most of whom are based in the North.

Genuineness

Anyone who is observing Tamil politics in the country would have noted that former Chief Minister of the Northern Province C. V. Wigneswaran known for his real or acted intolerance of any possibility of peace, had nevertheless in a rare moment of possible genuineness had somewhere around 2016 -2017 lost his temper with the Tamil diaspora at a meeting and demanded to know why they could not understand that

A BATTLE STARTED AS A GUERILLA WARFARE RESORTING TO ACTS OF TERRORISM IS WARPED RADICALISATION THAT IS A CANCER IN SOCIETY. ANY GOVERNMENT AND ITS SECURITY FORCES WILL ALWAYS ATTEMPT TO QUELL SUCH A CRISIS, IF POLITICAL ACTION TO PREVENT SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES FROM ARISING HAS FAILED

good relations should be maintained with the Sinhalese.

He also said that the Sinhalese perspective should be understood by the Tamils. It is a pity that this speech of his was not recorded for posterity. It should have been played at the 2021UNHRC session, especially for the benefit of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet. Probably after listening to that rare awakening of consciousness of Wigneswaran, Bachelet may understand that she does not understand what she says, when she refers with so much chagrin to the term 'Sinhala Buddhist Ethno Nationalism.'

It is indeed ironic that a world body so pre-occupied with considering human rights does so, selectively. While it recognises Tamil rights as it rightly should, it should not in any way be at the cost of the rights of the majority of the people of this country;

the Sinhalese. This idea is preposterous, but it is this kind of thought that is so fashionable today, the age of selectivism centric human rights. How can it be a racist crime for a Sinhalese Buddhist to ask for the related culture and rights to be safeguarded when it is not a racial abomination for a Sri Lankan Tamil or a Sri Lankan Muslim to do so? It is this kind of fragmented international thought processes that create disunity. This is why we need to counter this by creating a strongest possible national framework for unity.

Unlimited notions

A South Asian scholar in a personal discussion described the UN in just as having unlimited notions, especially the Western countries that seem to have so much power in the world body. This is partly what

has created the Geneva crisis for us. Our fault is that we seem to wake up to Geneva at the 11th hour and that for 12 years, we seem to have not realised that the true allies in this international fiasco are our Tamil citizens (alongside all our people). Recovery is not easy for a country to go through the throes of terror and bloodshed, especially, for a country that has been ruined by Colonial rule and grappling with many aspects of neo-colonialism that manifests through diverse subtle and overt control mechanisms.

These control mechanisms are often woven into the myriad of international interferences that come with its share of assumptions and pre-conceived notions in unlimited proportions. We as a nation have to think how best, even late as it is now, how best to close some memories, how best to listen to each other, even the aspects which are difficult and through such striving create a sense of common patriotism where every Sri Lankan who is a Sinhalese, Tamil, Muslim or Burgher would feel a great reluctance to let down Sri Lanka in the eyes of the world.

This cannot be done without the State playing its role; without deep empathy and sensitivity - the hallmark of great leadership that will take practical steps to make all Sri Lankans to feel that their country of birth is the safest, nicest, best place to be in and that their leaders are the only ones who could solve their issues. This is not some utopian fai-

rytale.

Leaders, such as Nelson Mandela used the highest level of will power, introspection, empathy and honesty to achieve this, taking an apartheid ravaged, racially and economically divided country and replacing suspicion with kind action. A leader can summon these abilities, especially any Buddhist leader, because qualities of compassion, empathy and loving kindness are primarily Buddhist. We do not need leaders who are boot wipers of the West to create a sensible and humane national unity model. We need not trap ourselves in resolutions created by those whose idea of truth and justice are so convoluted that looking for truth and justice in that mess would not get anyone anywhere.

Manipulation

One cannot have battles as a permanent festering sore within our hearts or allow it to be one which will foster manipulation at a local or a global level. We need to take charge of our destiny; speed up the judicial system pertaining to alleged roles during the armed conflict against a democratically elected Government and citizens, create awareness in Sri Lanka and elsewhere on the normal lives led now by rehabilitated former LTTE cadres. It is imperative that the State continue in this line and consider further rehabilitation as parallel mechanisms to encouraging the closure of the past.

Cases where those who are trapped without money to hire lawyers to legally defend themselves, or where the charges may be flimsy or baseless need to be seriously looked into, whatever the context, as we should be building for ourselves an image of a nation which puts Buddhist wisdom and compassion to practice.

We need to solve within this country the issues of those categorised as missing (including the large numbers of military personnel categorised as missing in action) and end that chapter as rationally and sensitively as possible while continuing with the work that has been done to release to the owners land in the North held by the Security Forces; it is a fact that a significant amount of land has been released.

We must find ways to strengthen the economic, cultural and religious rights of the people of Sri Lanka and use heritage, spirituality, traditional knowledge and entrepreneurship as key mechanisms to bring people together. We must not forget that economic insecurity is a root of all evil and find ways to see to it that this chronic affliction is removed from all districts.

We are now two months away from May 18 - the day that ended 30 years of terror and bloodshed. Why cannot we consider the commemoration of a day or even a week dedicated to peace and unity beginning May 18th? This can induce us to think of all 365 days as those where peace and unity can be commemorated. It is steps, such as these that will ensure that we are no longer manipulated by those who do not live in the country, but who keep alive post war trauma for selfish interest.

International Women's Day in Sammanthurai

BY I.L.RIZAN, ADDALAICHENAI CENTRAL CORRESPONDENT

The Eastern Youth Organisation Sri Lanka celebrated International Women's Day under the theme 'Women in leadership, achieving an equal future in a Covid-19 World' in Sammanthurai recently.

Kolonnawa Jumma Mosque President Dr.I.Y.M. Haneeb was the Chief Guest. South Eastern University Faculty of Arts and Culture Dean Prof. Dr.A.Rameez delivered the keynote address. Sammanthurai Divisional Secretary S.L.M.Haniffa was the Guest of Honour.

Key women personalities who excelled in different fields were felicitated at the ceremony.

Sammanthurai Police Sub-Inspector D.Janosan, Kalmunai Educational Zone Assistant Education Director Nasmiya Sanoos, Sainthamaruthu Al-Hilal Vidyalaya Deputy Principal Rif-



A woman receives her certificate

ka Ansar,

Eastern Youth Organisation Sri Lanka Advisor and Social Activist S.L.A.Naaser, Eastern

Youth Organisation Sri Lanka officials and key women personalities from the area participated.

Water park at Nonagama opened

TISSAMAHARMA SPECIAL CORR

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa opened the water park at Nonagama, Ambalantota accompanied by Irrigation, Internal Security and Disaster Management Minister Chamal Rajapaksa and Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa.

The ancient wewa known as the Nonagama wewa that remained dilapidated and overgrown with shrub jungles, was renovated to retain its pristine glory to set up the water park at a cost of Rs. 5,800,000 allocated by the Ruhunu Tourism Bureau and the Ambalantota Pradeshiya Sabha. The water park consists of a children's park and a jogging track.

State Minister DV. Chanaka, Parliamentarians Upul Galappaththy, Ajith Rajapaksa and Southern Province Governor Willie Gamage participated.



Five Samurdhi beneficiary families in the Thandiyadi and Thamibiluvil villages in the Thirukkivil Divisional Secretariat division received five houses under the Thiriya Piyasa Program implemented by Samurdhi Development Department. Ampara Additional District Secretary V.Jegatheesan, Thirukkivil Divisional Secretary T. Kajenthiran and Samurdhi Development Officer T. Paramanatham participated in the ceremonies to hand over the houses to beneficiaries. Pic: Addalaichenai Central Correspondent

Rugby in Sri Lanka restarts with a heavy price



Members of Sri Lanka's World Cup winning side Sanath Jayasuriya, Roshan Mahanama, Arjuna Ranatunga, Chaminda Vaas and Muttiah Muralidaran pose for a photograph with the collector's item prepared to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the World Cup triumph

Rare collector's item to mark silver jubilee of World Cup win

As the silver jubilee celebrations of Sri Lanka's World Cup win nears, cricket fans have an opportunity to own a rare collector's item.

This collection recognizes all 17 members of the playing, coaching and medical staff from the 1996 World Cup winning side beautifully presented on a 50mm Antique Silver Medallion.

The Medallion collection is strictly limited to only 2996 pieces

worldwide. Each presentation case is individually numbered on a custom designed antique silver metal plate inside the case with each allocated number matching with a gold embossed Certificate of Authenticity.

Cricket fans who are interested in purchasing the rare memorabilia can order through www.daraz.lk, Sri Lanka's premium online shopping site.

A whopping Rs.34 million will be spent on the Commander's Cup inter club rugby Sevens tournament making the first time that such a colossal amount of money was spent on a domestic rugby event in Sri Lanka.

The tournament will be worked off in two legs, the first of which starts next weekend followed by the second a week later with the Air Force ground at Ratmalana serving as the host venue.

It also marks the restart of rugby in the country which came to a standstill more than a year ago due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Sri Lanka Rugby said the money was worth the investment considering the fact that the sport once again comes alive almost from the dead while the tournament itself has to be worked off taking into account health requirements where the players will have to be kept in secured locations for two weeks and also undergo medical tests.

"This is the highest ever spent on a local tournament and under the circumstances where the welfare of the players, the sport and health requirements are concerned it is worth the expenditure and I must pay a tribute

also to the Air Force for stepping in and making it a reality that will kick-off rugby once again," said Sri Lanka Rugby chief Rizly Ilyas.

Ilyas and his secretary Jude Pillai paid a courtesy call on the commander of the flying force Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana early this week and presented him with a souvenir rugby tie while the air chief in return presented the duo with a Coin to coincide with its 70th anniversary.

Phone service provider Dialog is Sri Lanka Rugby's main commercial partner.

The three men also discussed how to ensure the Commander's Cup tournament becomes a rousing success that would reignite rugby in the country which was probably the only mass spectator sport in the island to be severely hit by the coronavirus restrictions although it was played through the pandemic in Australia, New Zealand and now Europe with the commencement of the Six Nations last month.

Air Vice Marshal Leonard Rodrigo, the deputy Chief of Staff and Air Vice Marshal Janaka Amerasinghe the Chairman of Air Force Rugby also took part in the discussions.



Sri Lanka Rugby chief Rizly Ilyas (right) presents Air Force commander Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana with a tie in the presence of his secretary Jude Pillai

Badminton coaches workshop today

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

A preliminary coaching workshop for badminton coaches will be conducted by Sri Lanka Badminton (SLB) at the National Institute of Sports Science (NISS) auditorium today (14) starting at 9 a.m.

All Provincial and District Associations affiliated to SLB are invited to submit applications along with CVs of suitable candidates who hold BWF/SLB Level 1 certificate or are former national players.

More than 50 coaches are already registered for this workshop that will be conducted by well qualified coaches according to SLB. In addition Prof.

Asanga Wijayaratne is expected to conduct lectures for coaches regarding physical and mental fitness and nutrition.

Fitness and health instructors, motivational speakers and nutritional advisors will also be part of the proceedings according to SLB as a first step towards a BWF Level 1 and Level 2 certification program to be held later this year.

Applications would be accommodated on a first come first served basis.

Their aim is to provide more knowledge and update the coaching methods for the coaches and Sri Lanka Badminton (SLB) to uplift the standards.

Thomians play second fiddle to Wesley

Wesley College took major honours in their annual traditional cricket encounter against S. Thomas' College which ended in a draw at Mount Lavinia yesterday.

The Thomians were bowled out for 129 runs in their first innings while chasing Wesley's massive total of 317.

However, the Thomians redeemed some prestige as they reached a more respectable 130

for three in their second innings after they were asked to follow on.

CHIEF SCORES

Wesley: 317

S. Thomas: 129 (Ryan Fernando 31, G. Canston 29, Shalin de Mel 20, Thenuka Perera 4/44, Semila Liyanage 2/21) and 130/3 (Anuk Palihawadana 54 n.o., Vinesh Bandaranayake 20, Thenuka Liyanage 30 n.o.) (Y.K)

Inter-club T/20 tournament

Police and Kurunegala tie

Kurunegala YCC and Police SC tied their SLC T/20 cricket encounter played at the CCC ground yesterday.

Kurunegala YCC: 155/3 in 20 overs (Gayan Maneeshan 85 n.o. Dhanushka Dharmasiri 28, L. Dyantha 2/23)

Police SC: 155/8 in 20 overs (Supun Madushanka 21, Asel Sigera 22, Maduranga Zoysa 62, R. Ranasinghe 2/26, N. Atharagalla 3/27)

Ragama CC win

Saracens SC: 116 in 19.1 overs (Sanjaya Chathuranga 33, Hashen Ramanayake 17, I. Jayaratne 2/26, B. Fernando 3/22, J. Liyanage 2/10, J. Sampath 2/18)

Ragama CC: 120/4 in 19.2 overs (Nishan Madushka 58, Saminda Fernando 15 n.o.)

Moors SC win

Kalutara TC: 74 in 13.5 overs (Tharaka Waduge 23, Pansilu Deshan 21 n.o. Jeevan Mendis 5/21)

Moors SC: 75/2 in 8.4 overs (Ranitha Liyanaarachchi 39, Mahela Udawatte 24 n.o. M. Jayawickrema 2/25)

Negombo CC win

Nugegoda SWC: 153/5 in 20

overs (Pramud Hettiwatte 51, Mudittha Lakshan 60 n.o. R. Fernando 2/28)

Negombo CC: 154/1 in 16/5 overs (Dilshan Munaweera 74, Lahiru Milanthana 66 n.o.)

Bloomfield win

Lankan CC: 136/4 in 20 overs (Damitha Silva 34, Harsha Cooray 50 n.o. Sanjika Ridma 28, D. Fernando 2/24)

Bloomfield: 140/6 in 19.1 overs (Nipun Haggalla 57, Kasun Ekayanake 18, D. Silva 2/20)

Airmen win

Air Force SC: 153/8 in 20 overs (Udaya Parakrama 25, Zameera de Zoysa 22, Ravindu Sembukutige 46, I. Abeysekera 3/24)

Ace Capital CC: 143/7 in 20 overs (Irosh Samarasinghe 53, Prashan Wickremasinghe 27, S. Ranaweera 2/14, A. Premaratne 2/20)

Tamil Union win

Tamil Union: 141/7 in 20 overs (Sithara Gimhan 32, Supun Kavinda 28, S. Jayathilake 2/19, C. Obeyesekere 2/29, T. Fernando 2/21)

Sebastianites: 92 in 20 overs (Vihan Gunasekara 22, S. Fernando 4/19, P. Madushan 2/15)



Anura Tennakoon in intensive care

Former cricket captain of the pre-Test era Anura Tennakoon was yesterday admitted to the Intensive Care Unit of the Nawaloka hospital in Colombo after he suffered a heart ailment, a family spokesman said.

He said on medical advice no visitors will be allowed.

Tennakoon relinquished the captaincy of the National team as Sri Lanka was at the threshold of Test status in 1981 after a very illustrious career when cricket was truly a gentleman's game at the time. He recommended Bandula Warnapura as his successor.

To this day Tennakoon is remembered as a model of gentlemanly conduct who played the game in the true spirit of sportsmanship. He is a product of S. Thomas' College in Mount Lavinia and served the cricket board as its secretary in the 1990s.

England down India in first T20

England did very little wrong in the opening T/20 against India in Ahmedabad and cruised to an eight-wicket win. The bowlers did the bulk of the work to restrict a powerful Indian batting unit to just 124, with the bowlers bowling beautifully upfront. Their openers' 72-run stand propelled them towards the target and in the end, England completed the chase in 15.3 overs on Friday (12).

It was quite surprising after the toss as to why England opted to play

just one spinner in Adil Rashid and leave out Moeen Ali. It was obvious soon enough as England's fast bowlers blew away India with searing pace. Mark Wood, who was brought in for Moeen not just bowled high speeds, but held his line beautifully, continuing from his good summer. Jofra Archer gave England the early breakthrough, knocking KL Rahul over, consistently bowled in the late 140s and extracting some extra bounce. Sam Curran and Chris Jordan mixed it up with the

slower balls as India's batsmen were finding it very difficult to get them away.

Shikhar Dhawan and Rahul were both playing a T20 after their one in Sydney against Australia on December 8. The rust was apparent, and with the English pacers hitting the deck hard and 140kph bullets bolting towards them, they didn't last long as India found themselves reduced to 20 for 3 in the fifth over.

Rishabh Pant kept the crowd on their toes for a bit as he looked like he would break India out of the pacers' woven web. A reverse sweep against Archer and some good wrist play next ball through square leg had the crowds in a frenzy.

SCORES:

India: 124/7 in 20 overs (Rishabh Pant 21, Shreyas Iyer 67, J. Archer 3/23)

England: 130 for 2 in 15.3 overs (Jason Roy 49, Jos Buttler 28, Dawid Malan 24 n.o. Jonny Bairstow 26 n.o.)



England team congratulates J. Archer during the game

Women show their class at Rowing Nationals



Intermediate girls scull winner Hashini Hettigoda of the Colombo Rowing Club who won the gold medal at yesterday's Nationals at the Diyawanna Oya



Intermediate quadruple sculls winners (from left) Natasha Madushani, Thisuri Yahampath, Sendara Perera and Navindi Tissari from the Kotelawela Defence University who won the gold (Pix by Nirosh Batepola)

SPORT

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MARCH 14, 2021

Sri Lanka Cricket makes last ditch effort to thwart ministerial ouster

BY CALLISTUS DAVY

With an impending court verdict that will define the direction of the country's administration of cricket into the future amid calls for a complete riddance of corruption and power abuse, an attempt has been made to thwart the installation of an Interim Committee to run the sport's affairs just as the Sri Lanka team crashed to a fourth series defeat in-

side three months on Saturday.

The move comes just days after one entity with a vote Colts Cricket Club, petitioned Sports Minister Nimal Rajapaksa, who is facing his biggest challenge for change, to set up the stop gap management citing the current term of Sri Lanka Cricket's office bearers had no legal right to continue since its term expired in February 2021.

A controversial vote to elect of-

office bearers to run the affairs of one of the island's richest and most financially rocked profit making public institutions is scheduled to take place on May 20.

Claiming that they were elected in February 2019 for the two-year term but entered office only on June 1, 2019 as a government Competent Authority stood in the way, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has appealed in a letter to Minister Rajapaksa to avoid falling

into a trap by appointing an Interim Committee.

"We urge you not to be swayed by any malicious attempts to appoint an Interim Committee as we have commenced the election process by duly appointing the Election Committee," SLC president Shammi Silva has conveyed to Minister Rajapaksa in a letter.

But there are also records to show that SLC had conducted two official

meetings, one for its management committee and another for its executive committee in March 2019 which runs contrary to their claim that they entered office only in June 2019.

The administration of cricket is under public scrutiny like never before with a Parliamentary probe committee currently investigating financial misdeeds and missing bank accounts.

A court Petition submitted by 12

of the country's super elite followers calling for a new Constitution at SLC that will also abolish an exploitable voting system that does not promote credibility has also added to public curiosity.

The governance of cricket in Sri Lanka has come under as many as eight government-installed Interim Committees over the past 20 years as and when allegations of financial misdeeds had taken place.

Sri Lanka crash to fourth series defeat

Sri Lanka's beleaguered cricketers crashed to their fourth series defeat inside three months as they were beaten by the West Indies 2-0 in the three match ODI series on Friday with one match left.

The defeat comes in the wake of a 2-1 defeat in the T20 series against the same opposition after the team was routed in Test series defeats against South Africa and England.

Television cameras showed a visibly shaken Sri Lanka head coach Mickey Arthur slamming the air in frustration as West Indies successfully chased down a 274 target to win the ODI series.

Never before have Sri Lankan team supporters seen their coach break down so regularly over the past three months raising questions on the state of the team's invisible dressing room.

But for some the string of defeats are a manifestation of a combination of how players had been badly managed over the years and the administrative politics that has driven out scores of home made coaches in favour of overseas solutions that have been of little use.

For the second time in succession the Sri Lankan bowlers failed to stop the West Indies batting openers Evin Lewis and Shai Hope from sharing in a century stand that laid the foundation for victory.

Sri Lanka had just one opening to defend the 274 target when the West Indies needed to make 31 runs in the last three overs with Nicholas Pooran



Shai Hope congratulates Evin Lewis on his century

merely pushing for singles and Jason Holder yet to score a run after power hitters Keiron Pollard and Fabien Allen were sent back to the pavilion.

But fast bowler Nuwan Pradeep Fernando sent down two wide balls and was slammed for an additional 16 runs by Pooran leaving the West Indies needing 13 runs in the last two overs.

Fast bowler Dushmantha Chameera managed to keep the batsmen calm conceding just four runs in the penultimate over.

But Pradeep bowling the last over conceded the balance nine runs including two fours hit by Pooran who remained unbeaten on 35 as West Indies won the contest and the series.

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA

Danushka Gunathilaka b Mohammed	96
Dimuth Karunaratne (c) b Joseph	01
Pathum Nissanka b Joseph	10
Oshada Fernando c Holder b Hosein	02
Dinesh Chandimal c Allen b Mohammed	71
Ashen Bandara c Shepherd b Mohammed	18
Thisara Perera run out	19
Hasaranga de Silva c Joseph b Holder	47
Lakshan Sandakan not out	02
Dushmantha Chameera not out	01
Extras (lb 1, w 5)	06
Total: (50 Ov, RR: 5.46)	273/8

Did not bat: Nuwan Pradeep
Fall: 1-7-32, 3-50, 4-150, 5-186, 6-204, 7-268, 8-271
Bowling: Joseph 10-1-42-2, Holder 9-0-66-1, Hosein 4-0-20-1, Shepherd 3-0-37-0, Allen 10-0-43-0, Pollard 4-0-17-0, Mohammed 10-0-47-3

WEST INDIES

Evin Lewis st Chandimal b Sandakan	103
Shai Hope c Pradeep b Perera	84
Nicholas Pooran not out	35
Darren Bravo c Bandara b Perera	10
Kieron Pollard (c) lbw b Pradeep	15
Fabian Allen c Bandara b Pradeep	15
Jason Holder not out	02
Extras: (b 1, lb 5, nb 1, w 3)	10
Total: (49.4 Ov, RR: 5.51)	274/5

Did not bat: Jason Mohammed, Romario Shepherd, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph

Fall: 1-192, 2-194, 3-212, 4-233, 5-249
Bowling: Pradeep 9.4-0-66-2, Chameera 10-0-56-0, Perera 7-0-45-2, Gunathilaka 3-0-17-0, H de Silva 10-0-48-0, Sandakan 10-1-36-1

A Joe-Pete big match with a change



BY PRANAVESH SIVAKUMAR

Joining only a selective cast of big match encounters, the Joe-Pete encounter too will proceed on May 28 and 29, officials of both schools confirmed exclusively to the Sunday Observer.

However, in a significant change, the 87th edition of the Battle of the Saints between St. Joseph's College and St. Peter's College will be played at the Sinhalese Sport Club (SSC) probably behind closed-doors away from its traditional venue the P. Sara Oval.

An official of the Peterite camp, who is also a member of the joint-organising committee, said that logistics played a part in picking the SSC ground to host the match.

"We're having a little bit of an issue with crowd control. We've, anyways, been looking at the SSC for quite some time and not really had an opening. But, we've had superb support from the Tamil Union (P Sara Oval).

"The limited-overs match, for the last few years has always been at the SSC. But this year, with matches all over the place, all odd times and hours, we've got the SSC and that was the reason", he said.

In another significant change, the Joe-Pete limited-overs match will precede the big match on May 15 at the same venue.

Both camps believe that playing the one-day limited overs match was the right option given the fact that this year's inter school tournament will be confined to a limited overs championship and it will not make sense playing a limited overs tournament and then going in for the traditional two-day match and then returning once again to play the one-day format.

"So, it was decided that we'll play the 50-over version first, because it's in line with the same school tournament," the official disclosed.

Another organiser from the Joes camp said: "Spectator-wise it has been steadily growing and the one-off relocation will be a test-and-trial. If no clash-of-dates surfaces in the coming years, the next-best big match after the Royal-Thomian may permanently stick at the SSC."

The Joe-Pete for now appears to be the solitary big match to remain in Colombo while the Royal-Thomian has been slated to be played at the Mahinda Rajapaksa International Stadium in Hambantota also in the month of May.

Mathews aborts Windies Test series

Sri Lanka cricketer Angelo Mathews will be returning home without featuring in the Test series against the West Indies which starts on March 21, Sri Lanka Cricket said in a statement citing a family matter.

Mathews had expressed a desire with the tour management to return home to be with his two-year old daughter who is currently undergoing medical treatment in hospital.

Social media was awash with messages calling for prayers for her speedy recovery.



Angelo Mathews

Central Campus and Imperial in final

Imperial College and Central Campus Colombo will meet in the final of the Red Bull Campus Cricket Championships at the BRC ground today.

Imperial College beat ESOF while Central Campus defeated SLIM in the semi finals played yesterday at the same venue.

SCORES:

ESOF 139 in 19.5 overs (Ramin-da Wijesooriya 31, Kavindu Irosh 31

n.o., Pawantha Weerasinghe 3 for 13, Ayesha Harshana 3 for 15)

Imperial College 145 in 14.5 overs (Sajith Priyal 53, Pawantha Weerasinghe 32, Naranjana Wanniarachchi 2 for 22)

SLIM 124 for 9 in 20 overs (Kanishka Uggalpayya 51, Chamindu Wijesinghe 4 for 22, Nipun Malinga 4 for 34)

Central Campus 127 for 2 in 17.4 overs (Heshan Dhanushka 55 n.o., Chamindu Wijesinghe 36 n.o., Dhan Fernando 1 for 17)

Peterites dominate Sebs in drawn game



St. Sebastian's College batsman Nadeesha Fernando plays a shot in their inter school cricket encounter against St. Peter's College at Bambalapitiya yesterday (Pic by Hirantha Gunathilaka)

St. Peter's College dominated their traditional inter-School Under-19 cricket encounter against St. Sebastian's College which ended in a draw at Bambalapitiya yesterday.

The Peterites chasing a target of 125 runs from nine overs, finished their second innings at 60 for four.

This was after the Sebastianites had collapsed for the second time in the game with Niman Umesh (2/21), Wanuja Kumara (3/40) and Danal Hemananda (2/11) sharing the wickets.

Earlier, the home side recovered from a shock start to reach a healthy 185 for nine in their first innings, thanks to a battling 47 from Vinuda Liyanage followed by useful contributions from Nipunaka Fonseka (37), Sanuka Galagoda (35) and Niman Umesh (24).

Chief scores

St. Sebastian's: 160/9 dec and 100 (Yashan Avishka 27, Niman Umesh 2/21, Wanuja Kumara 3/40, Danal Hemananda 2/11)

St. Peter's: 185/9 dec (Vinuda Liyanage 47, Nipunaka Fonseka 37, Sanuka Galagoda 35, Niman Umesh 24, Kalana Perera 4/36, Chrishane Perera 2/43) and 60/4 (Sanuka Galagoda 23) YK

Curtain comes down on former Royal College's illustrious athletics captain

Former Royal College athletic captain and Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police Roshan Fernando retired last Wednesday after a distinguished four-decade long service in the Police.

Senior DIG Fernando, better known as 'ERL' by his initials to his Royal College friends, joined the Police as a probationary Sub Inspector on April 26, 1982 and retired after an unblemished career of nearly 39 years on March 10, 2021 upon reaching the mandatory

retirement age of 60 years.

He was an invincible force in the Royal athletic team in the late seventies, leading his Alma mater to many records at Public Schools meets and other key athletic events. Besides being a Senior College Prefect at Royal College, he was the Head Prefect at the Hostel where he excelled as a versatile sportsman.

He has served in all ranks from the post of Sub Inspector of Police to the post of Senior Deputy Inspec-

tor General being in charge of six out of nine provinces of Sri Lanka.

He received IGP Commendations on seven occasions for his outstanding services to the country during his tenure.

He also played an important part as a key figure in the elite Special Task Force (STF) during the early part of his career and had a dynamic role under SSP Upali Sahabandu who was killed by an LTTE suicide bomber in Kalmunai in November 1996.

He was awarded the Northern Humanitarian Medal for his outstanding services during three decades of the country's battle against the LTTE serving as an officer in the STF and as the Jaffna Divisional Officer in the latter part of the battle.

Having completed his primary education at St. Mary's College, Negombo, he entered Royal College for his secondary education and dominated the track and field scene doing wonders for Sri Lanka

Schools athletics as the captain of a formidable Royal team in its golden era with a series of athletic records to his credit.

Fernando was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Law and Criminology by the British American University of Florida, USA, in recognition of his outstanding services to the public on behalf of the Police.

He married Kumari in 1989 and was blessed with a son Lakshan and a daughter Elisha.



Retiring Senior DIG Roshan Fernando

IMPACT

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MARCH 14, 2021

DEBUNKING MYTHS ON COVID-19 VACCINE

All Covid-19 vaccines are effective in preventing deaths

BY DR. CHARUNI KOHOMBANGE

Amidst the global pandemic it was with much anticipation the introduction of the Covid-19 vaccination took place. While many affluent countries have initiated the vaccination programs, Sri Lanka launched the Covid-19 vaccination rollout on January 29, administering the Covishield vaccine donated by India under the Vaccine Friendship initiative. At the time of writing more than 700,000 people, including health-care workers have been vaccinated across the country.

Vaccinations were initiated at the Colombo National Hospital, Colombo North, Colombo South Teaching Hospitals, Mulleriyawa Base Hospital, Homagama Base Hospital and National Institute of Infectious Diseases giving priority for the frontline health-care workers.

However, much hesitant and doubts are still prevailing among the general public on the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine. The aim of this article is to debunk these common myths about Covid-19 vaccine.

What is a vaccine?

Vaccination is a simple, safe and scientifically effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases. It promotes the immune system (the natural defence mechanism) of the body to fight against the specific pathogens.

Types of vaccines for Covid-19

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), currently around 200 Covid-19 vaccine candidates are developing across the globe. Out of these, more than 60 are in clinical development. As of last month, at least seven Covid-19 vaccines have been rolled out in countries, giving priority for the most vulnerable people.

There are three main approaches in manufacturing a vaccine. Their differences lie in whether they use a whole virus, just the parts of the virus that triggers the immune system or just the genetic material that provides the instructions for making specific proteins. Similarly, vaccines against Covid-19 are also manufactured in these three approaches. The storage conditions requirement differs with the vaccine type.

Did the researchers rush to develop a vaccine and is the safety and efficacy of the vaccine reliable?

This is a frequently heard question from the public. When assessing the process of developing the vaccine, it is clear that the researchers have never skipped any step in the usual development of vaccines. However the process was made faster as it was promptly funded and the genetic data of the virus were readily available with the scientists. Many companies and research institutes coordinated to manufacture vaccines against Covid-19, sharing a common goal.

Manufacturing of AstraZeneca vaccine

The AstraZeneca vaccine is a viral vector vaccine. In manufacturing this vaccine, the gene (Part of DNA of the coronavirus spike protein) has been combined with a harmless virus. The Oxford-AstraZeneca team used a modified version of a chimpanzee adenovirus as the viral vector to deliver genetic materials into cells.

In general, DNA is not as fragile as RNA, and the tough protein coat of the adenovirus effectively shields the genetic material inside. Hence, the Ox-



The vaccination drive

ford-AstraZeneca vaccine for Covid-19 is more stable than the RNA vaccines. Therefore, it does not need to be stored in freezing temperatures and the vaccine is stable at refrigerator temperatures at 38-46°F (2-8°C).

AstraZeneca-Oxford and Covishield - India, are they the same?

On December 30, 2020, the UK authorised the emergency use of the AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine for 18 years and older people. This vaccine was developed at the University of Oxford with the collaboration of AstraZeneca. People in the UK started receiving the vaccine from January 4, 2021. Since then, many countries have granted emergency use authorization of the AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine.

On January 6 AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine officially announced that Serum Institute of India has obtained emergency use authorization to reproduce and distribute the vaccine. Serum Institute of India is a leading vaccine manufacturer and has been one of the main vaccine suppliers for Sri Lanka's successful national immunization program. The vaccine manufactured by the Serum Institute of India is named as "Covishield" and is a re-branding of the AstraZeneca vaccine manufactured in the UK.

The National Medicinal Regulatory Authority of Sri Lanka approved Emergency Use Authorisation of the vaccine giving the green-light for the national vaccine rollout.

What is an emergency use authorisation?

An Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) is a mechanism to facilitate the timely availability of medical products including vaccines while ensuring the stringent criteria on quality, safety and efficacy. This is especially adopted during public health emergencies such as the current Covid-19 pandemic. In this type of emergency situations authorities such as the FDA/WHO uses the available evidences and carefully analyses the potential benefits over risks and issue an EUA, only if the benefits of the medicine clearly outweigh the risks.

On December 31, 2020, WHO issued their first EUA for a Covid-19 vaccine by authorizing the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, enabling the vaccine rollout.

On February 15, 2021, WHO listed the two versions of AstraZeneca vaccine, AstraZeneca-SKBio (manufactured in the Republic of Korea) and Covishield vaccine under the EUA confirmed list. This step initiated the global vaccine rollout through COVAX (Covid-19 vaccines Global Access) facility ensuring vaccine equity across the globe.

On March 7, Sri Lanka received the first batch of Covid-19 vaccines from the COVAX facility. This consignment contained 264,000 doses of vaccines which is the first instalment of the 1,440,000 doses, which will be arriving through May. According to the

WHO, the additional doses to cover 20 percent of the Sri Lankan population will arrive during the second half of 2021.

Are there differences in the efficacy levels of the Covid-19 vaccine?

The efficacy levels of different vaccines have been determined by different settings with different criteria with different study populations. Therefore, it is not meaningful to compare efficacy levels between different vaccines. Further, there are many other factors such as safety, logistics, and feasibility when selecting a vaccine for a country.

According to the available data,

combined average across different dosing regimens have found that the AstraZeneca vaccine was 70 percent effective in protecting against symptomatic disease. The most important finding is that, all commonly used Covid-19 vaccines show almost 100 percent effectiveness on preventing deaths and minimising severity of the disease.

Equitable worldwide distribution

It is important to remember that unless the majority of the those are immunised, we cannot assure effective controlling of the disease by the vaccination. This is described as herd immunity. When the majority (over 80 percent) of the population has become immune to the infection, the likelihood of infecting the those lacking the immunity is minimised.

Therefore, regardless of the financial status all countries should receive the vaccine equitably. Only if used the vaccine correctly and equitably, we could eradicate the acute phase of the pandemic and allow the rebuilding of our societies and economies.

Similarly, since resources remain scarce, immunisation programs will have to prioritise certain groups over others before the distribution is progressively expanded to all population groups.

To make this a reality, COVAX is bringing nations together, regardless of their income level, to ensure the procurement and equitable distribution of Covid-19 vaccines.

Side effects

Like all medicines, this vaccine also can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. Almost all vaccines in use have reported similar side effects. These side effects are normal signs that the body is developing immunity. According to the available data, following are the possible side effects;

Very common (may affect more than 1 in 10 people)

Tenderness, pain, warmth, redness, itching, swelling or bruising where the injection is given. Generally feeling unwell, feeling

tired, (fatigue) chills or feeling feverish, headache, nausea, joint pain or muscle ache.

Common (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)

A lump at the injection site, fever, Vomiting, flu-like symptoms, such as high temperature, sore throat, runny nose, cough and chills.

Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)

Feeling dizzy, decreased appetite abdominal pain, enlarged lymph nodes, excessive sweating, itchy skin or rash (Severe allergic reaction can occur extremely rarely)

During the vaccine rollout in Sri Lanka, so far no serious adverse effects have been reported even though there were several reports of high fever, headache and myalgia (body pain).

Eligibility criteria for vaccination

The vaccine is not recommended if you have ever had a severe allergic reaction needing hospitalisation.

Age should be above 18 years. No data are currently available on the use of Covid-19 Vaccine in children and adolescents younger than 18 years of age. Since there are only limited data on the use of Covid-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca in pregnant or breastfeeding women, these categories are also excluded from vaccination.

If someone is having fever and is not feeling well on the date scheduled for vaccination, it will be postponed to another date.

If you are in the quarantined period or you were infected with Covid-19 during last 14 days your vaccination date will be postponed. It is to be noted that the history of Covid-19 infection is not a contraindication for the vaccine as it is not clear how long the natural immune response from the disease lasts.

If you are undergoing any of the following conditions, inform it to the doctor at the vaccination visit;

If you have ever had a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) after any other vaccine injection.

If you currently have an infection with a high temperature (over 38°C).

If you have a bleeding disorder.

After completing the vaccination is it possible to go back to the normal lifestyle?

Even though vaccine is proven to be effective in reducing severe disease and mortality, so far there is no research data to prove that it can effectively reduce asymptomatic transmission. Therefore, it may be possible that people vaccinated for Covid-19 can still carry and transmit the virus, even when they themselves do not have symptoms.

Vaccination is an essential preventive strategy. But it is not a replacement for other preventive measures. Hence, adapting to the 'New Normal' is still essential. Wearing a mask, proper hand hygiene and maintaining social distancing are still needed until more is known and enough population has been vaccinated.

Getting vaccinated is part of your responsibility for the society and humanity. It is important to have faith on evidence-based science and trust on the vaccines recommended by the experts, receive it when it is made available, have realistic expectations, and finally, to adhere to the 'New Normal' until a significant percentage of the population is immune and safe.

The writer is the Medical Officer, Healthcare Quality and Safety, Ministry of Health.

EVEN THOUGH THE VACCINE IS PROVEN TO BE EFFECTIVE IN REDUCING SEVERE DISEASE AND MORTALITY, SO FAR THERE IS NO RESEARCH DATA TO PROVE THAT IT CAN EFFECTIVELY REDUCE ASYMPTOMATIC TRANSMISSION. THEREFORE, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE THAT PEOPLE VACCINATED FOR COVID-19 CAN STILL CARRY AND TRANSMIT THE VIRUS, EVEN WHEN THEY THEMSELVES DO NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS.



World Consumer Day 2021

Theme of the year, "Sustainable consumerism"

By
Sarath
Wijesinghe



World Consumer Day (WCD) is an annual event held on March 15, every year for celebrations, activism, and solidarity among the consumer and consumer organisations worldwide. Consumerism has a historical significance until WCD was originated in 1983, and subsequently the consumer rights were elevated to a position of international recognition by adopting guidelines by the United Nations.

Former US President John. F. Kennedy said in 1962 that consumer by definition includes the largest economic groups affecting and effected by almost every public and private economic decisions yet they are the very important group whose views are often not heard. Today things have changed as in the West where the consumer is organised and powerful. WCD is one of those events of showing strength and power of the consumer. Seminars and workshops and shows of activism give a sense of power and strength to the consumer.

Junk food generation which has an adverse effect of the health of the human being especially children have been a popular topic of the day.

Some topics chosen before of unethical drug promotion, GM food, consumer and water, control of the food chain. Selection of the same topic junk food consecutively for two years indicates the importance of the topic. Twenty million children around the world are already overweight. Most children are targeted by multinational organisations.

As a result there is a strong global campaign to introduce an international code on marketing unhealthy food to children.

The WCD depends on initiatives planned functions and projects carried out by consumer organisations in every country.

This takes the shape of a special campaign with press conferences, exhibitions, workshops and similar events. Unfortunately in Sri Lanka there is less activism leaving the helpless consumer alone in the hands of the errant trader and industrialist that continues to exploit freely despite regulatory led by the Consumer Affairs Authority (CAA) which was established in 2003 with high expectations to protect the consumer, regulate trade, form consumer organisations and show the strength of the consumer to the Government and trader, and compel the government machinery to provide the consumer with quality food and other consumer items of quality and at a reasonable price.

The Consumer is aware that he/she is disappointed and let down while the trader and the industrialist have a field day in exploitation of the consumer who is a citizen of this country.

Consumer Trust

Developing countries trust in a highly complicated digital atmosphere where the consumer is now at the door step of digital age.

Digital storms are blowing away the human mind which is the most advanced computer now depending on artificial intelligence and advanced digital technological developments.

We are at the doorstep of the modern digital transformation where the entire style on the modern advanced systems and innovations are of human life.

Consumers are inadequately protected by traditional safeguards provided by respective legal systems worldwide and outdated regulatory procedures.

The United Kingdom magazine "Which" provides the consumer a medium of information, advice and guidance. Unfortunately no such system is available in Sri Lanka when there are "COW BOY" consumer organisations available for publicity and exploitation of both the consumer and trader.

The European Union (EU) has spread its tentacles over the member countries in safeguarding the consumer by directions.

Consumerism in India is organised and powerful with government support legislation legal system and a separate consumer courts with the judiciary favouring public interests.

There has been legal actions in the USA and UK even against giant multinational company Cocoa Cola and junk food chains for poisoning and making the entire world poten-



tial patients.

Consumerism and consumer protection models are organised and effective in the socialist block and the Commonwealth with different legal systems.

There is uniformity in the Commonwealth including Canada Australia with similar legal systems and the Sri Lankan model is a mixture of Australian, Canadian and UK models and European concepts.

Consumers are powerful and considered to be solid as in other parts of the world where they are able to flex their muscles on the parties concerned for fair and reasonable consumerism.

The consumer is powerful with the adage "consumer is always right".

The theme of the year 2021 is the Sustainable Consumer which is a timely topic in the midst of volatile and unstable situations in all areas of trade, regulation and generally consumerism.

It appears that the foundation is shaky with the Consumer Act No 09 of 2003 which is a mixture of Canadian, Australian, and the UK model depending on competition law and regulation after having replaced the English model based on price control.

The Minister of Trade has fixed controlled prices of 27 goods to be sold only at CWE outlets which is wheat flour at Rs. 84 per kilogram, dhal at Rs. 150, milk powder at Rs.400 and the list goes on. How could he do it when the subject consumerism in under a different Ministry and we have done away with the concept of price control with the introduction of the Consumer Act No 09 of 2003?

DIGITAL STORMS ARE BLOWING AWAY THE HUMAN MIND WHICH IS THE MOST ADVANCED COMPUTER NOW DEPENDING ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND ADVANCED DIGITAL TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS. WE ARE AT THE DOORSTEP OF THE MODERN DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION WHERE THE ENTIRE STYLE ON THE MODERN ADVANCED SYSTEMS AND INNOVATIONS ARE OF HUMAN LIFE. CONSUMERS ARE INADEQUATELY PROTECTED BY TRADITIONAL SAFEGUARDS PROVIDED BY RESPECTIVE LEGAL SYSTEMS WORLDWIDE AND OUTDATED REGULATORY PROCEDURES



Sorry to say it is in a mess with the CAA under a Major General, a nice personality but with a lack of knowledge and vision on the subject. The CAA should be amended forthwith to cater to the modern developments and digital platforms and modern challenges.

World Consumer Day

WCD is the opportunity for the consumer to show strength by flexing their muscles agitating for their rights since the consumer is always at the receiving end worldwide- mostly in Sri Lanka with lack of powers to organise and agitate for the legitimate needs of the consumer.

Initiated by John Kennedy in 1963 the WCD process continues worldwide including Sri Lanka with the organising of consumer movements and many other organizations.

In Sri Lanka the process is led by the CAA which is the main regulator in the country and other organisations. It is still not known what steps the CAA has taken for this year's programs whereas previously various programs were organised with the consumer, public, students and the citizen at large.

A topic chosen for this year is to work around issues such as junk food generation, and it is timely beneficial to the citizen and an eye opener to the rest of the world including the governance and the trader.

The consumer must be alert and vigilant when the trader is expected to be fair and reasonable to strike a balance for a better world and society to live in.

The consumer is the most neglected group in society as stated by Kennedy in 1963.

Obviously the world action will have a ripple effect on the genuine needs of the consumer as a result of the worldwide organised consumer movement in which the zenith is on March 15 every year at various organised events worldwide.

Sustainable Consumer -Theme of the World Consumer Day

Emphasis and priority this year is given to global changes to avert environment breakdown where the consumer has to play a main and vital role to avoid destruction of our world by greedy politicians and industrialists with consumers included.

Consumer education and organisation is vital to avert the self-destruction of ourselves knowingly and unknowingly leading to a slow death of the citizen and the globe with irreparable damages to the future of mother of earth.

This is a timely and current topic owing to the destruction of the world due to unplanned developments and it is the duty of the public bodies to engage in the world consumer movement in saving the planet from destruction.

Culprits and those responsible are worldwide in this sad destruction process.

Forest cover in Sri Lanka is decreasing fast daily due to jungle clearing, forest fires and unplanned developments leading to floods, uneven climatic changes and disasters, which is man-made owing to greed.

This could be averted by changing the lifestyle and style of governance. Sand mining is rampant with the assistance and patronage of errant and corrupt politicians and government servants.

The min regulator CAA appear to be in deep slumber occasionally counting the price of vegetables with no vision for the nation!

Other regulators such as the local authorities, ministries, appear to be engaged in political strategies and collection of funds for the future.

World famous cultural and other sites of attraction are in danger due to vandalism and damage caused by the owners of the land where destruction continues at random despite the existence of number of ministries and departments with enormous powers and funds available to prevent it.

Certain consumer goods are poisonous and there is no proper regulation by CAA and other regulators to control it. It is a sorry state which needs revival by a proper leader as the regulator with a vision and collective action by the consumer organisations and the public.

What is the possible remedy to prevent the imminent disaster and destruction?

Remedy is with us to change the lifestyle and style of governance



WCD IS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CONSUMER TO SHOW STRENGTH BY FLEXING THEIR MUSCLES AGITATING FOR THEIR RIGHTS SINCE THE CONSUMER IS ALWAYS AT THE RECEIVING END WORLDWIDE- MOSTLY IN SRI LANKA WITH LACK OF POWERS TO ORGANIZE AND AGITATE FOR THE LEGITIMATE NEEDS OF THE CONSUMER. INITIATED BY JOHN KENNEDY IN 1963 THE WCD PROCESS CONTINUES WORLDWIDE INCLUDING SRI LANKA WITH THE ORGANIZING OF CONSUMER MOVEMENTS AND MANY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

locally and globally. Efforts of the WCD and the world consumer movement is to educate the citizen on awareness devices.

Consumer rights and duties are recognised by the United Nations, governments, and organisations as inalienable rights and the duties of the citizen and governments is in the interest of the future generation to come.

Act No 07 of 2003 has provided a powerful tool to the CAA to mobilise the citizen and educate them in the right directions via workshops and consumer organisations. One wonders how many consumer groups have been formed by the CAA to interact with the trader and manufacturer to strike a balance among the groups known as the consumer, trader, manufacturer and the regulator. It is the duty and the practice of the CAA to organize the WCD event annually and one wonders what the CAA has done or is doing at this end and if nothing is done let them start the process at least from next year.

The CAA and the regulators must mobilize all segments of society on this direction and the best groups are NGOs, schools, universities, places of work, religious centers, media, the citizen included.

The finger has been pointed at the CAA as it has been provided with lot of funds and power with a mission to help us.

When Cocoa Cola used water from Thames River it is the media that came forward on behalf of the consumer that was forced to kneel down.

The UK's WHICH magazine is in the forefront of the consumer movement protecting the consumer and guiding the trader with their

powerful media colleagues.

In Sri Lanka the media and NGOs have different priorities on political and human rights issues which are more lucrative and powerful than consumerism which is not lucrative enough.

Way forward

State media, NGOs and the general public must give priority to the consumerism movement as their saviour to avoid destruction of their lives, the planet and the future generation by educating and organizing themselves with the proper guidance of the CAA and other main regulators.

It is the duty of all people, organisations, states, to be a part of this, process of saving the citizen and the planet from man-made destruction.

The current trend of the young generation and governance is encouraging and the participation of the consumer individually and collectively is encouraged and admirable. It is a good sign that the media is also involved in many projects, small and large.

The media is full of disturbing and destructive news on environment disasters. We wish and hope the trend to continue as a force with the blessings and encouragement of the Regulator headed by the CAA which the consumer is dependent on.

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The writer is a President's Counsel, former Chairman of the Consumer Affairs Authority, former Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Israel President Ambassadors' Forum



River Avon

On the banks of River Avon

By
Gwen Herat



As a boy curious of his surroundings, young Shakespeare spent all his mornings walking up and down the banks of River Avon. He was fascinated and delighted by the hundreds of white swans gliding, frolicking, splashing water on each other while a few would fly away. Some made swirls to the music of sweeping winds.

This system gripped his young mind. Slowly steadily, Shakespeare dreamed of future sonnets, unaware that several mysterious characters will remain to baffle the literati world.

Try interpreting Shakespeare's plays in the light of Shakespeare's stage.

But he had already effectively pointed the way forward for what has become the dominant ideal in the production of Shakespeare's plays in the 20th century. This involves the attempt to resolve a paradox: to be faithful to the play, while also making it modern. A production may be in period clothes, or modern clothes or clothes of no particular period at all, but it must speak to the audience.

This is partly because the growing complexity of theatre equipment required that someone try to co-ordinate the performance. But it is mostly a question of cultural diversity and confusion. We evidently feel that Shakespeare needs to be interpreted by some coordinating intelligence or rather that he needs to be re-interpreted, for Shakespeare's plays can now be seen again and again in many different productions. Sometimes this re-interpretation has resulted in a needless striving after novelty for its own sake. Often it has been revelatory.

National companies

The huge, publicly funded national

companies of today, the Royal National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company, are the inheritors of shoestring revolutionary ventures of the turn of the century and between the wars. Their very structures indicate how little we can agree upon. Both organisations retain proscenium-arch auditoria. But they also have studio spaces (the Cottesloe, the National Theatre Studio, the Pit, the Other Place), and the huge Olivier in London, and the more intimate Swan in Stratford.

It seems we cannot agree among ourselves on what a theatre is. We are conscious primarily of diversity. This is true of our approach to Shakespearean production. Though director's theatre is still dominant, it has not precluded the work of actor-managers such as Sir Donald Wolfit. Indeed, some actor-managers, such as Sir John Gielgud, Sir Laurence Olivier and Kenneth Branagh, have been able to work within director's theatre. But director's theatre is designed precisely to multiply the available interpretations. It is not itself a style.

Today we feel as if we live in a baffling matrix of many different voices and points of view. There is scarcely any sense of a single, dominant way of doing Shakespeare (though in hindsight, future theatre historians may perceive patterns which we, being in the thick of it, cannot yet apprehend). Related to this is the sense of there not being any single audience for Shakespeare with shared standards, values and expectations, but there being a variety of audiences- ultimately simply being the many individual audiences that assemble night after night around the world, to let the theatre attempt to perform one of its most important functions: that of taking a collection of diverse, separate individuals, and turning it into a group where many differ- which enjoys a collective identity, if only for the duration of the play, so that we can test what values we share, and how we might live together.



William Shakespeare

“ Shall I compare thee to a Summer's day
Thou art more lovely and more temperate
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May
And summer's lease hath all too short a date
Sometimes too hot the eye of heaven shines
And often is his gold complexion dimmed....

Apparently the Bard compares his best days as a paragon of youth but lays his feelings on one young nobleman and also on a woman but finds him lovelier and milder than the often punishing days of Summer. But, later changes his mind in the latter sonnets. The young man's good looks will endure as the eternal Summer keeps fading only to come back later. His youth will endure forever as this sonnet. How right he was because centuries later it is still temperate and awakens our minds to shower praise on it. And Shakespeare questions, 'shall I compare thee to a Summer's day?' and contrary to thinking, he is different. His love is not measured against summer but summer is measured against a lover, who is this lover; obviously the Earl of Southampton.

We have to learn more on sonnets to find his inner feelings. He never confessed any feelings to anyone but there came a time when his mind nor soul could cope up the tensions within and he had to bear it out. So, he poured them into sonnets, confusing the reader about a young good-looking nobleman and The Dark Lady. We still do not know whether both are the same person on whom he lavished his ardour. But we do know the nobleman to be the Earl of Southampton. Yet, the Bard pours out his heart as though on a beautiful woman.

“ Let me confess that we two must be twain
Although our undivided loves are one.
So shall those blots that do with me remain
Without thy help, by me borne alone
In our two loves there is but one respect
Though in our lives a separable spite....

Surely, he is not referring to Anne Hathaway. Then, who is it? The Dark Lady or the Earl of Southampton. During Shake-

peare's time, any book that was printed was entered upon a list known as the Stationer's Register. In April, 1593 Shakespeare's poem, Venus and Adonis was entered by its printer, Richard Field who was a Stratford man like the poet who had made a successful move to London. They clicked very well as a combination but, The Rape of Lucrece was registered on May 9, 1594 by another printer called John Harrison. Both poems were dedicated to a young nobleman. Henry Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton who was rich, dashing and influential. Why? Let's find out.

Earl of Southampton

Shakespeare was swept off his feet by his looks and passions aroused. Shakespeare tried hard to win his patronage as well as his affection. Getting a patron meant getting some financial support and an influential friend. The dedication to the young earl follows the fashion of the time and they exaggerated his high position making the poet very humble.

Shakespeare's sequence is not conventional as we find his expressions in sonnet CXXX when he describes his mistress' eyes, lips, breast and hair but turn on his heels to express that the ideal mistress should be white-skinned, blonde and red-lipped and like Juliet, blessed with eyes that rivaled the sun. However, with the Bard the situation is not that easy to the extent there is any kind of story. The poet's two loves both in the sense of persons who he loves with an intense friendship with the man as in sonnet XX where homosexual interests is disapproved. But a sexual relationship with a woman of whom he speaks in harsh terms and with disgust but indicate that man and woman seem to get together to betray him.

One reason that Shakespeare's marriage never brought him happiness is that he was very disdainful of women. He considered the whole lot to be vain, proud, deceitful, murderous, homicidal, suicidal, unfaithful and betraying, as most of his plays and sonnets reveal.

Did that make him gay or homosexual? A reason he showered his affections on a young nobleman. Shakespeare never let himself down. Whatever the cause was, he left it in mid-air and today, scholars are still investigating. In sonnet 98 he complains; 'From you I have been absent in the spring but in a man's absence, the poet feels no such feel, 'As with your shadow I with these play'.

In trying to connect all elements, he is caught with his pants down with the central problem arising from his affection to The Dark Lady and a young man. The poet faces more dilemma that the more his imagination dwells on the young man, he risked dissolving into an image which became merely imaginary. Other sonnets sequences tend to be addressed to women so idealised that virtually ceases to be flesh and blood his changeable nature set against her perfect immutability. Still on the face of all these and others, he denies his homosexual leanings even if it was in the case of a single person's affection; that of the Earl of Southampton. My guess is that even the Dark Lady was a man.

I can go no further. He has also confused me.

Doctor in the House
BY DR. NAMAL SENASINGHE
CONSULTANT IN PAIN MEDICINE
MBBS, Dip in PAIN MED., FFARCS, FPMCA, CCST (UK)

Pelvic pain



Pelvic pain is felt below the umbilicus (belly button) above the legs meeting the pelvis. It may come on suddenly. It could be a mild or severe pain, and can last for long periods. Pain can be constant or episodic. Pelvic pain is more common in females and the treatment can be challenging and frustrating for the patient and the doctor.

See a doctor as soon as possible if you're experiencing pelvic pain.

- Two types of pelvic pain
- Acute pelvic pain
 - Chronic pelvic pain

Acute pelvic pain

Pelvic pain that comes on suddenly for the first time is called acute pelvic pain.

See a doctor or a suitable specialist immediately if you have acute pelvic pain. They will investigate the cause and arrange any treatment you may need.

The most common causes of acute pelvic pain in women who aren't pregnant are:

- **An ovarian cyst** – a fluid-filled sac that develops on an ovary and causes pelvic pain when it bursts or becomes twisted
- **Acute pelvic inflammatory disease** – a bacterial infection of the womb, fallopian tubes or ovaries, which often follows a chlamydia or gonorrhoea infection and needs immediate treatment with antibiotics.
- **Appendicitis** – A painful swelling of the appendix (a finger-like pouch connected to the large intestine) which usually causes pain on the lower right-hand side of your abdomen (tummy)
- **Peritonitis** – Inflammation of the peritoneum (the thin layer of tissue that lines the inside of the abdomen); it causes sudden abdominal pain that gradually becomes more severe and requires immediate medical treatment
- **A urinary tract infection** – The patient probably also has pain or a burning sensation when urinating, and may need to urinate more often.
- **Constipation or bowel spasm** – this may be brought on by changes in diet, medication, irritable bowel syndrome or, in rare cases, a bowel obstruction.

Less common causes of acute pelvic pain include:

- **A pelvic abscess** – A collection of pus between the

womb and vagina that needs urgent treatment in hospital

● **Endometriosis** – A long-term condition where small pieces of womb lining are found outside the womb, such as on the ovaries, leading to painful periods.

Chronic pelvic pain

Pelvic pain lasting more than three months or more that either comes and goes or is continuous, is known as chronic pelvic pain.

Chronic pelvic pain is more intense than ordinary period pain and lasts longer. It affects around one in six women.

See a specialist if you have chronic pelvic pain. The specialist will investigate the cause and arrange any necessary treatment.

Common causes of chronic pelvic pain

The most common causes of chronic pelvic pain are:

- **Endometriosis**
- **Chronic pelvic inflammatory disease** – A bacterial infection of the womb, fallopian tubes or ovaries, which often follows a chlamydia or gonorrhoea infection and needs immediate treatment with antibiotics.
- **Irritable bowel syndrome** – a common long-term condition of the digestive system that can cause stomach cramps, bloating, diarrhoea and constipation

Less common causes

- **Lower back pain**
- **Chronic interstitial cystitis** – Long-term inflammation of the bladder
- **Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)** – a term used to describe two chronic conditions, ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, which affect the gut
- **Hernia** – where an internal part of the body pushes through a weakness in the surrounding muscle or tissue wall
- **Trapped nerves in the pelvic area** – these may cause sharp, stabbing or aching pain in a specific area, which often gets worse with certain movements

Dr Namal Senasinghe
MBBS, FFARCS, Dip in pain med, FPMCA, CCST (UK).
Consultant in Pain Medicine, London Pain Clinic, No. 31, Horton Place Colombo 7, Sri Lanka. Tel-0767155716 (hot line)

AGM of Sri Lanka Women Lawyers' Association

Sri Lanka Women Lawyers' Association held its 58th Annual General Meeting at Salon Anthurium, Galadari Hotel, on January 24, 2021.

Justice Kumudini Wickremasinghe, Judge of the Supreme Court was the Chief Guest at the occasion. U. R. De Silva PC, former President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka and Chief Advisor to the Ministry of Justice was invited as the Guest of Honour. Special Guest, Ajith Rohana, Attorney-at-Law, Deputy Inspector General of Police- Legal, Discipline and Conduct Range 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 being elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka in the presence of past presidents and Office-Bearers.

Ruchira Gunasekera was unanimously elected as the President for 2021.

The other elected Office-Bearers are:

Mihiri Fernando -Vice President, Anusha Ranasinghe - Vice President, Achini Wickremaratne -Secretary, Shehani Alwis - Treasurer, Disna Amarasinghe - Assistant Treasurer and Diana Stephanie Rodrigo - Assistant Secretary.

Members of the Executive Committee:

Priyadarshani Gunasena, Kumudu Ariyaratne, Pushpa Rupasinghe, Sandhya Wickremasinghe, Prabha Chandrapala, Imalee Weerasinghe, Nishani



Lokuge, Seetha Handuneththi, Erandathi Kuruppu, Shamika de Silva, Nilmini Medonza Nalini Kaneshayogan, Rajika Silva, Ranusha Wijesinghe, Wathasala Uluwaduge, Dharshani Lahanadapura, Anoma Jayawardena, Thamara Abeyratne, Yasasri Nanayakkara, Sandhya Fernando, Geethanjali Sumithraarchchi Dissanayake, Aruni Gunasekera, Ronali De Zoysa and Tharuka Kodithuwakku



Geneva process in progress

By
Sarath
Wijesinghe



Are we in trouble? Absolutely not. We can easily get out of the threat if we play our cards well. We are somewhat lost ourselves and the correct way to get over is to follow the famous village adage that "If you know the way and if there is a correct way in the process, why do you mingle about as a person lost the way" - walk and follow the correct way.

Let us be simple and straight on alleged human right violations and crimes against humanity - especially at the last stage of 2009, while protecting the human shield of 300,000 persons created by the LTTE. Killings by the LTTE were brutal and human right violations by this most ruthless terrorist outfit in the world has been rampant.

According to USA reports, the LTTE had been the cruellest and most powerful terrorist organisation, with facilities of naval and air-power aiming to establish a separate state in the North and the East of Sri Lanka. Despite the corona pandemic, the people are living peacefully with no fear of terrorism due to the sacrifices by the security forces.

The battle against terrorism in Sri Lanka was won by the most disciplined Security Forces over undisciplined LTTE guerrillas with child soldiers. We were the victims of gross human rights violations by the British in 1817/1818 when they massacred hundreds of thousands youth over 18 (the male population while destroying 100,000 acres of paddy fields by burning with cattle and other belongings of villagers, with the destruction of great irrigation systems of the Sinhala kings, as narrated by "Herbert White" on the Journal of 'Uva' by British Agent Baker.

Internal issues

The Great Liberation war of Uva in 1817/1818 - is not too far away historically. Not too late for "Madam Michelle" to take up at the Human Rights Council. What rights have the UN and the Human Rights Commission got to inquire into our internal issues within the domestic jurisdiction when Article 2(1) of the Charter said that "The Organisation is based on principles of sovereign equality of all its members".

We are bound by the United Nations Charter and connected conventions as we are a signatory and bound by legal and other considerations demarcated by international law conventions and practices. The periodic review of the Human Rights Committee consisting of 47 supposed to be friendly nations is a part of the process going through the human right records of selected member nations with the High Commissioner of Human Rights for appropriate steps as requested by the UN guidelines. Decisions are taken on friendships, political affiliations, economic consideration, person rivalries and not necessary on merits of the country in question.

What is the effect and impact of the countries concerned on the findings and information? Israel with various issues live with strong support of powerful friends and power of themselves in the world community when we are too small to withstand the pressure of certain

interested groups. Israel is a world nuclear power and self-sufficient though small in size. Being a country not dependent on others economically, the USA is in the forefront as the main ally of Israel.

Double standard

What moral right has the USA in bringing resolutions against Sri Lanka when they are accused of killing over 200,000 in the infamous word war when the people were wiped out by the barbaric atomic bomb of the USA, in Hiroshima and Nagasaki for which Obama apologised during his regime? Is this sufficient? What about the population still suffering with cancer and permanent disabilities? What about the invasion of Iraq looking for arms of mass destruction which they never found with killings people.

What wrong have they done to be killed in mass graves? These are only fractions which are well documented on the Internet. There is lot more in Afghanistan, Africa, Asia and many parts of the Globe due to greed for wealth and power. What right do they have to be the world policeman and superior watchdog on human rights and supervise and punish us (Sri Lankans) for liberating ourselves from terror?

The country promoted loving kindness, compassion to the entire living beings, including human beings and animal kingdom as based on the Buddhist way of life practising over 2500 years. It appears that Sri Lanka is accused of ending the battle against terrorism that has ruined our generations for over 30 years from the clutches of the ruthless LTTE fertilised by some interested Western groups contrary to their advice to settle for a part of the country.

We proved that terrorism could be eliminated militarily. We will be in trouble if we do not possess and practice a proper foreign policy. During the Presidency of J R Jayawardene, the foreign policy was fully aligned towards the west and USA whereby India with the mentality of regional power with an international agreement with the USSR was not considered a close friend.

JR made certain remarks on Indira Gandhi, the then emerging leader implicating her good friend Sirimavo Bandaranaike and carve stories which pierced through Indira Gandhi. The results were obvious with 1987 indirect invasion and enforcement of the 13th Amendment. India still wants to implement 13A tied down as a condition to support in the UN decelerations when the USA says her support is tied down on human rights.

These are realities in international politics as much as domes-



The UN Human Rights Council

tic politics proving the notion that foreign policy is an extension of domestic policy. Indira gave indirect support to emerging LTTE to rise which ruined us for three decades showing that even in international politics, personalities and personal issues matter and are as important as international matters between nations. Madam Bandaranaike won a lot for Sri Lanka with her charm and friendship with the Gandhi family which is a lesson for us for future. Former President Mahinda Rajapaksa managed "War Diplomacy" well until the battle against terrorism was won.

Foreign policy

The Foreign policy of a nation in most simple words as how she behaves in the international forum in dealing with all matters within the domestic jurisdiction and the international arena, which is monitored and scrutinised by the other member states, organisations worldwide. The Foreign policy is the forerunner of a nation and is said to be an extension of the domestic policies which are monitored by the world.

The events in Geneva is in the public eye and read, monitored and argued by many. Today, top priority is given by member nations to economic diplomacy. Friendly nations have grouped together finding violations of other countries based on the information received from the NGOs, media, diaspora and other

HUMAN RIGHTS HIGH COMMISSIONER MICHELLE BACHELET'S ALLEGATIONS INDICATE THAT SHE WAS NOT PROPERLY BRIEFED AND MISGUIDED BY THE POWERFUL LOBBYING OF THE DIASPORA WITH TENTACLES ALL OVER THE WORLD. HER ALLEGATIONS ARE BASED ON A PRESUMPTION THAT THE TAMIL BRETHREN ARE A PERSECUTED GROUP CONFINED TO THE NORTH AND THE EAST

means in monitoring and periodic reviews of the conduct of the countries on the dock alleging human right violations. The UN is the only world body depending on the funds from richest nations for existence and maintenance. It is the richest and powerful five members of the world body that have the final decision in all matters.

Do member states receive equal treatment from the UN or the powerful countries is a difficult question to answer as accusations against the world powers appear to be not effectively considered. All these issues are parts and connected to foreign policy issues. US President Joe Biden has started air strikes with the new foreign policy and demonstrated priority on governance.

Friendly with all

The general motto in Sri Lankan foreign policy is "Friendly with all and angry with none". "Madam Bandaranaike" at the Senate on the Non-Alignment Foreign Policy said that although small and militarily weak, small nations have a positive role to play in the world today. We cannot wash our hands away deviating on the classical theory of neutralism. She maintained friendly relations with all groups. She was firm, steady, straight and fearless with a firm economic and political foreign policy and got a positive reaction though small.

Neutrality gives different meanings as avoiding confrontations and agreements, such as NATO and be neutral such as Switzerland that was neutral traditionally during the battle against terrorism. Today, the foreign policy fluctuates based

on strong economic considerations influenced by big economic and political powers unable to frame and possess coherent form and correct foreign policy for the country.

Can we be neutral and non-aligned is the million dollar question? We need a Sri Lanka friendly foreign policy. The Yahapalana regime was accused of mismanaging foreign policy by co-sponsoring 30/1 and taking decisions on the economic front by entering into Singapore agreement, long lease of (almost sale) of "Hambantota" New harbour and Lease (almost sale) of Trincomalee oil tank farms in the absence of the foreign policy and fighting among the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister and the President drifting towards three ways.

It is the Head of State that announces and updates foreign policy. It appears that there is a lacuna in Sri Lanka which benefits the enemies of the nation. If the foreign policy is an extension of the domestic policy on international economic fronts, those should be clear cut to the world at large. It appears doubtful whether it is so. The litmus test of our friendly interactions with the rest of the world is how the friends will help us when we are in need of help Geneva deliberations. The economy and the economic diplomacy play a major role in steps taken by the member states on the international stage.

Allegations and accusations

Human Rights High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet's allegations indicate that she was not

properly briefed and misguided by the powerful lobbying of the diaspora with tentacles all over the world. Her allegations are based on a presumption that the Tamil Brethren are a persecuted group confined to the North and the East. Some 60 percent Tamils live outside the North and the East and abroad. It appears she compares Sri Lanka's situation to the South African or Bosnian situations based on different circumstances.

She makes presentations based on the information collected over the years by groups of prejudiced mindsets groomed by the diaspora. It appears that she has not been provided with correct information on the issue.

The Tamils are an educated wealthy lot spread around the country living with the majority community in the South. A classic example is Colombo where the majority population is the Tamils.

Economic missions

The Geneva resolution is the main part of the foreign policy which is an extension of the domestic policy. It is how the economy is functioning which is the main concern of many countries in relation to trade investments and trade policies. For example, India has concern on the Eastern Jetty, Trincomalee Oil Farms and Trade Agreements for them not to assist Sri Lanka in the guise of the 13th Amendment. The USA was keen on the SOFA and the MCC agreements. The main displeasure appears to be the differences on these agreements. Japan has interests on a rail project and the Eastern Jetty which have not materialised. Most issues and differences arose from economic matters rather than real politics.

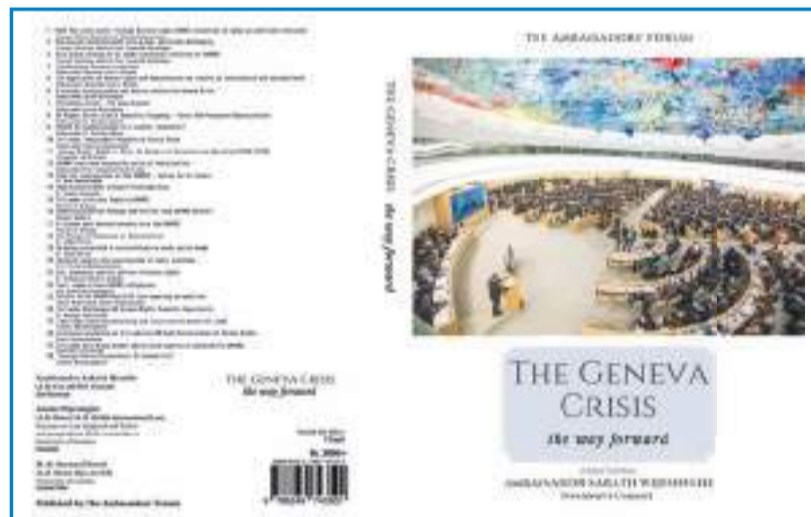
Human Rights

Human Rights in Sri Lanka are excellent with a separate chapter in the Constitution on fundamental rights which is implemented in the Supreme Court with a strong Legal Aid Commission and the independent Bar and the Judiciary. The Human Rights Commission is the main body in protecting, fostering and enhancing human rights. Aggrieved parties may lodge complaints which are subsequently transferred to the Supreme Court having gone through the Chairman.

The High Commissioner has a catalogue of concerns on Sri Lanka and governance. Being a retired judge, the High Commissioner should have considered all sides carefully before deciding on a scanty attack on a country which enjoyed democracy over 70 years uninterrupted after the country was liberated from British colonialism. Friends of Sri Lanka have spoken high and loud on the allegations by the High Commissioner and the other countries planning for a new resolution.

The Ambassadors' Forum has compiled a book on the Geneva process with 28 articles from top professionals and academics to be submitted to the High Commissioner and all member nations for the consideration before the proposed resolution is adopted and the deliberations of the Geneva process is completed, with names and subject matters of articles on various fields relation to the Geneva process.

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Sarath Wijesinghe is a President's Council and former Ambassador to the UAE and Israel.



The book compiled by the Ambassadors' Forum

Thisun - The brother I never had

Thisun Sanjeeva Bandara Amarasinghe or more affectionately known as 'Cheena', 'Phila' (owing to the resemblance to the Pop singer Phil Collins) and other pseudonyms was an irreplaceable, unique person who possessed extraordinary qualities and idiosyncrasies.

I first met Thisun when we were in grade nine at Royal College, and had the good fortune of associating with this "Gentle Ben" for nearly 35 years. During this period, I had never observed him even once being annoyed or losing his temper. In fact, he was hardly ever seen without his trademark smile across the face.

Proving the famous adage 'A friend in need is a friend indeed' true, he steadfastly stood by my side during the highs and lows of my life, manifesting the proper meaning of a loyal and dependable friend, and so our friendship blossomed into perpetuity. Despite being cognizant of the fact that death is inevitable, his passing is a permanent and irremediable bereavement to me.

Thisun had a wide circle of friends

and acquaintances. He was immensely popular at college among his peers and loved by the teachers who taught him. He excelled in rugby and was equally passionate about cricket.

Thisun was a gutsy player, whose nimbleness and speed made him a brilliant Wing Three-Quarter. Another rugby great with an impeccable track record, my very good friend, the late Sampath Agalawatte who was captaining the College First XV Team then, further fine-tuned Thisun's rugby skills. Sadly, Sampath too passed away some time ago in the prime of his life. Apologies for the brief digression, but yours truly has a lot of respect and regard for this gentleman as well.

Had Thisun not seriously injured himself by impulsively trying to tackle a very senior renowned club rugby player of that era amidst a friendly encounter, his rugby career wouldn't have ended so abruptly, and he would have flourished at the game.

His family was very closely knit, and he loved his parents and the only sibling Kusal immeasurably. He

adored and revered his mother, Aunt Stella. Likewise, auntie too loved her *podu putha* boundlessly. Every chance she got, she used to pet and pamper Thisun, as if he was a five-year-old.

Let me elaborate on one such occurrence, during a family mealtime. Invariably there was high drama whenever we sat at the dinner table, and a spectacle to watch! Auntie always thought that the pieces of beans and okra in the curries were too big for Thisun to swallow, and was forever with a knife cutting these vegetables on Thisun's plate into even smaller pieces. Of course, my friend never objected to this. In fact, he was looking forward to it!

Meanwhile, his father (late Uncle Walter) was a silent onlooker to these mother-son theatrics, and Vajira and I would literally choke on our food, having a hearty laugh. There are many such stories I could relate. However, due to space constraints, I will refrain from delving into them. Thisun's parents were like our surrogate parents, and his home was our 'home away from home'. Its doors

were always open for us, and Vajira, Gamini, Shalutha, Amith, Charaka and I were regular visitors to this charming abode at Sujatha Ave, Kalubowila, where we spent countless days and nights during our schooling days.

Thisun, Vajira and I were proverbial bosom buddies, and inseparable. I indulge in nostalgia and carry fond memories of the antics of the troika in school as well as outside. Anything and everything we did together, including getting punished; and by punished I mean physically getting thrashed by the sectional head, for the occasional ruckus we make, cutting classes and many other misdemeanours. Oh, how I cherish the fun, laughter and overall good times we had!

This marvel of a human being with a heart of gold was a thoroughbred gentleman and was the 'epitome' of being human. The social standing of a person or the wealth one possessed did not matter to him at all. He treated everybody humanely, especially the underprivileged and the marginalised. Thisun's ability to sin-

cerely bond with whomever he met was exemplary.

The domestic aide Kalyani and the entire workforce of his company 'Route 69' treasured him. Their *podu mahaththaya* was eternally sympathetic and compassionate towards the grievances they ventilated, and redressed them graciously and with exceptional generosity. He always adopted sound ethical business practices, and conscientiously fulfilled his obligations and duties as an employer without vacillation or any hesitation.

I was shocked and devastated to hear Thisun's untimely and tragic death on January 15, 2016 in Auckland, New Zealand, where he lived with his daughter Samerah and wife Ruwani. Giving credence to the claim 'good die young', he was just 48. Never in my wildest dreams did I think that something so terrible and vile can befall a person who was as kind and affable as Thisun.

The answer to the lingering question as to what transpired on that fateful day will remain a mystery forever. Even though five years have elapsed,

I still feel desolated, and inordinately regret that I could not be with my dearest and esteemed friend to help and support him to emancipate and extricate himself during the trying times he had encountered. I wish I could turn back the clock to that ominous day, and recite to him the chorus of this beautiful song 'Come with me' by Phil Collins, whose music Thisun and I enjoyed profoundly during the bygone days.

*Come with me
Close your eyes
Hold my hands
It'll be alright
Don't be scared
Don't be shy
Lift your head
It's gonna be alright
It's gonna be alright.....*

Farewell, my friend, my brother! Thank you for the inimitable friendship you gave me.

May you attain the supreme bliss of Nibbana!

Chaminda

Dharmaraja and Kingswood to revive second oldest big match

By
Hafiz
Marikar



Dharmaraja College and Kingswood College are waiting to come out for this year's big match and the date has been fixed for May 14 and 15 at Palleteke.

This is the second oldest big match in the country and the first match was played in 1893 at the Bogambara ground. It was not exclusively a schoolboy match as they included a few members of the staff from both schools. The first all-schoolboy big match was played in 1899.

This is the most looked forward to sporting event of the two schools and last year the match was not played due to the coronavirus.

Referring to a historic game, that was in 1960 - the big match ended in a tie and Kingswood's Principal, Kenneth M. De Lanerolle, awarded the match to Dharmaraja having gone through the score book for better performances. Although the scores were the same, the Rajans had taken more wickets, not in catches and LBWs, but in clean bowling wickets. If this happens today the principal will be chased out.

Kenneth M De Lanerolle was a keen follower of cricket and was at this big match on the two days from the start to end at the Police ground matting wicket. The match ended in a tie and he wanted the two score books and after seeing the good work

of Dharmaraja College awarded the win to them.

Kingswood's last pair batted all evening to draw the game. Everything looked set for a draw, when in the final ball of the match they went for a needless run. The ball was returned, the stumps were broken, but no one was sure what happened, as the crowds had already invaded the pitch. Kenneth de Lanerolle was a stern man, with thick eyebrows and a solemn appearance. He was a man of letters, a master of literature, all set to be a leading, well respected educationist and a much loved Principal of both Kingswood and one time at Wesley College. He promptly consulted the scorers and conceded the victory to the better performance by Dharmaraja College.

So, this year all is set for the most looked forward to big match of the central hills and this will be the 114th encounter known as the Battle of the Maroons.

The first all-schoolboy Big Match was in 1899 with J.C. de Mel captaining Dharmaraja and T.B. Marshall leading Kingswood. In the 113 matches played so far, Dharmaraja leads with 33 wins against 19 by Kingswood with 56 matches ending in draws. The last win for Dharmaraja was in 2015 under Tharusha Weragoda and Kingswood's last win was in 1958 under Maurice Fernando.

In 1918 Dharmaraja were all out for 9 runs, which to date is the lowest score in an innings in the series. This match was played on March 15 and 16 March.

Kingswood first innings 125 (VE



REFERRING TO A HISTORIC GAME, THAT WAS IN 1960 - THE BIG MATCH ENDED IN A TIE AND KINGWOOD'S PRINCIPAL, KENNETH M. DE LANEROLLE, AWARDED THE MATCH TO DHARMARAJA HAVING GONE THROUGH THE SCORE BOOK FOR BETTER PERFORMANCES. ALTHOUGH THE SCORES WERE THE SAME, THE RAJANS HAD TAKEN MORE WICKETS, NOT IN CATCHES AND LBWS, BUT IN CLEAN BOWLING WICKETS. IF THIS HAPPENS TODAY THE PRINCIPAL WILL BE CHASED OUT

Melder 0S Baie 15, HA Perera 13, RW Bartholomeusz 19, LB Herath 16, E. Dias 12, JB Murray 11, FM Abeyakoon 14, L. de Sylva 10, TH Cox 9, HM Marikar 4 not out)

Dharmaraja first innings 9 (U. Banda 6, C. Fernando 0, C. Abeyasinghe 1, S. Abeyakoon 1, C. Wijesinghe 0, CG de Silva 0, AWG Perera 1, CM de Mel 0, A. Ratnayake not out 0, M. Perera 0, C. Wimalasena 0)

In 1943 the first century in the series was scored by PL Arthur Alwis of Dharmaraja College. It is interesting

to note that the Rajans' skipper TB Talwatte, was deprived of this honour as he was injured by the Kingswood pace bowler MT Jaimon and Talwatte had to leave the field temporarily during which time Arthur completed his century. Later, Talwatte too completed his century. Jaimon took 5 wickets for 90 runs for Kingswood. The match was won by the Rajans by an innings and 152 runs. PL Arthur Alwis also captured a match bag of 9 for 39.

In 1951 Kingswood led by left-hander Shelton RS Perera, scored an exciting win over Dharmaraja. Needing to score ten runs in six balls and one run in two balls they did with a ball to spare. The winning stroke was hit by the captain himself.

In 1952 Chandra de Silva scored 158 for Dharmaraja in the match played at Randles Hill. Asoka Perera scored 148 for Kingswood. The match ended in a draw. De Silva's 158 was the highest individual score in the series to that date. In 1956 the highlight of the drawn encounter was the bowling feat of M. Nizar of Kingswood who took 6 wickets for 48 runs. In 1957 Kingswood amassed 401 for 9 wickets with Maurice Fernando scoring 101 runs. Dharmaraja replied with 269 runs in the first innings. In 1958 - Kingswood defeated Dharmaraja by 10 wickets and this was the last time Kingswood defeated Dharmaraja.

In this match Kingwood was captained by CM Fernando who was selected the Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year. Dharmaraja was captained by DDT Alwis. The Kingswood opening pair, considered the best among the

schools, was Maurice Fernando and Herly Jayasuriya. They put on an unbroken stand of 102 runs in the second innings enabling Kingswood to win. Herly scored a brisk 50 while Maurice scored 43.

The venue is called Randles Hill because the land and the original buildings were donated to the Methodist Church which was responsible for the administration of Kingswood College in 1925 by an English benefactor named Sir John Randles. It is in memory of this benefactor that this hill is called Randles Hill.

In 1967 Kingswood skipper Tissa Jayathilake batting well with Mohan Kodituwakku, declared the innings still short of 9 runs of a century, which would have earned him the distinction of scoring consecutive centuries having scored an unbeaten 100 in the 1966 match. Another feature of this match was the bowling of left-arm spinner Sena Abeygunaratne, who took 7 wickets for 32 runs in the Dharmaraja first innings of 143 runs. In 1976 and 1977 PB Wickremasuriya of Kingswood and Ajith Naranpanawe of Dharmaraja entered the record books by scoring centuries in both years thus becoming the only two players to score centuries in consecutive matches. In 1981 Dharmaraja College with captain Janaka Mendis registered an outright win over Kingswood College after 30 long years.

The highest individual score is by Senaka Dissanayake of Dharmaraja who made 200 in 1983 and for Kingswood Clifford Ratnavibushana who scored 167 in 1959.

Hampshire to host World Test final

The inaugural World Test Championship final between India and New Zealand will be held in a bio-secure bubble in Southampton, ending hopes that the event could be safely staged at Lord's.

The plan had originally been to have the marquee match take place at the "home of cricket" in June but the ongoing shadow of the coronavirus pandemic forced a rethink.

The Hampshire Bowl was one of only two grounds selected to host men's international cricket in England last year, along with Old Trafford. Both venues have on-site hotel facilities. If the British government's phased easing of Covid-19 lockdown measures goes ahead as planned, a limited number of fans will be allowed into the ground for the match, taking place from June 18 to 22.

"The ICC (International Cricket Council) World Test Championship final is the pinnacle event in the Test calendar and is intended to be a week-



long celebration of the oldest form of the game," said Geoff Allardice, ICC general manager for cricket.

He added: "We are confident that in selecting the Hampshire Bowl, we have given ourselves the best possible chance to successfully deliver the final whilst keeping everyone involved safe and healthy."

New Zealand were the first team to qualify for the final and were

joined by India following their series win over England, which concluded on Saturday.

Tom Harrison, chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board, said of the stadium: "As the world's first fully bio-secure cricket venue, it has shown itself capable of delivering international matches to the highest of standards, even against the backdrop of a global pandemic." (AFP)

79th Paris - Nice cycling race



The pack rides during the sixth Stage of the 79th Paris - Nice cycling race, 202.5 km between Brignoles and Biot, on March 12, 2021. (Photo by Anne-Christine AFP)

Fitness test for pool athletes

A fitness test for Elite and National Pool athletes will be held on March 18/19 at the Sugathadasa Stadium Colombo. Athletes attached to both pools will be given over-distance and under-distance events, while jumpers and throwers too will be given lesser step jumps and less-

er stride throws. The test will help athletes and coaches to check progress and plan their future training as a four-day National Athletics trial will be held from April 7 to 10 at Sugathadasa Stadium.

This will be a golden opportunity for athletes to qualify for the forthcom-

ing 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games by either achieving direct qualification standards, or by increasing their present world ranking positions with a good performance. The trial will also be used to evaluate the present Elite and National pools. (TBR)

South to host North Korea for World Cup qualifiers

KUALA LUMPUR, AFP: South Korea will host North Korea for a series of World Cup and Asian Cup qualifiers later this year, the Asian Football Confederation said on Friday.

South Korea, who reached the 2002 World Cup semi-finals on home soil, are one of eight countries hosting their respective Asian qualifying groups, in a new format intended to reduce coronavirus risks.

China, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Japan are among the other hosts for the postponed games, which will be played from May 31 to June 15.

In October 2019, the two Koreas drew 0-0 in the North Korean capital Pyongyang in a pre-Covid World Cup qualifier where fans and foreign media were barred and there was no live TV broadcast.

It was the first competitive game between the Korean men's teams hosted by the North. In their last World Cup qualifier in South Korea, the home side won 1-0 in Seoul in 2009.

Elsewhere, China will host Syria, the Philippines, Maldives

and Guam in Group A, while Kuwait will hold the Group B games, also involving Australia, Jordan, Nepal and Taiwan.

Group C countries Iraq, Iran, Hong Kong and Cambodia will play in Bahrain, while Group D nations Uzbekistan, Singapore, Yemen and Palestine are in Saudi Arabia.

Qatar will host Group E's Oman, Afghanistan, India and Bangladesh, with Japan welcoming Group F rivals Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Myanmar and Mongolia.

Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia will play in UAE in Group G, while South Korea will host Group H including Turkmenistan, Lebanon and Sri Lanka, as well as North Korea.

Asia's World Cup qualifiers have been on hold since 2019, after the coronavirus wiped out last year's schedule.

North and South Korea are still technically at war after the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice rather than a peace treaty, and the peninsula remains divided by the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone.

Indians relieved to be in Test final after Aussies threatened to change equation

Skipper Virat Kohli said India were "relieved" to make the inaugural World Test Championship final and would now focus on that "one big game" against New Zealand in June after seeing off England.

India crushed Joe Root's side inside three days in the fourth Test in Ahmedabad on Saturday to clinch the series 3-1 and finish top of the Test Championship table ahead of New Zealand.

India had led the standings until November, when a change in the points system because of coronavirus disruptions promoted Australia to top spot.

"We are relieved that now we have made it to the final," Kohli told BCCI TV.

"Probably if you look at the last two-and-half years how we have played, we deserve to be in that final.

"Now it's just about getting together as a group again and focusing on that one big game which is quite exciting for all of us."

New Zealand's spot in the final



Virat Kohli

was secured when the Test series between South Africa and Australia was postponed last month.

India coach Ravi Shastri questioned the decision of the International Cricket Council to change the points system midway into the Test Championship. The new method, based on percentage of points in-

stead of total points, left India needing to win the Test series away in Australia and the one at home against England to make the final.

"Please don't shift the goalposts midstream," Shastri told reporters when asked about the next World Test Championship, describing the points system change as abrupt.

But he added: "I cannot say how proud I am of my Indian cricket team. Going through this tough period and qualifying against all odds when you go from number one to number three."

Kohli had maintained that the championship race was merely a "distraction" for his team, who did not need any further incentive to win Test matches.

India made the final after bouncing back from opening losses in two series - winning 2-1 Down Under and beating England 3-1 at home.

The games threw up new heroes, most notably wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant, who played a key part in the Australia series, and hit 101 on

Friday to set up India's latest victory over England.

Pace bowler Mohammed Siraj, all-rounder Washington Sundar and spinner Axar Patel also burst into the side, making an immediate impact.

India overcame adversity, including being bundled out for a Test low of 36 to lose the series opener in Adelaide, the departure of Virat Kohli on paternity leave and a succession of injuries to senior players, to level the series in the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne.

A draw in Sydney followed before a patched-up India inflicted an astonishing first Test defeat on Australia at Brisbane's Gabba ground for 32 years to win the series.

"We played cricket well in India, we played cricket well outside India as well," said batting star Rohit Sharma.

"We were put under pressure, we were put in that difficult situation many a time and we responded well which is why we stand here qualified for the final." - AFP

Clement bags snooker final

BY UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA, KANDY SPL CORR



The champ C.Clement in action

C.Clement of Pyramid Snooker Parlor won the Open Kandy District Snooker

Championship concluded at the Kandy Sports Club Snooker Parlor on Friday. He beat I Hussain 4/1 in the final.

Results - Semi Finals:

C.Clement (PSP) beat M. Sally (PSP) 4/3
C.Hussain (PSP) beat M. Ziard (PSP) 4/1

Final:
C.Clement (PSP) beat I. Hussain (PSP) 5/3

Third/Fourth places:
M. Ziard (PSP) beat M. Sally (PSP) 2/1

SPORTS

Paris 1900 set the annals of modern Olympic history

By
Rear Admiral
Dr. Shemal
Fernando, PhD



The first decade of the 20th century was an age of momentous technological progress, with the early years of the automobile, aviation and cinema offering promise of a brave new world. It was against this backdrop that the modern Olympic Games established themselves as part of the new landscape. The Paris 1900 played no small part in helping to write a glorious page in the annals of Olympic and world history. These games also represented a historic turning point with the inclusion of female athletes for the first time.

The Paris Olympics, officially known as the Games of the II Olympiad, were unique insofar as they took place over a period of five months in conjunction with the Exposition Universelle (World's Fair) of 1900, in Paris, France. The competitions began on May 14, and ended on October 28. There was no opening or closing ceremony per se; a procession of gymnasts into the Velodrome de Vincennes, took place during the national festival of the Union of Gymnastics Societies of France on June 3, 1900.

These were the first Games organized under the IOC founder and the first President, Baron Pierre de Coubertin. At the first Olympic Congress, which took place in Paris from June 16 to 23, 1894, he proposed that the first Olympic Games be held in 1900. The delegates were unwilling to wait for six years and a decision was made to hold the first Games in 1896 in Athens and the second in 1900 in Paris. It was during the 1894 Congress that the IOC was officially founded and to this day, June 23 is celebrated around the world in the form of Olympic Day.

The Organization of Paris 1900

The Baron de Coubertin believed that holding the 1900 Games as part of the World's Fair would help public awareness of the Modern Olympic Games and submitted elaborate plans to rebuild the ancient site of Olympia, complete with statues, temples, stadia and gymnasia.

A committee consisting of able sports administrators of the day was appointed and a provisional program was drawn up. On November 9, 1898, the "Union of the French Societies for Athletic Sports" (USFSA) put out an announcement that it would have sole right to any organized sport held during the World's Fair. It was an empty threat but Viscount Charles de La Rochefoucauld, the head of the organizing committee, stepped down rather than be embroiled in the political battle.

The IOC conceded control of the Games to a new committee which was to oversee every sporting activity. Daniel Merillon, the head of the French Shooting Association, was appointed as the president of this organization in February 1899. He proceeded to publish an entirely different schedule of events, with the result that many of those that had made plans to compete in concordance with the original program withdrew, and refused to deal with the new committee.

The new organizing committee held an enormous number of sporting activities. The sporting events rarely used the term of "Olympic." Indeed, the term "Olympic Games" was replaced by "International Physical Exercises and Sports" in the official report of the sporting events of the Exposition Universelle of 1900. De Coubertin had commented later: "It is a miracle that the Olympic Movement survived that celebration."

Participating Nations and Medal Count

According to an IOC imprint, 24 nations sent competitors for Paris 1900. Modern research shows that athletes from 28 countries participated. The concept of "national teams" chosen by National Olympic Committees did not exist at that point in time.

In total, 997 competitors - 975 men and 22 women took part in 19 different sports. This number relies on certain assumptions about which events were and were not "Olympic." The decision to hold competitions on a Sunday brought protests from many American athletes, and were expected to withdraw rather than compete on their religious day of rest.

The host nation of France fielded 72% of all athletes (720 of the 997) and won a total of 112 medals with 29 gold, 44 silver and 39 bronze medals. The United States athletes won the sec-

ond-most in each with 19 gold, 14 silver and 15 bronze medals, while fielding fewer than 8% of the participants (75 of 997). The Great Britain won 16 gold, 7 silver and 9 bronze medals.

The gold medals were not awarded at the 1900 Games; instead, most of the winners were given cups or trophies. In some events, a silver medal was given for first place and a bronze medal for second. The IOC has retrospectively assigned gold, silver and bronze medals to competitors who earned 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, respectively, in order to bring early Olympics in line with current awards.

Alvin Kraenzlein, the Most Successful Athlete

At the 1900 Games Alvin Kraenzlein of the United States won four events in athletics with new Olympic records: 60m (7.0 sec); 110m High Hurdles (15.4 sec); 200m Low Hurdles (25.4 sec); Long Jump (7.185 m) to become the most successful athlete.

His four individual gold medals remain the unmatched record for a track and field athlete at a single Olympic Games. Kraenzlein's pioneering technique of straight-leg hurdling brought him two world hurdle records in addition to his five world records in long jump. He is known as "The Father of the Modern Hurdling Technique."

Sports at Paris 1900

It appears that the IOC has accepted Olympic historian Bill Mallon's recommendation for events that should be considered "Olympic," based on retrospective selection criteria - restricted to amateurs, international participation, open to all competitors and without handicapping. The Paris 1900 was the only Olympic Games in history to use live animals, pigeons as targets during the shooting event.

Only athletics, swimming and fencing had competitors from more than ten nations. The swimming competition, proved a success, attracting plenty of interest and athletes from a wide spread of countries. The Australian contingent caused a stir by introducing a new swimming style - front crawl or in modern Olympic parlance, freestyle. The other big hits were the gymnastics and cycling. However, the sport that attracted the biggest international field was fencing.

Swimming and water polo were considered to be two disciplines within a single sport of aquatics in the Olympic context. Among the other sports, only croquet was not an international competition, being contested by French players only. Like all the Olympic events widely regarded as official, there were 71 scholastic and 92 military events across a range of sports conducted during the 1900 World's Fair.

Athletics: Throughout July 1900, Pierre de Coubertin himself was on hand to preside over the athletics events, or "running, jumping and throwing" competitions as they were called in the Bois de Boulogne. The United States swept the board winning 16 gold, 13 silver and 10 bronze medals from 23 events.

There was no track laid and races took place on an uneven field of grass littered with trees. The hurdles in the 400m hurdle race were 9.1m long telegraph poles arranged on the track and the race, uniquely in Olympic competition, had a water jump on the final straight.

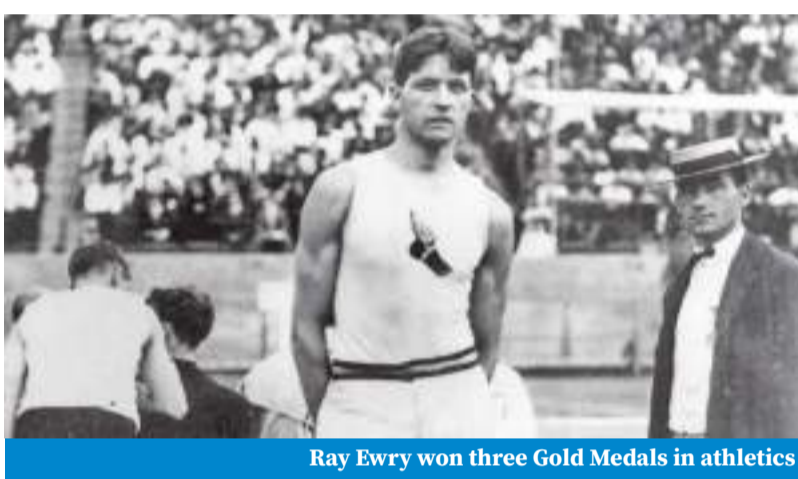
Alvin Kraenzlein won 4 individual



Alvin Kraenzlein won four Gold Medals in athletics



The Olympic Stadium Velodrome de Vincennes



Ray Ewry won three Gold Medals in athletics

gold medals in athletics, a feat that has never repeated in the history of Olympic Games. Walter Tewksbury of the United States won five medals - two gold medals in 200m and 400m Hurdles; two silvers in 60m and 100m; a bronze in 200m Hurdles.

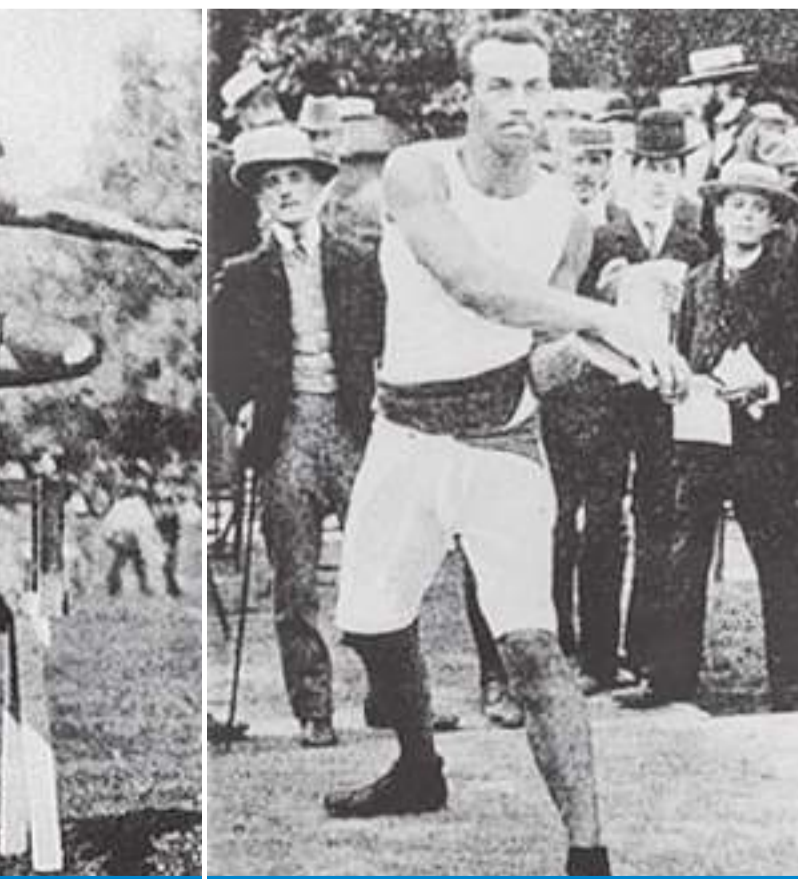
American domination was even greater in the field events. Ray Ewry started his Olympic career with a sweep of the three standing jumps - High, Long and Triple, while Irvin Baxter finished second to Ewry three times and won both the High Jump and Pole Vault.

The most contentious of all the events - the Marathon was intended to follow the track of the old city wall. The course was poorly marked out and runners often got lost and had to double back on themselves before continuing. On some parts of the course, runners had distractions from cars, bicycles, pedestrians and animals. Michel Theato of France emerged the winner.

Sailing: The 1900 sailing regatta differs from every other Olympic regatta in a number of ways. Five nations shared the medals. France and



Michel Theato winning the Marathon



Rudolf Bauer won the Discus Throw

Great Britain were the most successful. In most classes there were two distinct 'finals', boats were assigned time handicaps according to their weight within each class.

The IOC initially recognized the winner of the first race in each class as Olympic champion except in the case of the 10-20 ton class, which was decided on aggregate time over three races. However, currently the participants of both first and second races in 3 classes are present in the IOC database as medalists. It appears that one more race in each of 2 other classes has been recognized by the IOC.

Shooting: Switzerland's Konrad Staheli was the outstanding marksman of the Games, taking a trio of titles and leading his country to the top of the shooting medal table. The medals were shared between six different nations. There is a debate as to whether the live pigeon shooting event was a full Olympic event, Belgian Leon Lunden shot twenty-one birds on his way to the championship.

Up to thirty unofficial shooting events were also held, most involving professional marksmen. Research has shown that one of the medal events in the IOC database (25m rapid fire pistol, also called military pistol cat. 6) was contested by professionals.

Swimming: The muddied waters of the Seine hosted the swimming events in 1900. Run with the current, the races produced very fast times by the standards of the day. John Arthur Jarvis of Great Britain, Frederick Lane of Australia and the German Ernst Hoppenberg each won two titles.

Lane received a 50-pound bronze statue of a horse as a prize. A couple of unusual events were held. The obstacle race required both swimming underneath and climbing over rows of boats while Charles de Verville stayed submerged for over a minute to win the underwater swimming event.

Water Polo: Great Britain were unchallenged, scoring 29 goals and conceding only 3 in their 3 matches. In the final, they limited the number of shots on goal to avoid humiliating their opponents.

Fencing: Nineteen nations were represented and was held in a field near the cutlery exhibit at the 1900 World's Fair. French fencers dominated the proceedings but both Cuba and Italy also took titles.

The early rounds of the foil competitions were judged on style rather than the actual result. This meant that some fencers were eliminated without losing a contest while others were defeated and still progressed to the next rounds.

Archery: The history of the archery competition at 1900 Olympics is one of confusion. The IOC currently lists six events with Olympic status, but a case has been made that as many as eight other events equally deserve to be considered part of official Olympic history. Belgian Hubert Van Innis won two gold and one silver medals.

Equestrian: Equestrian made its debut at the Olympic Games with three jumping events being held, plus two other events. The Italian rider Gian Giorgio Trissino won a gold and a silver. He narrowly missed making Olympic history by winning two medals in the same event. Competing with two different horses in the high jump, he jointly won the gold medal and finished in 4th place on his second horse.

Rowing: The coxed fours descended into farce when officials changed the qualifying criteria for the final several times. The first final was held without any of the original qualifiers, who had withdrawn as a protest against the decision to run six boats on a course laid out for only

four. The officials then decided to run another 'final' for the boycotting crews. Both events are considered official Olympic competitions. The crews saw the advantage of having ultra-lightweight coxswain and recruited local boys and some could have been under ten years.

Tennis: A high quality men's tournament saw Laurence Doherty reached the final when older brother Reggie stepped aside and let his sibling advance to the final. The two refused to play each other in what they considered a minor tournament.

On July 11, a landmark was reached in the history of the Olympic Games when Charlotte Cooper, already three times Wimbledon champion, took the singles championship to become the first individual female Olympic champion. A few days earlier she had teamed up with R. F. Doherty, himself a winner of three medals in Paris, to claim the mixed doubles title.

Basque Pelota: The Chistera form of the game was played at this, the sport's only appearance at full Olympic level. Two pairs entered and the Spanish partnerships of Amezola and Villota became their nations' first Olympic champions. The Mano form of the game and a Chistera tournament for professional players were contested unofficially.

Cricket: After the withdrawal of teams from the Netherlands and Belgium, only two teams played in the cricket tournament. A team made up of players from two Paris clubs consisting almost exclusively of British expatriates, played a touring team from the southwest of England.

An emphatic second innings bowling performance from Toller captured victory for the visitors as time appeared to be running out for them. If the French had held out for five more minutes the game would have been a draw. Knowledge of the game would have been lost but for the forethought of John Symes, a member of the victorious team, who kept a scorecard in his own writing.

Croquet: The croquet tournament was notable as it marked the first appearance of women at Olympic level. Madame Despres, Madame Filleul-Brohy and Mademoiselle Ohiere were eliminated in the first round of competition. All players were French. A single paying spectator attended the tournament, an elderly English gentleman who travelled from Nice for the early stages. An unofficial two-ball handicap competition was also held.

Cycling: The home nation won six of the nine medals available. A number of unofficial events were held for both amateurs and professionals.

Golf: On October 4, Margaret Ives Abbott recorded the best round (47) on the nine-hole course to win the gold medal. In doing so she became the first American woman to win an Olympic gold, and also the reigning women's golf champion for the following 116 years, but she remained unaware of her feat right until her death in 1955.

Football: The first football champions at the Olympics were the London amateurs of Upton Park F.C. A crowd of around 500 spectators saw them defeat their French rivals.

Gymnastics: 135 gymnasts took part in a competition that involved elements from track and field and weightlifting as well as gymnastic disciplines.

Polo: Eight separate tournaments were held in 1900 and only the Grand Prix is counted as an official medal event. Entries were from clubs rather than countries, and the winning Foxhunters club comprised English, Irish and American players.

Rugby: Three teams competed in the Rugby tournament. A French representative team defeated a team from the German city of Frankfurt and Moseley Wanderers from England. The Moseley team had played a full game of rugby in England the day before they made the journey to Paris.

They arrived in the morning, played the match in the afternoon and were back in their home country by the next morning. The proposed game between the British and German sides was cancelled, and both credited as silver medalists.

Tug of War: A combined Sweden/Denmark team, made up of three competitors from each country, defeated the French team to win the title. Edgar Aaybe was a journalist covering the Games for a Danish newspaper and was asked to join the team when another puller was taken ill.

(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)

New talent showcased at Rising Stars netball

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

The Dialog netball Rising Star tournament held at the Torrington ground has given rise to new talent that will likely be given a place in the national pool.

"We should recognize their skills and guide them to become champions of tomorrow in international courts. The selection committee saw their talents during this under-23 tournament that was won by Western Province who defeated North Western Province 23-9. We were also able to spot the talented coaches that will be beneficial in the future," said Victoria Lakshmi the president of the Netball Federation of Sri Lanka.

Over 150 players from nine teams from the nine provinces competed for supremacy in this tournament that was sponsored by Dialog Axiata. The preliminary round was played on a league basis before the quarter-finals.

Sri Lanka has the potential to perform well beyond the Asian circuit with the new crop of talented players who have been training for the past few years.

The Sri Lanka team has made steady progress during the past few years and improved on the rankings to be 18th in the world and first in Asia.

Meanwhile, the captain of the champion Western Province team Chamudi Dilrukshi said that this tournament gave them the opportunity to display their skills despite being restricted in their practices.

Skipper of the runner-up team North Western Province Chandumini Gayanthika said that they offered stiff competition during this tournament while adding that the experience was more important than winning.

The new national pool is already training under coach Somitha de Alwis and her assistant PDN Prasadi.



Amali Nanayakkara, Group Chief Marketing Officer, Dialog Axiata PLC and Anuradha Wijekoon, Secretary - Ministry of Youth and Sports, presenting the champions trophy to Chamudi Dilrukshi Wickramaratne, captain of the winning Western Province team

Ashen Bandara: Sri Lanka's new kid on the block

BANDARA CAUGHT THE EYE OF THE SELECTORS IN 2017 WHEN DURING A HOME TEST SERIES AGAINST INDIA THE SRI LANKAN TEAM MANAGEMENT WANTED SOME POTENTIAL 'REPLACEMENTS' IN CASE OF EMERGENCY FROM THE NEAREST SCHOOL CLOSE TO THE GALLE INTERNATIONAL STADIUM



Ashen Bandara

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Ashen Bandara the promising cricketer is the latest addition to the Sri Lanka team as a brilliant fielder at any position and a useful middle order batsman who also bowls right arm leg spinners.

The 22-year old player from St. Aloysius' College in Galle has already proved his ability during the current West Indies tour and made 44 in the second T20 match that Sri Lanka won and then become the fifth batsman from the island to make a half century on debut in an ODI when he achieved the feat in the first match against the same opposition last Wednesday.

Bandara was at home playing the sweep shot like a seasoned pro and scored most of his runs on the leg side in reaching his half century in 60 balls as Sri Lanka were all out for 232.

"Ashen Bandara was always a very active player from school level and his dedication was very high", said Malaka de Silva the coach of St. Aloysius' College.

"When I saw him playing in the under 17 College team I realized his talent as a useful batting all-rounder. He has a good technique as a batsman especially against spinners and has good footwork. He plays the sweep well and can handle pressure situations well", added De Silva who captained the school team in 1993-94.

De Silva recalled that Bandara was never satisfied at fielding practices and wanted more that made him into a specialist fielder.

He was the under 19 captain in the 2016-17 season and was also adjudged best fielder and runner-up best batsman.

"It was no surprise then that Bandara found a place in the Sri Lanka team for the Youth World Cup in New Zealand with Kamindu Mendis as cap-



Malaka de Silva the coach

tain and that was the turning point of his cricket career," said De Silva. Bandara caught the eye of the Selectors in 2017 when during a home Test series against India the Sri Lankan team management wanted some potential 'replacements' in case of emergency from the nearest school close to the Galle International Stadium.

Bandara was one of them sent by St. Aloysius' College and went on to the field as a fielding replacement for an injured Asela Gunaratne and one opposing player impressed by the teenager's exploits on the field was none other than the India captain Virat Kohli.

"Bandara was full of confidence and never looked back. He has the potential to make it to the Test team as well," said De Silva.

Bandara also had a godfather in a former old boy of St. Aloysius' College, Harry Solomons who is based in Australia and took care of his cricketing needs.

"Ashen is very exciting young talent. He hits the ball well and he is very athletic. He has a good technique and he is electrifying on the field," said Sri Lanka head coach Mickey Arthur.

Sri Lanka Legends going great guns in India



Sri Lanka Legends captain Tillekaratne Dilshan (right) with Man of the Match Upul Tharanga after beating Banglaesh Legends in a qualifying round match. The Sri Lanka Legends are sponsored by Dialog

Dialog has come forward to promote the Sri Lanka Legends cricket team at the on-going T-20 Road Safety World Series in Rajpur, India.

The Sri Lanka Legends team is skippered by former national allrounder TM Dilshan who has the services of Sanath Jayasuriya, Rangana Herath, Upul Tharanga, Favreer Maharoo, Ajantha Mendis, Chamara Silva, Kaushalya Weeraratne, Nuwan Kulasekera and Russel Arnold in the squad.

At present the Sri Lanka Legends have won four of their five matches, beating Australia Legends, West Indies Legends, South Africa Legends and Bangladesh Legends while losing to India Legends.

“IT IS GOOD TO BE PLAYING AGAIN WITH OLD TEAM MATES AND FRIENDS. WHILE HAVING A GOOD TIME NETWORKING WITH EVERYONE AND BONDING, I MUST STRESS THAT THESE GAMES ARE PLAYED VERY SERIOUSLY; NO LESS THAN HOW WE WOULD GENERALLY PLAY AN INTERNATIONAL GAME

The India Legends team is skippered by none other than the little master himself, Sachin Tendulkar, South Africa Legends by fielding maestro Jonty Rhodes, West Indies Legends by ex-batting great Brian Lara who holds the record for the highest Test Match score of 501, England Legends by the ever-reliable Kevin Pietersen, Bangladesh Legends by allrounder Mohammed Rafique and Australia Legends by speedster, Bret Lee.

Today (March 14) Sri Lanka Legends will be challenged by England Legends to complete the league games. Sri Lanka has already qualified for the semi-finals which will be played on March 17 at Rajpur while the second semi-final will be played on March 19 at the same venue.

"It is good to be playing again with old team mates and friends. While having a good time networking with everyone and bonding, I must stress that these games are played very seriously; no less than how we would generally play an international game," spin legend, Rangana Herath said.

"Dialog has long been a great supporter of Sri Lanka sports and it is sincerely appreciated that they are backing the Sri Lanka Legends away from home. Dialog is the only Sri Lankan brand to be represented here," Herath further added.

Weightlifters up against big hurdles ahead of Olympics



Indika Dissanayake

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Weightlifters in Sri Lanka have a proud record of being able to win medals at Commonwealth Games and in regional events. Now they want to continue in this trend and are preparing under coach RB Wickremasinghe with a set plan for the Commonwealth Games to be held in 2022.

"Weight lifting is on its way to reach greater heights in the next five years since there is a long term development program in place," said national coach Wickramasinghe.

Indika Dissanayake won a silver medal while Chaturanga Lakmal and Hansani Gomes won the bronze medals for Sri Lanka at the Commonwealth Games held in Gold Coast, Australia in 2018.

Suresh Pieris won a silver medal in the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games while Chinthana Vidanage won the gold medal in the 62 kgs category

in Melbourne and a silver medal at the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games.

Sri Lanka's next target is the Asian Games in 2022 and the Olympics according to the national coach.

A ticket to the 2022 Games will depend on the performance at the Commonwealth Weight lifting championship to be held in Singapore in October this year.

Qualification for the Olympics will depend on the performance at the Asian Championship to be held in Uzbekistan from April 15 to 25.

A total of 13 weight lifters are in a high performance pool who are aiming to win medals at international level. Out of them Indika Dissanayake and Thilanka Palagasinghe are aiming to qualify for the 2021 Olympics.

Former Commonwealth medal winners Chinthana Geethal Vidanage, Sudesh Pieris, Chaturanga Lakmal and Hansani Gomes are also in the Sri Lanka pool.

Stage set for schools Super League football final today



Sri Lanka's popular nutritional drink Milo will energize today's grand final of the inaugural Aqsarian Super League (ASL) 2020/21 football tournament organised by the Al-Aqsa National School, Kinnya in Trincomalee.

The tournament began on March 11 and so far three days of action packed football was witnessed to culminate in Sunday's final.

The four-day competition features eight teams and

drew greater enthusiasm among football lovers from the area.

According to the organisers, the ASL 2020/21 championship will definitely be a boost to football in the region where the sport is more popular than any other game and the sponsors Milo are keen to add more value and professionalism to the tournament.

The organizers have confirmed that close to 300 players got the opportunity

to become part of the eight team competition, running for four days consisting of a league stage, followed by a knockout round, from which the ultimate winner will be determined.

Teams that are in contention are Aqsarian Racing Stars, Aqsarian Black Panthers, Aqsarian Blue Eagles, Aqsarian Super Kings, Aqsarian Warriors, Aqsarian Jupiters, Aqsarian Super Fighters and Aqsarian Super Boys.

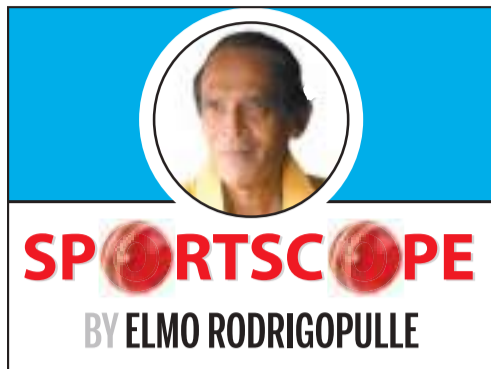


Hansani Gomes

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MARCH 14, 2021



SPORTSCOPE
BY ELMO RODRIGOPULLE

A hat-trick tricked by six sixes

It was not bitter, sweet memories, but vice versa for off spinner Akila Dananjaya when after capturing a hat-trick he was smashed for six sixes in his next over by Windies captain Kieron Pollard in the first T20 in Antigua. In the third match he was hit for three sixes by Fabian Allen.

In the second game the Sri Lankans kept breathing winning it and kept the series alive. But were outplayed in the final game and conceded the T20 series 2-1 to the home team.

So it will be seen that the Lankan game is going from bad to worse with no silver lining ahead and when they will redeem themselves and be worthy competitors and raise their game will be interesting to watch.

In the first 50-over game the Lankans were outplayed by the Windies losing by eight wickets with opener Shai Hope blasting a century (110) and putting up a 143-stand with Evin Lewis (65) chasing 233 to win. It was another show by Karunaratne (52) that gave them a grand stand putting on 105.

There was a bit of controversy when opener Gunathilaka was given out for obstructing the bowler Pollard who was attempting to run out the batsman. The on-field umpires referred and the third umpire after a close study of the incident ruled the batsman out. That was it and there was no need for coach Mickey Arthur to seek clarification from match refereee Richie Richardson.

Back to Dananjaya and capturing a hat-trick in a match is a rare feat and the delight and the pleasure knows no bounds. Coming back after remodeling his action, he had the wickets of Lewis, 'universe boss' Chris Gayle and Pooran to jump in the air and enjoy his feat.

But in the next over he was made to look ordinary as Pollard smashed him for six sixes and join a rare brand of batters who have achieved this momentous feat with the willow. Then when Sri Lanka looked set for victory in the third game he was hit for three sixes in the penultimate over by Fabian Allen that saw Sri Lanka crash to defeat.

Coming back to Dananjaya, his career was threatened when he was 'called' and went off the radar for sometime having to remodel his action. That he fought his way back and to perform this feat of taking a hat-trick is remarkable.

A Dissanayake is the need

With Sri Lanka cricket going fast backwards as for us the need of the hour is a dynamic personality of the calibre of former President of the Cricket Board the incomparable former Minister Gamini Dissanayake who with his dynamism and eloquent speech obtained the elusive Test status for the country.

In his endeavor he had strong support from two excellent Vice Presidents in R. Rajamahendren and Dham Wimalasena and the man who brought him to the cricket pitch as President of the Cricket Board the one and only Abu Fuard the former Sri Lankan off spinning and outspoken all-rounder.

The first stroke played by Dissanayake and his team was to breach the defence of the Lords at Lord's and obtain entry into the elite of cricket as a Test playing nation. Dissanayake to put it in cricketing parlance practiced hard with Rajamahendren, Wimalasena and Fuard and when it came to his turn to address the Lords at Lord's seeking full Test status he hit for six the lame excuses put forward that had prevented the country of Test status.

In a speech that had the Lords dumbfounded he broke through the defence of the Lords who listened to him dumb struck and the final result was that the Lords bowed down to him and had no stroke to defend but grant the country the long elusive Test status.

The moment the country was granted Test status Vice President Rajmahendren who was at the scene phoned me when I was the Sports Editor of the Times Group and informed me of this historic information and I wrote the story that was carried as the lead story in the Daily Mirror the next morning which sent the country into raptures. Sri Lanka had finally captured cricket's Mount Everest.

Once Test status was achieved Dissanayake set about getting as he promised the infrastructure. For starters he redid the ground of his old school the Asgiriya ground to Test playing standard.

Then he set about getting the all important headquarters and it was during his reign that Sri Lanka won its first ever Test match beating Kapil Dev's Indians at the Colombo Oval in 1984.

President J.R. Jayewardene who was watching the final rites of India's demise elated by the historic victory declared a public holiday the next day and the whole country celebrated. Dissanayake who allowed Fuard to look after the development of the game while concentrating on putting the finishing touches to the infrastructure had control of Fuard knowing full well that Fuard had, with no malice the knack of antagonizing all and sundry. Fuard's keenness at times got the better of him and Dissanayake had to at times tighten the hold he had on Fuard.

Fuard who knew the mentality, talent and the language the players understood, treated them that way and got every player selected to represent the country to give of his best and nothing but the best because they knew the task master in Fuard.

And the cricketers of that golden era realized that they had to perform and every cricketer knew what was expected from him and performed with dedication and determination and put into practice what the coaches had taught them and took the game to a high level.

So it will be seen that cricket in the country has hit a new low and a President of the caliber of Dissanayake and loyal Vice Presidents such as Rajamahendren, Wimalasena and Fuard who worked from out of their skins to make Sri Lanka cricket a jet propelled force feared and respected by other test playing countries are the need of the hour.

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Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year 1989 Kumara Dharmasena, now going great guns as an ICC Elite Panel umpire

April 20: The show will go on

By **Dinesh Weerawansa**

The postponed 42nd Observer-SLT Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year mega awards ceremony will be held on April 20.

The health authorities have given the green light to hold the Mega Show on April 20 and the organizers the Sunday Observer, together with the sponsors Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel are finalizing all arrangements for the big day.

A high profile meeting was held at Lake House last Tuesday, attended by the officials of the ANCL and Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel, together with the event organizers.

Meanwhile, former Observer Schoolboy Cricketer main Award winner turned ICC Elite Panel umpire Kumara Dharmasena is about to complete a great milestone in his distinguished career, this time as an international umpire.

The former Sri Lanka Test all-rounder, who will celebrate his 50th birthday next month (on April 24), needs to stand in only six more matches as an ICC elite panel umpire to complete the rare milestone of 200 Internationals. So far, he has officiated in 67 Tests, 105 ODIs and 22 T20s to combine 194 internationals as an ICC elite panel umpire.

He will get a golden opportunity to extend this by two more Tests when Bangladesh tour here next month. In fact, Dharmasena will be umpiring the third day of the first Test against Bangladesh on his 50th birthday.

In his last interview with the Sunday Observer, Dharmasena said he was looking forward to that milestone as an international umpire. "I do not have too many future plans as we are getting older. I take it year by year. Everything came to a standstill last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic but now catching up slowly. The ICC recognizes my work and I am happy with it", he said.

After he retired from international cricket in November 2006, Dharmasena took to umpiring. Three years after his retirement as a player, he made his international debut as an umpire in 2009, officiating in an ODI between India and Sri Lanka at Dambulla. Thus, Dharmasena became the youngest ever Sri Lankan to umpire in any form of international cricket.

He stood at the 2011 ICC World Cup and in the same year, he had the honour of being appointed to the ICC's Elite Panel of Umpires.

The greatest moment in his career as an international umpire came in 2012 when he was adjudged the ICC's

Since 1978

43rd

OBSERVER SLT-MOBITEL SCHOOL CRICKETER OF THE YEAR 2021

Recognizing talent, inspiring greatness.

Umpire of the Year to receive the David Shepherd Trophy.

Dharmasena achieved another first when he officiated at the 2015 ICC World Cup tournament as he was called up to umpire the final. Thus Dharmasena became the first person as both a player and umpire in an ICC World Cup final after he played a notable role in Sri Lanka's World Cup triumph as a member of Arjuna Ranatunga's invincible team of 1996.

According to Dharmasena, the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year title he won in 1989 inspired him to excel in the international arena. "That was one of the greatest moments in my cricket career. It was a big inspiration for me to win the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year title. It helped and encouraged me to work hard to win my Sri Lanka cap in next to no time," he said.

Dharmasena believes that winning a major award such as Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year gives a great confidence for a schoolboy cricketer to go places.

"It would definitely make young schoolboy cricketers more determined to reach the top. It gives tremendous confidence for any cricketer searching for success in the big league", he said.

Dharmasena feels that outstanding cricketers with exceptional performances and milestones are hard to find nowadays, compared to his era. He feels that could be the reason that has prevented schoolboy cricketers marching directly to the Sri Lanka team.

"In recent times we have not seen schoolboys directly marching to the national team, unlike our playing days," he said.

He is of the view that the present day challenge for schoolboy cricketers is greater in their future careers and as a result, only a few outstanding cricketers would remain in the game once they leave school.

"I was lucky to seek direct employment at Hatton National Bank (HNB) when I finished my school career at Nalanda. The HNB offered me employment and gave all the support to pursue my career as a club cricketer and then as an international cricketer. But present day schoolboy cricketers hardly get that sort of support", he added.

Born on April 24, 1971 in Colombo, Hadunnetige Deepthi Priyantha Kumara Dharmasena is one of the best

all-rounders produced by Nalanda. He had four memorable First XI school seasons for the Campbell Place school.

Dharmasena narrowly missed the chance of becoming the first to win the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer on four successive years.

Apart from winning the prestigious title in 1989, he had been adjudged runner-up thrice to Sanjeewa Ranatunga of Ananda College in 1988, Marvan Atapattu also of Ananda College in 1990 and to Muttiah Muralitharan of St. Anthony's College, Katugastota in 1991. It was a proud record which is hard to shatter.

Having ended his school career, Dharmasena became a permanent member of Bloomfield Cricket and Athletic Club in the domestic inter-club Premier league season. Merely three years after winning the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year title, young Dharmasena made his Test debut in Sri Lanka's second Test against South Africa at the SSC ground in September, 1993.

He made his Sri Lanka ODI debut on August 24, 1994 in the fifth ODI against Pakistan at the Premadasa Stadium capturing 2 for 34 off nine overs. He has aggregated 868 runs in 31 Tests with three half centuries and captured 69 wickets with 6 for 72 as his best innings analysis. Dharmasena represented Sri Lanka in 141 ODIs, aggregating 1,222 runs with four half centuries.

Dharmasena has captured 138 wickets in ODIs with his of breaks, delivered with a slightly unorthodox action that had been a blessing to the Sri Lankan team in many ODIs.

He is better known for his inspiring acts as a team man, motivating his fellow players even at difficult times. Hence, he was nicknamed 'Unanduwa' by his teammates.

"If you don't enjoy the game and don't dedicate yourself towards it, you won't be successful. Believe in yourself, work hard with dedication and you will find success", was his advice to the emerging schoolboy cricketers who keep dreaming of a Sri Lanka cap.

Meanwhile, the much looked forward to key matches of the 2020/21 inter-school season is now on, followed by the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association (SLSCA) conducted one-day limited over tournament matches. Simultaneously, the contest for the 43rd Observer-Mobitel Most Popular

School Cricketer titles would turn out to be a keen tussle.

Voting coupons for 2021 will soon be published in the Lake House national newspapers - Sunday Observer, Daily News, Dinamina and Thinkaran. The Observer-SLT Mobitel School Cricketer of the Year Mega Show is sponsored by SLT Mobitel.

Meanwhile, the first ever 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. Thomian will be played at the MRICS prior to the T20 game on May 6, 7 and 8.

The Observer-Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year 2021 will be launched shortly with the commencement of the inter-school matches from this week.

The Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association (SLSCA) will confine its current tournament matches to one-day games. A team will get up to a maximum eight tournament matches including five in the qualifying round league. The final round matches will be from the quarter final knockout stage.

Chairman of Sri Lanka Telecom and SLT Mobitel, Rohan Fernando has always promoted sports activities in Sri Lanka and also 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 Chairman, W. Dayaratne PC and the team of Board of Directors - Dharma Sri Kariyawasam (Editorial), Rakhitha Abeygunawardhana (Legal and Administration), Janaka Ranatunga (Finance) and Canishka Witharana (Operations) have always been a tower of strength to take the Observer-Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year forward.

Sri Lanka hunts for athlete to receive top IOC Award

BY TB RAHAMAN

The National Olympic Committee (NOC) of Sri Lanka is in the process of nominating a woman athlete who has done yeomen service for women for the 2021 sports award to be presented by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The woman should have worked towards gender equality in the country to win this award.

"The IOC is more than ever committed to its mission to encourage and support the promotion of women in sport at all levels and in all structure.

"The annual IOC Women and Sports Award presents an important opportunity to recognize the women, men and organizations that are working towards gender equality in sports around the world," said a

media release by the IOC. The closing date for applications is March 15 and those who possess suitable qualifications can apply with credentials and copies of certificates.

Those who are eligible to receive the awards are individuals such as a retired athlete who is no longer involved in elite competitive sport, an administrator, a coach, a journalist or writer, a sponsor and an

academic and organisations such as the National Olympic Committee (NOC), an International Federation, a National Federation, a continental Association of NOCs and a sports club.

Sri Lanka did not nominate a candidate last year due to the Covid-19 but sent a nomination in 2019 in Merith Torzar who won a merit award.

BUSINESS

business.suo@lakehouse.lk

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PAGE 29 SALES MANAGEMENT VITAL IN SMALL BUSINESS

PAGE 29 BUYING AND SELLING SHARES

BIZ SNIPPETS

"Lanka's potential for organic exports immense"

The Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka (AHK Sri Lanka), with the German Agency of International Development Cooperation (GIZ), conducted a seminar with an integrated press conference in Jaffna last week to raise awareness among potential exporters and industry representatives to increase export capacities of organic products to the EU.

Sri Lankan exporters in the organic sector were briefed on the procedure of exporting organic products from Sri Lanka to the EU and support mechanisms such as matchmaking support and the 'develoPPP.de' program of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Chief Delegate of AHK Sri Lanka, Andreas Hergenrother said, "The German market for organic food is one of the fastest-growing markets worldwide and the largest one within the European Union (EU).



Oil prices rise on economic outlook

Crude oil prices rose late last week as vaccine rollouts bolstered the economic outlook and US fuel stocks fell sharply, although gains were capped by a surge in crude oil inventories after last month's Texas storm.

Brent crude oil futures for May rose 40 cents, or 0.6%, to \$68.30 a barrel by 0105 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate crude for April was up 48 cents, or 0.7%, at \$64.92.

"Given the powerful signals from the U.S. re-opening narrative, it still suggests that the path of least resistance for oil prices is higher." US gasoline stocks fell by 11.9 million barrels in the week to March 5 to 231.6 million barrels, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) said, compared with expectations for a 3.5-million-barrel drop.



External sector recovers in January

The external sector continued to recover in many aspects during January 2021, mainly supported by an improved trade deficit and a notable increase in workers' remittances.

The reduced deficit in the trade account in January 2021 compared to January 2020 was the result of a larger decline in merchandise imports over merchandise exports. Workers' remittances continued to record a notable growth in January 2021, strengthening the external current account.

In the financial account, foreign investment in the government securities market recorded a marginal net inflow while the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) recorded net outflows in January 2021.



SLIC TARGETS RS. 60 B TURNOVER THIS YEAR

Achieved highest revenue of Rs. 55.2 billion in 2020

By **Lalin Fernandopulle**



last year, the highest turnover in its history despite an over five months lockdown that stifled the economy and brought daily chores of people to a stand-still.

Upbeat of a fairly quick recovery of the economy and normality being restored in the country, Wellawatta said the company is well poised to reach the turnover target set this year.

"With the highly committed and professional team to whom all credit should go for their untiring efforts, has enabled the company to reach the pinnacle of success," Wellawatta said. SLIC, which anchored a pioneer-



Jagath Wellawatta

ing legacy of financial stability and trust that spans over five decades, emerged the market leader in the General Insurance segment last year

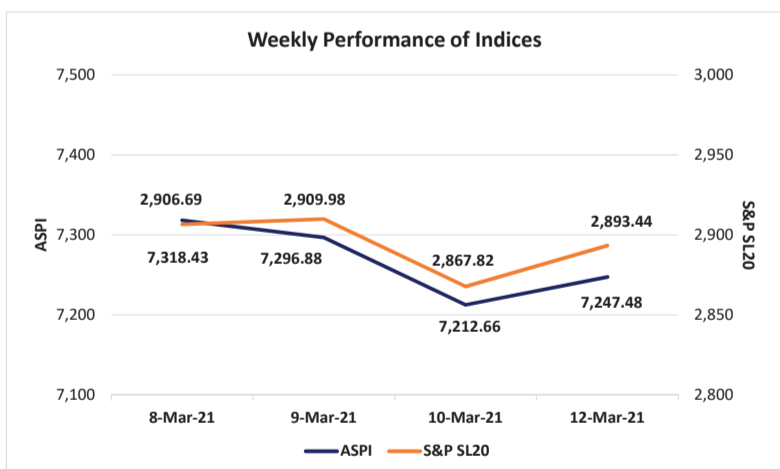
reaffirming supremacy in the insurance industry. The state insurance giant commanded a market share of 20.3 percent, leading the General Insurance market and notched a GWP (Gross Written Premium) of Rs. 20,163 million as at December 31, 2020.

The company recorded six percent growth in the General Insurance sector despite the 1.5% negative growth rate of the overall General Insurance industry.

The non-motor insurance segment of SLIC recorded a phenomenal growth of 38% achieving Rs.8,357 million GWP while the motor insurance segment achieved... **TO PAGE 23**



The lucrative fisheries sector which was hit by the global pandemic with severe restrictions on transport is back in business. Here fisherfolk bring their catch ashore in Beruwela. Pic: Thushara Fernando



Courtesy: The Colombo Stock Exchange

EXCHANGE RATES

Mar 8 - Mar 12	US Dollar \$	Euro €	Japanese yen ¥	Pound sterling £	Chinese Yuan ¥
Monday	198.57	236.80	1.8381	275.16	30.690
Tuesday	198.68	235.95	1.8276	275.56	30.592
Wednesday	198.66	236.51	1.8334	276.32	30.721
Thursday	-	-	-	-	-
Friday	198.87	238.60	1.8374	279.10	30.771

Improving services

Private healthcare should be regulated - Dr. Jayantha Dharmadasa

The private healthcare sector should be regulated to improve services offered to patients to ensure that their hard-earned money has value, said Nawaloka Holdings Chairman Dr. Jayantha Dharmadasa at a recent event at the hospital to mark World Women's Day.

"There are no two words about having proper regulations for private sector healthcare so that people needing care will receive a superior service

rather than having to face difficulties," he said, adding that there is scope for improvement in service standards in the healthcare sector of the country.

The common perception today is that patients receive insufficient attention from medical practitioners who are more inclined towards making money rather than offering their services. Indifference, harshness and disregard for time by certain doctors are some of the common complaints.

Besides access to healthcare services, affordability of medicines is a major challenge to most patients particularly the low income segment who are left high and dry due to the staggering cost of drugs.

The price of drugs prescribed for heart and cancer patients is beyond the reach of the average income earner. Senior citizens who live on income earned from interest are in a precarious state today being unable to access

the sky-high prices of medical drugs due to the drastic reduction in interest rates. "We have no control on prices as most of the medicines are imported. On service standards we have shown who we are," Dr. Dharmadasa said.

However, the implementation of a national drug policy with a proper regulation of medical drug prices that will enable access to quality and affordable drugs is yet to see the light of day. Nawaloka Hospitals marked



Dr. Dharmadasa

International Women's Day with its over 1,800 female workforce with an engaging event at the... **TO PAGE 23**

No sovereign default; swap conclusion, a confidence booster - Asia Securities



Asia Securities reiterated that it does not see a risk of sovereign default at this point, according to a report issued on Friday by the research arm of the investment banking firm.

The eagerly anticipated announcement of the USD 1.5 bn currency swap agreement with China is expected to provide a significant boost to local and foreign investor sentiment.

Following the news, yields on the short-end of the International Sovereign Bond (ISB) curve plunged in response (implying a rise in bond prices) indicating greater confidence of the international market in the Government's ability to honour its debt obligations.

The USD 1.5 bn swap is a much-needed boost for the reserves position which stood at USD 4.6 bn by end February.

The report forecasts that this year, estimated capital account inflows (not including any potential investments into... **TO PAGE 23**

"IMF response surprising"

The IMF's response to the news that Sri Lanka has been able to secure a swap facility of 10 billion Yuan (USD 1.5 billion) from the People's Bank of China is quite surprising, a statement by State Minister Ajith Nivard Cabraal noted.

"The request for Covid assistance was made by the Government from the IMF early last year at the time the Covid pandemic started. But the IMF was dragging its feet in providing that facility.

"Nevertheless, the Government managed to effectively provide relief and support to the people and maintain a framework of sound macro fundamentals even without such financial support from the IMF," the statement further added.

Circulars on monitoring credit exposure by stockbrokers and dealers

More investor education vital to be less dependent on credit - Market analyst

Circulars issued by the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) in the past required stock broking companies to provide debtors age analysis of over T+3 balances and information on seven specific securities to CSE on a weekly basis, said Colombo Stock Brokers Association Past President Ravi Abeysuriya.

He said while

debtors over T+3 client wise is available with broking companies to provide to CSE and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) at any point in time, balances of debtors over T+3 stock wise, is not separately identifiable, in the current broker back office systems as broker credit and margin lending is provided to clients and therefore, extensive modifications

were needed to broker back office systems if such information stock wise was to be provided. He said the circulars caused a needless fear among the investors that credit facilities will be curtailed. "This resulted in a change of the market sentiment leading to a downturn in the market," Abeysuriya said, adding that the panic was totally unwarranted and unfortunate, as all stock brokers provide an age analysis of debtors over T+3... **TO PAGE 23**



Ravi Abeysuriya

Impact of Covid-19

Women's job loss rate, 1.8 times higher than men - Study

The job loss rate for women due to the global pandemic is 1.8 times higher than for males according to McKinsey Global Institute, a global business and economics research body.

The extent to which the pandemic impacts women was spotlighted at a recent 'Bell Ringing' ceremony at the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) to

mark the World's Women's Day on March 8. IFC, a member of the World Bank Group partnered CSE to Ring the Bell for Gender Equality in Sri Lanka for the sixth consecutive year.

It was stressed that the economic and social consequences of Covid-19 continued to disproportionately impact women - who make up 39 percent of global employment but

account for 54 percent of the overall job losses due to the pandemic.

Despite some progress, women remain underrepresented in business leadership with only 17 percent holding board seats globally. However, IFC-CSE research indicates that around 9.5 percent of board directors of listed companies in Sri Lanka are women - a 30 percent... **TO PAGE 23**

Business

Peer fighting affects business performance

The right level of pressure helps improve team performance



BIZ TALK with Kishu Gomes

Office politics, war to get high-lighted, unethical ways to claim others' performance, sabotage, carrying tales to undermine good performers, back stabbing of various types, are common features of most public and private organisations – in large organisations in particular.

Bringing people together and creating a unified culture through spoken widely, is a tedious task. Coordination, collaboration and cohabitation for team performance is of paramount importance. We all know that performance is best achieved interactively rather than through individual efforts.

Learning from each other and pulling all strengths together is the only way to be productive and effi-

cient. One significant feature in high performing organisations is making peers to work together to raise the performance standard of the team.

Constructive peer pressure

Understand this topic in context – it's the balancing act that demands your best leadership skills. Peer pressure will always be there and it's not always necessary to defuse such pressures – the right level of pressure can in fact help improve team performance.

From the time we were children, peer pressure has had a negative connotation almost as if the people that surround us wield some power over us. Also learning from a peer is perceived to be a thing that affects one's esteem.

The positives of peer pressure are mostly ignored though an honest look back will reveal many instances of peer pressure helping you to improve; be it studies, sports or any other common activity.

We put a lot of pressure on ourselves to succeed, but sometimes the most effective pressures come from our peers. So accept and add a little positive peer pressure to your individual learning strategy for all the motivation you need to succeed.

Team goal

If you want to increase the chances of your success – involve someone



else in your plight. That's right: share your voyage with someone else that has similar goals. If you meet a friend everyday at lunch to sit and chat, he or she will notice when you don't show up.

You'll be more likely to show up if someone else expects you to be there. We don't like to let others down. If others are expecting you to be at the gym,

the club, or another meeting place, you'll show up because you'll feel obligated. Peer pressure, the taboo of our youth, can now be the saving grace of our fitness plan. It's a positive arrangement because not only will you adhere to more workouts, but you'll be motivating others as well – a very practical way to understand the theories of motivation; isn't it?

Naturally, most people are driven to uphold or improve their perception by others and perception is relative – relativity is comparison. Use this as encouragement and motivation to succeed. Think of a sport's team in your old school.

Good sports programs seem to generate talent, but what's really happening is that success starts breeding

Understand this topic in context – it's the balancing act that demands your best leadership skills. Peer pressure will always be there and it's not always necessary to defuse such pressures – the right level of pressure can in fact help improve team performance

more success. The hard work and self-improvement catches on like wildfire, and the inner-competition to keep-up has everyone improving their level of play.

Think of ways to make those around you part of your active development – you will be amazed with the opportunities. In business organisations, the peer pressure is a given. The choice you have to make is taking it positively for self-improvement vs missing the opportunity by ignoring it. It's not about competing against your peers but about learning from peers for self-improvement – and about learning from each other which is the best way to develop yourself. Have policies in place well communicated and implement them with no exception to create fair play and promote true teamwork where you allow the right level of internal competition for personal growth by pushing everyone to go for his or her best.

Amila Gold House bags Gold Award

Southern Province Best Entrepreneur Awards



Proprietor, Amila Gold House, Amila Indunil de Silva receives the award from Minister Wimal Weerawansa.

Amila Gold House, a jeweller based in Galle for over twenty years, was awarded the Excellent Entrepreneur under the Industry/Manufacturing Sector - Medium Category at the Entrepreneurship Excellence-2020 of Southern Province organised by the National Enterprise Development Authority in collaboration with Hambantota Chamber of Commerce and supported by Chambers of Commerce in Galle and Matara at Golden Pearl Hotel, Tangalle recently.

Proprietor, Amila Gold House, Amila Indunil de Silva received the award from the Minister of Industries, Wimal Weerawansa who was the chief guest. de Silva said, "Main-

taining high quality and keeping customers' trust unblemished are the key factors of success in jewellery business.

Therefore we use high tech machinery and latest designs in manufacturing high quality jewelry with a lifetime warranty."

I thank our customers who placed a great trust in our services and my staff who contributed with full dedication for this achievement. I believe obtaining ISO 9001:2015 certification in 2019 is also a turning point in our history." Amila Gold House offers many services such as gold testing, gold plating, laser engraving, laser soldering of jewellery and frames of spectacles.

DFCC Bank takes a digital-first approach for its Annual Report

DFCC Bank opted for a digital-first approach for its Annual Report 2020 adapting to the 'new normal' and fast tracking the Bank's goal of becoming the most customer-centric and digitally enabled bank by 2025.

Sending shareholders the link to the comprehensive end-to-end HTML annual report has several advantages. Among them is saving printing, CD production, and snail mail costs; driving down our carbon footprint; and getting the end-to-end HTML annual report to shareholders' hands almost instantaneously after its release. "Customer centricity and

a digital-first tactic is the basis of our Vision 2025 strategy," Chief Executive Officer of DFCC Bank, Lakshman Silva said, adding, "They are the main contributor to our sound results and the Bank's ability to agilely adapt to the changing situation in 2020. We are now ready to acquire and onboard customers remotely via our digital platforms. What's more, in terms of our environmentally-conscious outlook, we continue to be the preferred lender for "green" development projects including waste-to-energy, hydro, wind, and solar energy projects. DFCC Bank is ready for busi-

ness in 2021."The comprehensive integrated annual report in online HTML format remains at the core, with its special features enabling the Bank to effectively target the diverse interests of stakeholder groups.

The concise integrated annual report in print PDF is also available for archiving and for statutory filing purposes.

Complementing these are the Annual Snapshots in multiple languages and formats. The Bank was one of the first to offer an annual report Updater Portal and a complementary annual report Updater App.



JAT Holdings appoints two Directors



Devaka Cooray and Mrs. Priyanthi Pieris

JAT Holdings has appointed of two industry professionals, Devaka Cooray and Mrs. Priyanthi Peiris, to its Board of Directors.

Cooray is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants of the United Kingdom. He currently functions as the Managing Director of Management Systems (Pvt) Ltd, while serving as a Director of Hatton National Bank, Life Insurance Corporation (Lanka) Ltd and HVA Foods PLC.

He formerly worked with Ernst & Young for over 40 years.

Mrs. Priyanthi Pieris is an Attorney-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka and a Solicitor of England and Wales.

With over 39 years of experience in the field of Corporate/Securities Law, her expertise spans across handling corporate restructuring, privatizations, capital market transactions, take-overs, mergers and amalgamations.

Mrs. Pieris also serves on the Boards of LOLC Finance, Associated Electrical Corporation, MTN Corporate Consultants and is the current Chairperson and Consultant of P. W. Corporate Secretarial (Pvt) Ltd.

KOICA and WFP fund Thriplosa program

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) are supporting the Government with funding to the value of USD 600,000 (Rs. 117 million) to procure maize for the production of Thriplosa.

The funds will be used to produce Thriplosa, a maize-based fortified food product, which will be provided to 1.1 million mothers and children. The grant from Korea helps ensure continuation of the Thriplosa program, which the Government has been conducting for almost 50 years to provide nutrition to undernourished children and pregnant and lactating women. KOICA Sri Lanka Office Country Director, Kang Youn Hwa said, "The contribution from KOICA for the Thriplosa program was extended to improve the nutritional status of vulnerable people, especially children and pregnant or lactating women who are disproportionately affected by Covid-19. KOICA stands in solidarity with the Government during this dif-

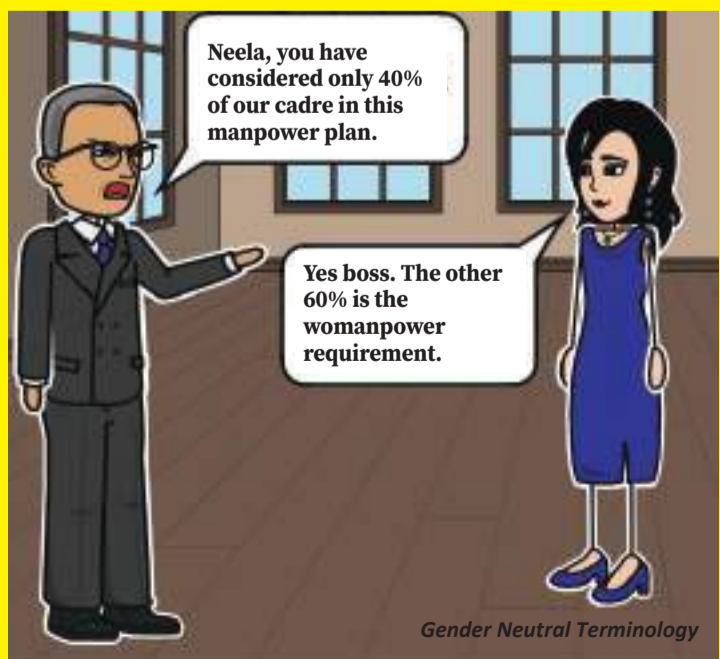
icult time. "The Ministry of Health called for WFP's support in ensuring a continuous supply of Thriplosa. In response to this, WFP and KOICA, arranged to provide funding to bolster the program.

Deputy Country Director of WFP Sri Lanka, Andrea Berardo, "WFP has been supporting the Thriplosa program for over a decade, as part of its efforts to improve nutrition standards in the country."

He said Sri Lanka ranks among the countries with the highest rates of wasting, known as thinness, among children under five (15 percent). "This contribution reflects our long-standing support to the government to not merely treat, but also prevent these high rates of malnutrition and safeguard development gains." The WFP will continue to work with the Government to enhance the national health system as part of its efforts in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 of enhancing food security and improving nutrition in the country.

Everyone knows HR

Nowadays more and more organisations use gender-neutral terms. A few examples are "workforce planning" instead of "manpower planning", "they" instead of "she or he", "work hours" instead of "manhours".



Neela, you have considered only 40% of our cadre in this manpower plan.

Yes boss. The other 60% is the womanpower requirement.

Gender Neutral Terminology

By Janaka Kumarasinghe

NDB Wealth encourages women to reap rewards

Financial planner NDB Wealth is focusing on encouraging women to be bold and reap rewards as it continues the long-standing tradition of celebrating International Women's Day on March 8, 2021.

"Women have advanced greatly and have resourcefully dedicated their lives to achieve independence in career and family. However, we see many women still aspiring to gain financial freedom to crown their efforts.

This financial freedom will not only secure their futures but also the future of their loved ones," said

Fund Manager at NDB Wealth, Amaya Nagodavithane.

"At NDB Wealth we admire the strength and capabilities of women and truly understand their aspirations. We encourage more women to take bold steps that will empower and help them reap great benefits in the years to come," she said. NDB Wealth's Growth and Income fund, a balanced fund, which invests in stocks and bonds, is ideal for the 'bold investor' who has a moderate inclination towards risk. The fund allows investors to take calculated risks. Income is

generated from stocks as dividends and capital gains and interest from bonds which can be withdrawn anytime without a penalty.

While the money market fund, Money Plus is an account that offers a range of benefits similar to that of a fixed deposit with the added flexibility of withdrawing funds at any time without a penalty. Current yield is variable and subject to change.

Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Investors should also consider the fees and charges involved



Decision-making on a 'Glocal' scale: Collectively combatting Covid-19



STRATEGIC STRIDES
by

Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri

Powered by

PIMA

PIM Alumni

The vaccination is in full swing in Sri Lanka. The AstraZeneca vaccine brand Covishield has been already given to over a half million citizens. It was a key decision made by officials in line with global practices in combating Covid-19.

Decision-making under crisis situations could be confusingly complex unless handled with the needed clarity and commitment. It is in fact a clarion call for a 'glocal' response where global realities and local responses should be rightfully blended. Today's column is a reflection of crisis decision-making on a global scale with implications to Sri Lanka.

Overview

I came across a comprehensive research published in the Public Administration Review Journal which has high relevance to Sri Lanka. The five authors, Louise K. Comfort of University of Pittsburgh, Naim Kapucu of University of Central Florida, Kilkon Ko of Seoul National University, Scare Menoni of Politecnico di Milano and Michael Siciliano of University of Illinois at Chicago have examined the basic functions of crisis decision-making — cognition, communication, coordination, and control — in response to Covid-19. This crisis decision-making framework is applied to cases from South Korea, Italy, and the United States as public officials grapple with how to recog-

nise, respond, and recover from this deadly, invisible threat.

The authors have acknowledged the harsh trade-off between the compelling need to limit transmission of the virus to protect public health and the consequent economic losses of halting social interaction.

They have drawn implications from this crisis for better decision-making and investment in a global information infrastructure system to manage large-scale, multidisciplinary threats to the health, economy, and sustainability of the world's community of nations.

The essay concludes that collective cognition, amplified by timely, valid communication and supported by sound planning, trained personnel, appropriate technology, and bold leadership, enables coordinated action needed to bring a large-scale global crisis under control.

Uncertain conditions

Public leaders have a key responsibility for protecting the lives and livelihoods of their constituents. In routine times, they may follow time-honored procedures honed over decades of experience, confident that lessons from the past will guide them.

As Louise K. Comfort of University of Pittsburgh highlighted, for public leaders facing unknown risks, decision-making is fraught with uncertainty and becomes an adaptive process that has four distinct components: (1) cognition, (2) communication, (3) coordination, and (4) control.

Under conditions of Covid-19, how public leaders exercised these four functions proved critical in different contexts.

Cognition

As Comfort further observes, in crisis management, cognition is the "capacity to recognize the degree of emerging risk to which a community is exposed and to act on that information". Importantly, cognition provides the transition to action. It constitutes not simply the perception of risk to self but also comprehension of the risk to others. That is, action taken may help oneself, but action not taken may irretrievably harm others.

The fundamental component of empathy in cognition creates a human connection to others who share the risk and spurs collective action for the benefit of the community as a whole. We saw a glimpse of this reality in the way of handling the first wave of the pandemic in Sri Lanka.

Public leaders had difficulty recognising the depth, scale, and lethality of COVID-19, observe the authors. From the first slow, sobering discovery of the virus as it emerged in Wuhan, China, to the broad determination that ordinary methods of treating the novel coronavirus were ineffective, cognition came late to public leaders in individual countries as they searched unsuccessfully through old models of dealing with contagion.

By the time public leaders recognised the lethality of Covid-19, it was



already spreading silently in their communities. While measures to suppress social interaction slowed the spread of the virus, they also created a cruel trade-off by shutting down schools, travel, commerce, and cultural activities that make societies function.

Communication

"It's going to disappear. One day, it's like a miracle, it will disappear" repeated Donald Trump, President of the US, many times last year. It is the quite opposite to what really happened. Communication could be viewed as a process that links sender and receiver in shared comprehension of messages.

In doing so, communication creates shared meaning among actors with different roles. It is the means used to inform partner agencies in the global community as well as the public in different nations about the potential risk and rationale for evidence-based mitigation measures and the need for collective response.

As the authors clearly observe, effective communication to explain Covid-19 to the public as an invisible, novel, deadly threat requires strong leadership, timely and evidence-based information, and trust to build broad public consensus to support collective action. We Sri Lankans still struggle to convince some sections of the society regarding the needed disciplinary approach.

Coordination

Coordination in this context can be described as the degree to which organizations align their resources, tasks, and time to engage in interdependent functions to achieve a shared goal. In complex environments, coordination requires articulation of shared goals among diverse actors in response to shared risk.

"Be fast, have no regrets... If you need to be right before you move, you will never win", said Mike Ryan, epidemiologist at WHO, last year. Coping with the risk of Covid-19, each nation faced decisions about how to align the components of their national response systems in ways that would slow or stop transmission of the virus, actions that would also contribute to the global goal.

Public leaders build trust with their constituents through timely, informed communication, enabling citizens to accept the validity of proposed actions for self and community and to act, collectively, under the extraordinary constraints of crises. The creation of the National Operation Centre for Prevention of Covid-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) in Sri Lanka was a concrete step in the right direction.

Control

Control can be viewed as the capacity to respond to an external threat and still maintain regular operations in the society. In reference to Covid-19, control means achieving a reasonable balance between mitigating the spread of the infection, building health care capacity, and managing a safe level of economic and social activity. The global crisis generated by Covid-19 requires coordination not only across jurisdictional boundaries within countries but also across national boundaries to bring this massive pandemic under effective control. This is where we have been having major challenges in Sri Lanka leading to a chaotic second wave.

"Human kindness has never weakened the stamina or softened the fibre of free people; A nation does not have to be cruel to be tough," said Franklin D. Roosevelt. The balance between enforcing controls and ensuring continuity is a tough task in

the hands of decision-makers. We saw this here and abroad.

Clarity in moving ahead

"This pandemic has magnified every inequality in our society — like systemic racism, gender inequality, and poverty," said Melinda Gates in an interview last year. The dilemma between public health and economic functions remains at both the global and national scales, observe the authors.

The global pandemic unleashed on the world by Covid-19 creates a fundamental test of public values for leaders and decision makers both within and between nations. This harsh test reveals the collective responsibility that we share for self and others in uncertain situations of shared risk and the critical role of leadership in decision-making and mobilising collective action. It demonstrates the critical role of cognition in precipitating action, as the three countries revealed very different patterns of performance after identifying their first cases of the disease.

South Korea already, as a case in point, had plans in place after the 2015 MERS threat and quickly devised new programs and policies to strengthen existing capacity in response to Covid-19. Italy identified the threat of the pandemic early but had several weaknesses in preparedness and health care capacity that did not allow its early recognition to translate into effective practical interventions.

As we saw in the media, the United States faced a critical fragmentation in cognition between scientific experts and political leaders that delayed substantive action at the federal level for over two months, leading to exponential increases in both cases and deaths. These divergent

degrees of cognition led to mixed patterns of communication at the federal level and fractured efforts at coordination across a large country, while leadership at state and municipal levels gained the trust and support of their citizens and the large majority, 70 percent of U.S. residents, supported stay-at-home policies.

As the authors observe, the Covid-19 pandemic reveals a rare opportunity to redesign global and national systems for managing deadly risks, using science-based evidence and information communication technology. This is to identify, track, search, and share timely, valid data among nations, triggering innovation and collective action to build a resilient international community. The authors are of the view that bold redesign of existing international organizations such as the World Health Organization, that monitor and compare the status of global risk would reinforce cognition in facilitating effective crisis response across the globe by partnering with nations to work with their local communities.

Enhanced coordination and exchange of good practices among member nations of the global community would save not only hundreds of thousands of lives but forgo trillions of dollars in economic losses, anguish, and pain.

It would mean expanding networks of research, collaboration, and knowledge sharing among the world's scientists, scholars, public managers, and students in shared exploration of means for identifying and reducing emerging risks.

Such a move would include building and maintaining a global information infrastructure to support continuous learning and adaptation to a changing environment for professional practitioners and researchers. It would involve designing and implementing plans for a global health infrastructure and training the personnel who would staff and maintain it, with secure funding sustained by responsible international contributions and oversight. The fact that Sri Lankan health care system, despite its shortcomings has demonstrated its constructive adherence to WHO guidelines is an encouraging sign of a global collaborative effort.

Way forward

"Be safe, be smart, be kind", said WHO Director General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in the first months of the pandemic. With insight gained from the precedent-shattering experience of this pandemic and bold public leadership, nations have a unique policy window for transforming global governance capacity to strengthen and maintain public health and, reciprocally, sustain the global economy. We in Sri Lanka are no exception but to contribute locally, regionally and global, in aligning with health guidelines. That is the "glocal" response required with sensible decision making.

TAMAP supports agri-sector policy analysis

An 'Intensive Course on Agricultural Policy Analysis' aimed at strengthening capacities of Sri Lanka's agricultural institutions in policy analysis, design, and implementation, was conducted recently.

Senior officials of Ministries, representatives from private sector organisations, and lecturers of national universities conducting agricultural policy analysis were present.

The course was organised by the EU-funded Technical Assistance to the Modernisation of Agriculture Program (TAMAP) in collaboration with the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA), University of Peradeniya, and endorsed by the National Planning Department of the Ministry of Finance.

Harnessing growth prospects of Sri Lanka's agriculture sector rely on selecting appropriate agricultural policy interventions. These interventions, together with reform of policies governing the agriculture sphere, serve as cornerstones in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

One of TAMAP's main objectives is to support the Government to improve the policy frameworks to enhance growth in the agricultural sector. TAMAP capacitates Sri Lanka's public officials through in-depth research initiatives and impact assessments, but most importantly through the provision of appropriate on-the-job training on policy analysis



Participants of the training with Director of the PGIA, Prof. Dematawewa, Dr. Andrew Jacque and Bart Provoost of TAMAP

and implementation. The course provided participants with conceptual and analytical tools for economic analysis of agricultural policies.

The course conceptualised by TAMAP's policy advisors led to the development of a policy manual titled 'Agricultural Policy Analysis: Concepts and Tools for Emerging Economies' written by Sri Lankan and international academics. This manual, which was edited by Prof. Jeevika Weerahera of the University of Peradeniya and Dr. Andrew Jacque of TAMAP, serves as the backbone of the training cycle and is expected to be published internationally in May 2021.

Anita Ryczan of the EU Delegation said, "Agriculture and integrated rural development are among the key priorities of EU cooperation in

Sri Lanka. Through projects like TAMAP, we support the government and local communities to promote more inclusive and modernised agriculture that can create more growth and jobs. TAMAP works at the national, provincial, and district levels supporting different stakeholders in the sector.

This course builds capacity for informed policy-making among officials and helps them to address complex policy challenges."

Director of the PGIA, Prof. Dematawewa said, "The development and delivery of this course are timely as it is of tremendous significance to strengthen the capacities of officials involved in policy. We are appreciative of TAMAP's support in recognising the need to contribute to the growth of analytically informed, evi-

dence-based discussions." The Team Leader of TAMAP, Dr. Nihal Atapattu said, "The TAMAP Pprogram is fully rooted in supporting the Government to modernise the agriculture sector. Evidence-based and informed policy-making can play a crucial role in designing, implementing and delivering better public policies.

However, effectively connecting evidence and policy-making remains a challenge. This course provides participants with concepts, tools and processes to examine policy situations in agricultural development and strengthen capacities."

This pilot initiative is the first of a series of four trainings co-delivered by TAMAP and PGIA which will be delivered throughout the year in collaboration with Universities of Rajarata, UvaWellassa and Jaffna.

Vehicle assembly SOP should be with industry collaboration - CMTA

The Ceylon Motor Traders Association (CMTA) voiced its concern over the new Standard Operations Procedure (SOP) proposed by the Ministry of Industries on local assembly and local value addition of motor vehicles.

The CMTA points out key areas of concern in the backdrop of the SOP to be launched this month, first of which is that this policy was created without input from global automotive manufacturers through the CMTA, whose experience and insight will result in a more viable SOP, which will facilitate the sustainable success of the assembly industry.

Chairman of CMTA, Yasendra Amerasinghe said, "We applaud the government's initiative to promote local assembly of vehicles in Sri Lanka and extend our full support in this regard. However, for such a key policy, which has a significant impact on the automotive industry as well as supporting industries such as finance and insurance, we believe it is imperative to obtain input from a cross section of the industry when creating the policy framework."

"We regret to note that only companies who were already carrying out local assembly had been invited to participate and provide industry input, the Government would have obtained a far broader insight from brands which are potentially interest-

ed in assembly as well as those who are already engaged in it. We urge the Government to involve global manufacturers through their appointed local franchise holders to obtain policy making input in future to ensure the greatest practicality and success of these policies.

"Having perused the proposed SOP, CMTA members have voiced concerns on several areas, which are either ambiguous or impractical. The goal of the CMTA is to advocate the greatest success of the vision for local assembly, which means attracting reputed international automobile brands and facilitating their entry to the market."

"These concerns have been forwarded to the Minister of Industries and State Minister of Transport for the betterment of the automotive industry," he said.

The CMTA points out the fact that the domestic value addition for 4-wheelers which is proposed as 20% and for 2-wheelers as 25% is a hurdle for new brands to enter the market due to the current scarcity of locally manufactured components which will meet the standards of reputed manufacturers. Reputed vehicle brands will not allow any component which does not meet their quality standards to be fitted to their vehicles as they are extremely rigorous on consumer safety and product quality.

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Business

Women apparel workers demand dignity and recognition

Women apparel workers commended the efforts taken by the apparel industry to ensure the well-being of the workforce which makes the biggest contribution to the economy.

The importance of creating an institution in the garment industry for women to pursue higher education relevant to their occupations was emphasised.

The women representatives of the Sri Lanka Chamber of Garment Exporters (SLCGE) and the Joint Apparel Association Forum, made these remarks during a press conference in Colombo to mark International Women's Day.

The press conference focused on the welfare and betterment of the living standards of women engaged in various occupations in the apparel industry and the representatives emphasised the importance of taking steps not to limit the recognition of the role of women in the garment industry to only Women's Day.

Women make up about 85% of the workforce in the apparel industry in Sri Lanka, especially in the rural areas and is one of the key employment generating sectors to strengthen the economy of women.

A woman apparel worker said that the garment industry has become a leading partner in the flow of women's employment, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs for women and giving



Members of Sri Lanka Chamber of Garment Exporters

ing them the opportunity to play a role in the economy.

The apparel industry is contributing significantly to the uplifting of the living standards of women involved in it while working towards enhancing their lifestyle.

Many women who attended the press conference were of the view that women in the garment industry have a high standard of living and play a dignified role in uplifting the lives standards of their family members.

"The media and teledramas always showcase women workers in the apparel industry as an underprivileged and less fortunate group of people. This is not entirely true," a representative said.

"The women in the garment industry have the opportunity to strengthen their future through promotions and pay raises based on the quality of work, and the opportunities

and privileges available to them are immeasurable," an apparel worker said. In the garment industry, which is mainly dominated by females, employers pay special attention to their problems and make a significant contribution to making their economy self-sufficient by providing incentives, attendance allowances and other benefits in addition to the monthly salary, free uniforms and transport.

A spokeswoman for the apparel industry said that the entertainment, annual outings and free meals were a big boost.

The speakers also commended the management of the garment industry for taking steps to address the day-to-day economic problems of their employees and taking steps to pay the salaries and other incentives on time, even during the Covid-19 pandemic which has greatly affected the industries around the world.

The women who participated in the event commended the employers for focusing more on the health of their employees, adhering to the rules and regulations imposed by the Ministry of Health due to Covid-19, and for setting the stage for the continuation of the manufacturing process and securing their jobs.

The garment workers also expressed their gratitude to the management for setting up special quarantine centres for their employees who have been infected with Covid-19, and also their close associates.

"In the media all you see is the condemning of the professional dignity of women entering the garment industry.

Through works of art and other means of media, it is necessary to give a correct picture and take steps to avoid that situation," the women who attended the press conference said.

Reckitt Benckiser donates PPE kits to PHIs

Reckitt Benckiser Lanka's Dettol has been actively contributing to the battle against Covid-19 by extending continuous support to the authorities. The brand completed another such initiative recently with the donation of 3,000 Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) kits for use by the Public Health Inspectors (PHIs).

The donation took place at the Ministry of Health with the participation of key officials representing the Health Ministry and Reckitt Benckiser Lanka Ltd.

Dettol has always been a socially conscious brand with a heavy focus on CSR. With the outbreak of the pandemic in Sri Lanka last year, Dettol took an active role in the battle against Covid-19 by diverting all

its CSR efforts and funds to support the authorities, a spokesman for the company said. Over the past year, Dettol worked in partnership with the Health Ministry, Red Cross Sri Lanka, Education Ministry, PHI's Association, Railway Department and many more authorities and carried out multiple initiatives for this purpose. These initiatives included deployment of Dettol mobile hand washing units to hospitals and other public places, conducting awareness campaigns, donation of Dettol products to the health authorities, carrying out disinfection projects in public locations such as police stations and places of worship such as the Sri Dalada Maligawa in Kandy and Munneswaram temple in Chilaw.



From left: Director, Organisational Development, Ministry of Health, Dr. Thilina Wanigasekara, Regional Director, Health Services, Colombo District, Dr. Indika Jagoda, Director General, Health Services, Dr. Asela Gunawardena, Product Group Manager, Health, Reckitt Benckiser Lanka, Tehan Samarasinha and Head of Marketing, Reckitt Benckiser Lanka, Shamina Perera at the presentation.

Hilton Colombo launches all-day breakfast

Hilton Colombo has launched its 'all day breakfast' at Graze Kitchen. Themed "Lazy Jazz & All-Day Breakfast", guests can spend a lazy few hours grazing over breakfast on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., while enjoying light jazz.

Executive Chef Robert Mujagic

said, "My team and I have curated a menu which will include a cross section of breakfast items from different parts of the world." Hilton Colombo paid tribute to women on International Women's Day with a discount on the lunch buffet at Graze Kitchen on March 8.

Ideal Motors presents gen sets to Co-op Society

Ideal Group Founder and Chairman Nalin Welgama presented 16 Mahindra Powerol generators (5KVA and 10KVA) to Chairman of Beralapanathara Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society Jayantha Sesiri, to cater to the energy needs of Cooperative Banks and fuel stations maintained by the Society. Manager Operations, Powerol Products at Ideal Motors, Janaka

Kulathunga said, "We are pleased to note that Mahindra Powerol diesel generators have gained the leadership position among the Indian generator category within a short period. This market dominance has been possible due to our unique after-sales service. "Mahindra Powerol has also achieved global leadership status among diesel generators and today is renowned as a

world-class premier brand. Powerol generators have gained market confidence as the preferred choice for uninterrupted power supply across many industries such as manufacturing, hospitality, automobile servicing to name a few due to the product range which ensure unmatched performance, optimum efficiency and peace of mind," he said.



Vehicle assembly SOP... Continued from page 25

The proposed SOP requires that at least 50% of raw materials for locally manufactured components must be sourced locally, which is completely impractical due to the lack of raw materials in Sri Lanka to meet this need.

The CMTA expressed concern that the current requirements of the SOP will lead to a situation where only unknown brands with lax standards are able to be assembled in the country leading to consumers having access to vehicles of low quality and safety

levels. The Association also voiced alarm that by restricting potential entry of reputed brands of vehicles and components to Sri Lanka, it will lead to a monopoly situation, which is detrimental for consumers, the industry, and the country.

The CMTA urges the Government to take the measures to develop the vehicle component manufacturing ecosystem, which is still at its infancy. As can be witnessed in any country that has successfully implemented local assembly,

such as India, Vietnam, Malaysia, etc, a vibrant and high-quality ecosystem of component manufacturers is vital for the success of vehicle assembly. Although the proposed SOP had thus far been drafted without the contribution of the broader automotive industry, the CMTA calls on the Ministry of Industries and other stakeholders to collaborate with reputed global manufacturers through their appointed franchise holders in future to ensure the success of vehicle assembly in Sri Lanka.

Private healthcare... Continued from page 25

...hospital auditorium in Colombo. Artistes such as Sangeetha Weeraratne and Yashodha Wimaladharmas and award-winning female entrepreneur, speaker and global Goodwill Ambassador Nayomi Hadunnetti were also present.

Nawaloka Hospitals Deputy Chairman Harshith Dharmadasa said, "For us at Nawaloka Hospitals, Women's Day is something

that is celebrated every day. In 2021, we believe it is vital to appreciate and recognise the immense contribution that our female workforce has made during one of the toughest years the world has yet faced. The past year in particular, we saw our healthcare staff bravely, committedly champion the front lines to battle in a war new to all mankind.

"Our predominantly female

nursing staff were in the thick of it, day in, day out.

These persevering powerhouses have helped shape Nawaloka's healthcare practice into the exceptional service it is today and we're hoping that they may inspire our younger generations to one day follow in their footsteps, to break stereotypes and push the boundaries of clinical excellence," he said.

Women's job... Continued from page 25

...increase from 2018. "Despite unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, our research indicates a positive trend in the number of female directors on boards in Sri Lanka," said Corporate Governance Officer, IFC, LopaRahman.

He said since the start of the research in 2018, over 75 senior and qualified women have joined corporate boards in Sri Lanka.

"We believe diverse representation on boards clearly leads to positive business impacts," Rahman said.

In Sri Lanka, IFC research has highlighted that the top 30 CSE-listed companies with higher gender diversity perform better in terms of financial measures, including return on equity, return on total assets, and price to earnings ratio. IFC's "Women on Boards" program in Sri Lanka is

part of the broader efforts to increase women's private sector participation and leadership by promoting the adoption of corporate governance practices among Sri Lankan companies. IFC's work in this area is supported by the Government of Australia under the IFC-DFAT Women in Work program.

Studies show that making even small inroads in closing the global gender gap could quickly yield strong results, with the potential to increase gross domestic product (GDP) by \$12 trillion by 2025.

"We are pleased to again join IFC and our other partners to ring the bell for gender equality in 2021," said Chairman of CSE, Dumith Fernando.

"The event this year takes largely a virtual form compared to events in previous years, given the

restrictions posed by Covid-19 on public gatherings. "However, CSE was keen to continue the momentum and use the Bell Ringing ceremony as a call to action in 2021 as well, because we strongly believe that the greater participation of women in our workforce, economy and capital market can make a positive impact to society and our country at-large. "As we recover from a global pandemic, we encourage corporates to capitalise on the skills of women in the workforce today to spur on our recovery," he said. Accelerating the pace of gender parity could lead to important economic, environmental, social, and governance gains in emerging and frontier markets. The annual global event highlights how women's participation in the economy can spur sustainable private sector development.

More investor... Continued from page 25

...in aggregate to CSE and SEC on a by-weekly basis for prudential monitoring of the credit exposure levels of the stock market.

Abeyururiya said the incident highlights the importance of more investor education to be less dependent on credit and short-termism and instead investing a proportion of their own money and taking a more longer-term view when investing in the stock market.

The Colombo Stock Exchange had been in discussions with the Stock broking community with regards to the concerns they expressed pertaining to practical challenges in complying with Regulatory measures on monitoring credit exposure undertaken by stockbrokers and dealers. Following discussions last week between the stock-broking community, the Colombo Stock Exchange and the Securities and Exchange Commission it was decided to withdraw the requirements applied on the stockbroker firms via the circulars

bearing number 04-03-2021 dated March 8, 2021 due to the system limitations and practical constraints regarding the submission of certain information.

The Colombo Stock Exchange was rated the best performing exchange in the world in recent times and the main index of the Exchange, the All Share Price Index (ASPI) was ranked the second best performing stock index in the world as of January 13, 2021 according to Bloomberg.

The CSE in collaboration with the SEC will host an Issuer Forum for 2021 on the theme 'Founder to Family - Leveraging Going Public', at the Shangri-La Hotel Colombo on Tuesday, March 16 at 5.30 p.m.

The event will highlight how a family business can take advantage of going public, while ensuring the Family retains control and continues to guide the vision of the business.

The speakers at the forum have significant experience in advising family

businesses and closely held companies in various capacities and knowledge on how best to structure an IPO to balance the family's needs and those of future stakeholders. The three in-depth presentations by experts in capital raising, wealth management and tax advisory will cover concerns on key considerations for family businesses that are interested in going public. Managing Director, Global Markets and Investment Banking at CAL, Deshan Pushparajah will make a presentation on structuring an IPO for family businesses. Managing Director at Lyneer Wealth, Dr. Naveen Gunawardana is expected to make a presentation on the aspects of wealth management for family businesses post-IPO while partner at Gajma & Co., Jithendran Gajendran will speak on the regulatory benefits and tax advantages that a family business will have when listed and aspects to protect family business shareholding and wealth through generations post-IPO.

SLIC targets... Continued from page 25

...Rs. 11,806 million GWP leading the motor insurance segment. Set up in 1962 as a State-owned corporation, SLIC today manages an asset base of over Rs. 211 billion the largest in the industry, the largest life insurance fund amounting in excess of Rs. 116 billion, and a Rs. 6 billion strong capitalisation, making it one of the most secure and reliable insurance solutions providers in the country.

SLIC has been in the forefront of offering tailor-made insurance products for all segments of society and in line with the objective of insuring everyone leaving no one out the company launched the 'Insurance for All' concept last year to provide solutions from the largest to the smallest industries in the country.

"The 'Insurance for all' concept came handy to the uninsured segments such as the small and medium sector enterprises that make salient contributions to the economy.

"Our products now have reached the farming, fisheries and plantation com-

munities, providing them protection and assurance of a caring and supporting hand backing them at all times," Wellawatta said.

The SME sector had not been adequately insured by the industry as industrialists in the segment could not afford it.

"Our aim is to provide affordable, accessible and convenient solutions to everyone so that no one is left uninsured," the SLIC chief said.

Since independence Sri Lanka has been a welfare State that took care of the under-privileged segments. The need for a common social security system, a dire need gained traction with the proposal made by the Government at its last budget to set up a common social security system in the country.

Institutions such as the Social Security Departments and the Sri Lanka Agrarian Insurance Board cater to the insurance needs of those in the farming, fisheries and plantation communities.

"These institutions should be empowered to conduct social security systems for the needy segments of the society by which the government takes care of the premium while the recipient enjoys the benefits," Wellawatta said, adding that a contributory payment system where the employer in both public and private establishments could contribute to the premium too should be given thought to provide protection to the uninsured.

He said an easy payment system where the client could make payments on a daily basis on convenience would be a way to support the social security system.

SLIC rose to the occasion to provide insurance protection to healthcare service providers, the tri-forces and public sector officials and all front-liners serving the community during the current crisis.

The State insurer has also pioneered many insurance solutions such as the premier motor insurance brand the "Sri

Lanka Insurance Motor Plus", which redefined the motor insurance experience by introducing multiple innovative motor insurance products to cater to the needs of customer segments in the motor insurance market, the 'Suraksha' insurance scheme which enabled 4.5 million schoolchildren to receive financial assistance to ensure uninterrupted education through its branch network of 158 outlets, the 'Speed Investment' the latest addition, the company's Life product portfolio which offers higher returns for the policyholders. The insurance plan can be further customised with additional covers. The insurance policy is open for anyone from 18-60 and policyholders can choose the policy period from 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 to 40 years.

SLIC is the largest shareholder of Lanka Hospitals with 54.61% shares, the primary shareholder of Litro Gas Lanka with 99.94% shareholding and

Litro Gas Terminal, a fully-owned subsidiary of SLIC.

No sovereign default... Continued from page 25

Port City) should exceed outflows in the capital account. The yield on the Government Sovereign Bond maturing in July this year dropped by over 20 percentage points, in secondary trading, to 14.56% on March 11.

Asia Securities Research stated that the announced finalisation of this swap agreement opens up the possibility of further bilateral financing arrangements that could be successfully negotiated by the government in 2Q 2021.

Reflecting on the report, Chairman of Asia Securities, Dumith Fernando said, "Against the backdrop of Covid-19 recovery, we see bilateral and multilateral financing to be more practical near-term substitutes to an IMF lending program. Contrary to widely expressed opinions by international firms, a condition-

al IMF program may not provide the counter-cyclical growth runway that Sri Lanka needs right now."

"As fiscal space remains constrained to practically meet the performance target of an IMF agreement, inflows through a customised approach would be more suited for Sri Lanka in turn enabling a more deliberate growth agenda. An IMF program coupled with further structural reform would be more viable at a future time once the entire world has moved beyond some of its near-term headwinds."

China approved a 10 billion yuan (\$1.54 billion) currency swap with Sri Lanka mid last week, according to reports.

The deal is expected to help Sri Lanka to weather current difficulties amid the dwindling foreign exchange.

Sales management vital in small business

by
Hemantha Kulatunga



A successful and sustainable business depends predominantly on one singularly important factor, and that is sales. To make a business go forward, revenue generated by the sale of products of the business is compulsory. It does not matter how good and how different the products are, if customers do not buy them, the business will sink. For a typical small or medium-sized business, sales management is the key to success.

In Sri Lanka, the importance given by entrepreneurs of small and often even medium-sized businesses is mediocre. Most of them think that sales management is a task for only larger organisations. This misconception usually lessens the enthusiasm of such entrepreneurs to confer required significance to sales management function. Another erroneous belief is that most of them assume that sales management is a costly affair and often they think that the owner himself can perform the function of sales management.

Selling is a complicated process. Its more than merely exchanging money for products. The selling process spreads across all other functions from beginning to end. Irrespective of all the other factors, the success of a business solely depends on the buyers. Hence, even before the business commences, the entrepreneurs must pay maximum attention to formulate an effective sales strategy.

Sales management is an all-encompassing term that includes hiring, training, and managing a team. Due to the nature of the profession, managing a team of salesmen, often working independently, whether it is small or large, is an intricate task even for a seasoned manager. This is the reason why the owner must not personally attempt to handle the sales team.

However, entrepreneurs typi-

cally with their strong, daring personal characteristics presume that they can manage any function in their respective organisations. This is another misconception. Sales function must be managed by an expert with experience.

Let us analyse why sales management is important to a small business. Regardless of the size of the team, whether it is big or small, sales team members with their different personalities, selling styles, abilities, and skills, have to be managed and individual assessments made to draw the best and most effective performance.

Sustaining the business

Without guidelines, procedures, and processes, the team can feel disoriented. If they do not share information and adhere to a common system, the confusion created can unsettle the function. Through such confusion, the whole sales process will be inefficient and ineffective. An ineffective sales function will deprive the organisation of revenue and profits needed to sustain the business.

On the other hand, a good sales management effort benefits the clientele. When the sales team engages itself regularly with customers, the interaction results in the exchange of information. Customers discuss their needs and the salesman offers viable, reasonable, and justifiable solutions to fulfill that need. Customers typically trust a good salesman and hence, the organisation he or she works for. A good sales manager encourages, motivates, and monitors his team members to create a lasting relationship. The sales manager also assures the consistency of each salesperson to maintain relationships.

For a small business entity, prioritising sales management function can act as a launchpad for broader success. This is the reason why small and medium-sized business owners must pay attention to the function. This process can refine both short-term and long-term goals that obviously were well thought out by the entrepreneur at the start of the business. Establishing standardised procedures and processes



keeps the entire staff focused more closely on the bigger picture.

Marketing brings together the business and customers while sales is the actual function where the buyer physically pays for the product. Therefore, marketing is an important supporting function where the customers become aware of the product, the company, and also the availability of the product in the market. Marketing is critical to make buyers aware of the existence of the company and its products.

Unlike the pre-internet era where marketing was excessively expensive, the current digital platforms, particularly social media, can give a very high exposure at comparatively low costs. Today, companies can reach an enormous number of customers through e-marketing and social media. Therefore, small businesses can strongly and effectively compete with big players on market visibility and produce results with smaller budgets.

Strategies

There are two distinctive groups a small company can sell to. They are existing customers and prospec-

ive customers. Existing customers are those who have already purchased from the company. Hence, they have an understanding of the company and its products and after-sales services. Reaching them is relatively easy as already the company possesses their contact details.

However, communicating with them in personal channels such as e-mails, text messages, or telephone calls makes the message more personal, thus definitely much more effective. Therefore, strategies for existing clientele should be managed separately through a sales management process to derive the best outcome.

Making a sale to existing customers is always a lot less expensive than finding a new customer. Therefore, keeping a continuously close relationship with them is one of the most vital tasks of a business. Furthermore, happy existing customers also are the best brand ambassadors for the business who make a strong referral group. This effort must be systematic and needs separate input, making a specific sales management drive is essential for an organisation.

On the contrary, prospective

customers are more difficult to find. Companies spend a huge amount of effort, time, and money to generate leads. Winning over new customers is a whole new process that needs meticulous planning and carefully strategised action.

Commencing from the lead generation (also called prospecting), until the funds are collected from the customer after the closure of a deal, several important steps have to be followed. Therefore, even a small business operation needs skilled salesmen to go through the selling process in order to be successful. Arbitrary handling of prospective customers by unskilled employees is a waste.

The owner of the business must have a fair idea of how to manage the sales process. As discussed, most of the Sri Lankan small business owners are either not aware or ignorant of the importance of having a small but skilled and trained sales team. As a business consultant, I have always recommended my clients recruit at least a single person to manage sales at the beginning of the business. In my opinion, a successful sales process has an

Marketing brings together the business and customers while sales is the actual function where the buyer physically pays for the product. Therefore, marketing is an important supporting function where the customers become aware of the product, the company, and also the availability of the product in the market

extreme weight on the success or failure of the business.

Costs justifiable

Small business entrepreneurs must realise that whatever the cost involved in the sales process is justifiable. Therefore, after the target market is identified and how to reach them, the company has to go through a series of moves to complete the sale. Setting appointments, preparing material and presentations, preparing to overcome possible objections are some of the important actions. If these moves are not followed professionally, any business can lose sustainability in the long run.

As a rule, the process begins with 'onboarding' where the company searches and hires the right sales personnel and builds a team gradually when progressing. Secondly, they must be trained adequately on both selling skills and sales knowledge before throwing into the deep end.

A common mistake of many small enterprises is that they send salespeople out to sell without giving them basic training. When they are ready to move out to reach customers, they must be given clear goals to achieve. Finally, they must be adequately motivated through financial incentives such as commissions and non-financial benefits such as recognition, to bring in revenue consistently.

Having an effective sales operation is imperative to a business, regardless of size. The sales operation predominantly engages the sales team of the organisation: who they are and their work ethics, knowledge, skills, and experience matters even to the smallest of businesses.

Laws still restrict women's economic opportunities - Study

Economic and social impact of pandemic reinforcing gender inequalities

WASHINGTON - Countries are inching toward greater gender equality, but women around the world continue to face laws and regulations that restrict their economic opportunity, with the Covid-19 pandemic creating new challenges to their health, safety, and economic security, a new World Bank report says.

Reforms to remove obstacles to women's economic inclusion have been slow in many regions and uneven within them, according to Women, Business and the Law 2021. On average, women have just three-quarters of the legal rights afforded to men. Women were already at a disadvantage before the pandemic, and government initiatives to buffer some of its effects, while innovative, have been limited in many countries, the report says.

"Women need to be fully included in economies in order to achieve better development outcomes," said World Bank Group President David Malpass. "Despite progress in many countries, there have been troubling reversals in a few, including restricting women's travel without the permission of a male guardian. This pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities that disadvantage girls and women, including barriers to attend school and maintain jobs. Women also face a rise in domestic violence and health and safety challenges. Women should have the same access to finance and the same rights to inheritance as men and must be at the center of our efforts toward an inclusive and resilient recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic."

Women, Business and the Law 2021 measures the laws and regulations across 8 areas that affect women's economic opportunities in 190 countries, covering the period from September 2019-October 2020. From the basics of movement in the community to the challenges of working, parenting, and retiring, the data offers objective and measurable bench-



marks for global progress toward gender equality. Following the outbreak of the pandemic, this report also looks at government responses to the COVID-19 crisis and how the pandemic has impacted women at work and at home, focusing on childcare, access to justice, and health and safety.

Overall, the report finds that many governments have put in place measures to address some of the impacts of the pandemic on working women. For example, less than a quarter of all economies surveyed in the report legally guaranteed employed parents any time off for childcare before the pandemic. Since then, in light of school closures, nearly an additional 40 economies around the world have introduced leave or benefit policies to help parents with childcare. Even so, these measures are likely insufficient to address the challenges many working mothers already face, or the childcare crisis.

The pandemic has also contributed to a rise in both the severity and frequency of gender-based violence. Preliminary research shows that since early 2020, governments introduced about 120 new measures including hotlines, psychological assistance, and shelters to protect women from violence. Some governments also took steps

to provide access to justice in several ways, including declaring family cases urgent during lockdown and allowing remote court proceedings for family matters. However, governments still have room to enact measures and policies aimed at addressing the root causes of this violence.

Managing Director of Development Policy and Partnerships, The World Bank, Mari Pangestu said, "While it is encouraging that many countries have proactively taken steps to help women navigate the pandemic, it's clear that more work is needed, especially in improving parental leave and equal pay. Countries need to create a legal environment that enhances women's economic inclusion, so that they can make the best choices for themselves and their families."

Despite the pandemic, 27 economies in all regions and income groups enacted reforms across all areas and increased good practices in legislation in 45 cases during the year covered, the report found. The greatest number of reforms introduced or amended laws affecting pay and parenthood.

However, parenthood is also the area that leaves the most room for improvement globally. This includes paid parental leave, whether benefits are administered by the government, and whether the dismissal of pregnant women is prohibited. Reforms are also needed to address the restrictions women face in the type of jobs, tasks, and hours they can work, segregating them into lower paid jobs.

But legal and regulatory reforms can serve as an important catalyst to improve the lives of women and their families and communities.

Better performance in the areas measured by Women, Business and the Law is associated with narrowing the gender gap in development outcomes, higher female labour force participation, lower vulnerable employment, and greater representation of women in national parliaments.

Getting started in shares - Part 6

Buying and selling shares on the CSE

(Part 5 appeared last week)

To provide all investors with a secure and well-regulated trading environment, only a licensed Stockbroker can execute transactions on behalf of investors in return for a service fee (brokerage). Other services may include providing research documents which the research team of the particular firm has conducted on the market, to provide investors with the information needed to make an informed decision.

Trading in the primary market from a new issue of shares / Initial Public Offering (IPO)

Companies typically use a combination of brokering firms, licensed commercial banks and investment banks which advise the company on the IPO (Initial Public Offering), to promote the sale of new shares and distribute the prospectus to potential investors. The CSE website also makes available details on upcoming IPOs and would host the prospectus and the application form.

To buy shares: If you wish to buy shares in an IPO, you should first review the prospectus carefully. It would provide you with an in-depth understanding about the company, the industry trends, the manner in which the IPO is structured and salient details of the shares, risks attached, financial statements of the company and other disclosures which are required by law.

You will need to open a CDS account through a stockbroker / custodian bank (if you do not have one already) prior to applying for



the IPO. A CDS account is required because the CSE's trading system is fully automated and the paper securities (Share Certificates / Debenture Certificates) should be lodged in the CDS account and translated into an electronic form in order to be traded at the CSE. (When investors buy securities, the account is automatically credited with the securities purchased and the corresponding seller's account is automatically debited with the same amount.)

After you are comfortable about investing, fill out the application form specifying all requisite details including the number of shares you wish to buy and send it to the collection points specified in the Prospectus (usually stockbrokers, the company's main office or branches and/or branches of specified banks), before the application deadline.

To sell shares: once new shares are issued and listed on the CSE, they may trade at a market price substantially different from the issue price (either higher or lower). This is due to supply and demand for the shares of the company. You will need to instruct your Stockbroker to sell your shares in the secondary market.

Trading in the secondary market

Shares can be bought on the secondary market on any trading

day by placing a purchase order through a stockbroker. A secondary market is one in which an investor could either buy or sell shares or other securities from or to another investor, subsequent to the original issuance in the primary market. Liquidity levels of shares are an important consideration as it affects the price you might have to pay and the ease in which you can sell your investment.

To trade on the secondary market, you must first contact a stockbroker / custodian bank and open a CDS account through them. Once a CDS account number has been obtained, to buy or sell shares traded on the CSE, your order must be placed with a Stockbroker, typically over the telephone, fax, by visiting or online.

Internet trading

Internet trading facilities are available through selected stockbrokers. Online trading provides individual investors with round-the-clock access to the trading system along with market data, company information and educational material. It simplifies the trading process by empowering investors to secure the decision-making power and trade independently.

Courtesy: The Colombo Stock Exchange

(To be continued)

Business

Working remotely: Who is left behind?

BY NISHA ARUNATILAKE AND CHAMINI THILANKA

The Covid-19 pandemic has distressed the country's labour market. According to the Department of Census and Statistics, with the onset of the pandemic, labour force participation has decreased and the unemployment rate has increased, indicating reduced job openings.

For example, the labour force participation rate decreased from 51.1% to 50.2% and the unemployment rate increased from 4.6% to 5.4% from second quarter (2Q) 2018 to 2Q 2020. This is partly due to the measures taken since mid-March to contain the spread of COVID-19 through curfews and lockdowns.

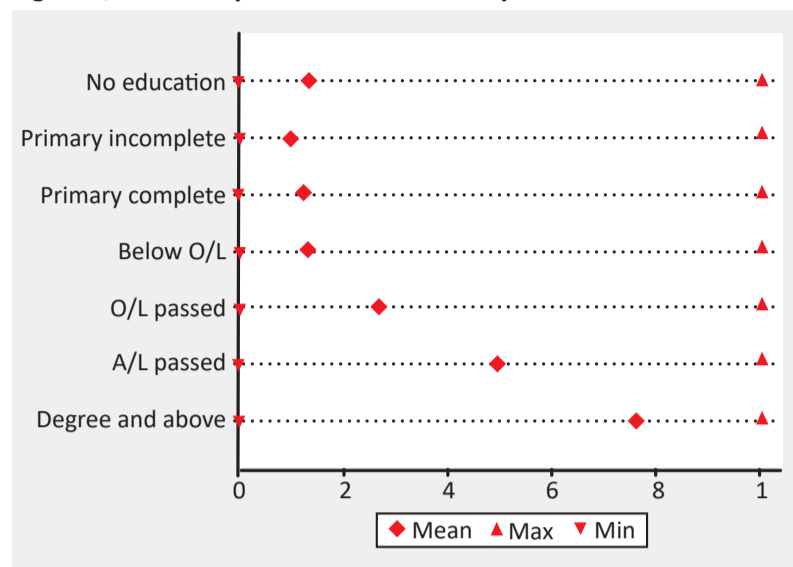
To continue economic activities under such constraints, the Sri Lankan government advised full or partial work from home (WFH) policies. For many businesses and workers, WFH practices are a new experience.

Not all workers are able to effectively carry out WFH (Saltiel, 2020). The practicality of WFH depends on three main factors. One, the nature of the work and the possibility of conducting job-related activities from home. Two, the ability of the management and workers to adapt to WFH. Lastly, the availability of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and access to the internet for both the workers and businesses. Better information on the types of workers who are able to continue to carry out their tasks from home can help the government to design policies to reduce disruptions to economic activities. This blog examines the plausibility of WFH for different types of workers in Sri Lanka.

The 'new normal'

According to the International Labour Organization (2020), around

Figure 2. Plausibility to work from home by level of education



Source: Author's calculations

68% of the total workforce, including 81% of employers, live in countries with recommended or required workplace closures. As per ILO estimates, just 18% of workers have occupations suitable for WFH and reside in countries with the infrastructure necessary to enable this practice.

These statistics indicate that the numbers of occupations that are affected or minimally affected by social distancing measures are large, while the majority of occupations cannot be performed from home.

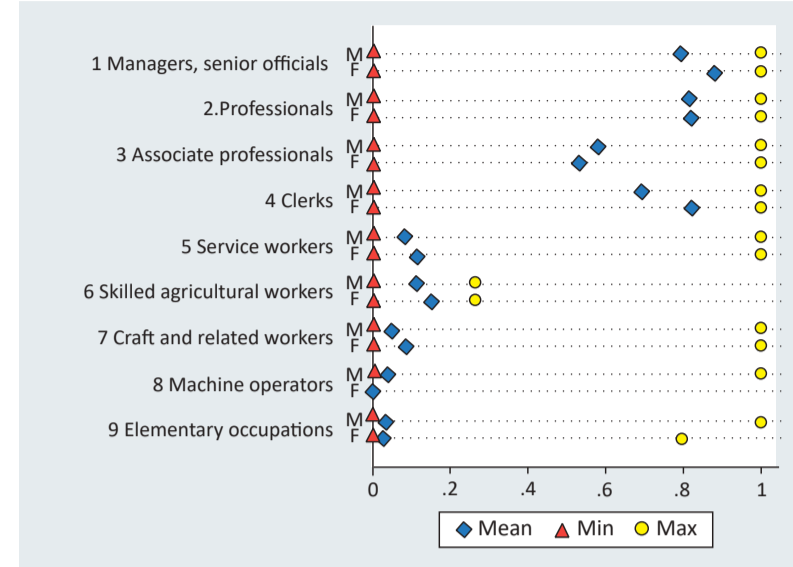
According to Dingel and Neiman (2020) and Mongey and Weinberg (2020), even in advanced countries with very good ICT infrastructure coverage such as the United States, only 37% of jobs can practically be performed entirely at home, although there are substantial differences across cities and industries. Besides, a country-specific result indicates that countries with lower income levels are

less likely to adapt to WFH mode, resulting in a lower share of jobs that can be performed at home.

In an attempt to assess the plausibility to WFH, Dingel and Neiman (2020) classified occupations based on information gathered from surveys. The plausibility factor was determined based on the physical and social factors that influence the nature of work (e.g., frequency of using emails, frequency of job related out-door activities) as well as tasks performed at work (e.g., handling vehicles, controlling machines, working directly with the public). By mapping the plausibility to WFH shares compiled by Dingel and Neiman (2020) to Sri Lanka's Labour Force Survey data, it is possible to assign plausibility to WFH shares to occupations in the country.

The ability to WFH varies between 0 and 1, where 0 indicates occupations that cannot be done from home at all, while 1 indicates occupations that can

Figure 1. Plausibility to work from home by major occupation category



Source: Author's calculations
Note: M-Male; F-Female

entirely be done from home. Occupations that can be partially done from home are indicated by a number between 0 and 1, where a number closer to one indicates an occupation that can mostly be done from home, while a number closer to zero indicate an occupation which can minimally be done at home.

The results show that on average (see mean values of Figure 1), the ability to WFH vary widely across occupational groups. The plausibility to work from home is more for females than for males.

This is possible due to the fact that women choose desk jobs. The data also clearly shows that workers in occupation groups needing low skill levels are less able to WFH, while workers in high-skilled occupation groups are more able to WFH. However, other than for workers in skilled agriculture, at least some workers in all other occupation categories can work remotely.

Figure 2 shows how plausibility to WFH varies by skill level. As seen, workers with at least a degree are most able to WFH. While the plausibility to WFH decreases for workers with lower levels of education.

The analysis illustrates the plausibility to WFH for different types of workers in Sri Lanka. However, the actual number of workers who can WFH will not only depend on the work context and the nature of the job, it will also depend on the ability of the management to organise work so workers are able to WFH as well as their access to ICT infrastructure.

Way forward

The Government can improve WFH activities by supporting firms to organise WFH, and by improving access to WFH. As mentioned earlier, the nature of work and job-related activities only provides the plausibility of workers to WFH. For workers to

The plausibility to work from home is more for females than for males. This is possible due to the fact that women choose desk jobs. The data also clearly shows that workers in occupation groups needing low skill levels are less able to WFH, while workers in high-skilled occupation groups are more able to WFH

actually WFH, managers of institutions must facilitate this by organising online reporting and monitoring mechanisms. Given that the concept of offsite work is new to Sri Lanka, not all managers will have the knowledge to facilitate WFH opportunities for their workers. The government can design policies to support such institutions.

The results also suggest that facilitating WFH may be a way to increase female labour force participation, as they have a higher likelihood of WFH. Access to ICT infrastructure and fast connectivity are essential to effectively WFH. Reducing gender inequalities in access to ICT can also improve economic activities under WFH, and increase female labour force participation. Policies to improve the coverage of good quality ICT infrastructure can also increase the effectiveness of WFH.

Meanwhile, given the nature of employment, workers in some occupations will find it challenging to WFH, and alternative strategies must be used to keep these workers active. Some examples of such strategies include working under strict social distancing measures and providing better protective gear to mitigate health risks.

Nisha Arunatilake is the Director of Research at IPS.

Chamini Thilanka is a Visiting Lecturer at the Open University of Sri Lanka.

Sadharitha repurchases Agarwood harvest from customers

Sadharitha Plantations Limited, a pioneer in the green investment sector and a leader in commercial forestry in Sri Lanka, recently repurchased the Agarwood harvest from its customers, on the completion of their tenure, by rewarding them with dividends. The first company to introduce Agarwood as a commercial forestry-based investment - it offered dividends to customers who purchased lots in its first-ever plantation in Neboda.

A ceremony 'Trust Rewarded', was held at Cinnamon Grand Hotel to mark the occasion. Chairman of the Sadharitha Group, Sathis Nawarathna was also present.

The company has tied up with over 35,000 investors, offering them high returns while ensuring support to conserve the country's forest cover. It has nurtured the trust of customers for nearly two decades while offering maximum profits, a company spokesman said.

Investors who had invested in the Agarwood projects seven years ago



Chairman, Sadharitha Group, Sathis Nawarathna makes a presentation to Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Admiral Prof. Jayanath Colombage.

were offered Rs. 50,000 which was double the amount that the company had promised as liability upon completion of harvesting, giving an annual return of 22.4%, he said.

Sathis Nawarathna said, "I am incredibly pleased to see this important day unfold into reality, as this is

the day we buy the harvest from our investors while being able to deliver higher returns - much more than what was promised. Our customers have been with us for over 19 years and this is a true reflection of the 'trust' that we have won, nurtured and strengthened over the years."

Hutch introduces longer validity data plans

Hutch recently launched a range of Longer Validity Anytime data plans that offer extended validity of up to 60 days.

With the introduction of longer validity plans, Hutch has ensured that its customers now do not need to worry about losing unused data quotas.

Customers are now assured of the freedom to be able to use all their data quotas they paid for. Longer validity plans are an ideal alternative for the lower data users who were concerned about premature loss of unused data. And what's more important is that these extended validity plans offer only 100% anytime data quotas.

Customised to suit the data requirements of all life segments, longer validity plans offer a wide range of data solutions.

AGM, Data, VAS and Digital Marketing at Hutch, Yarthav Mathiaparanam said, "We have pioneered several innovative solutions that focus on addressing the key con-



cerns of today's telecom users. Hutch was the first to introduce the popular 100% Anytime data plans, and now with Longer Validity Anytime plans, we address another pressing concern where users who are not heavy in data usage lose their unused data quotas when a pack validity expires.

"With these longer validity plans, users can choose from validity periods starting from 15 days up to 60 days. This is another industry first by Hutch and we are proud to be at the edge of innovating solutions that address long standing customers' pain points," he said.

Prime Land Residencies completes 35th project

Prime Land Residencies Ltd, the condominium property arm of the Prime Group, recently celebrated a milestone with the completion of its 35th property project.

With five more projects nearing completion and another five awaiting launch, the completion and handing over of 35 properties to owners has established Prime Residencies as one of the benchmark condominium developers in the country, a spokesman for the company said.

The 35 properties infused with touches of elegant luxury and smart living are spread across the island. The reach of Prime Residencies' properties extends to areas such as Colombo, Gampaha, Wattala, Rajagiriya, Uswetakeiyawa, Kiribathgoda, Thala-

wathugoda, Nugegoda, Pallakele, Panadura, Athurugiriya, Kottawa, Battaramulla, Nawala and Malabe.

One of the developer's most notable developments catering to the high-end market is The Grand at Ward Place, Colombo 7.

The developer has also ventured into resort style properties, with developments in Uswetakeiyawa.

These large scale developments have generated historical returns of 17% ROI and 5% - 9% rental yield, according to KPMG International, he said.

Prime Land Residencies plan to move from a private family-owned enterprise to a public owned organisation - broadbasing its shareholding by going for an IPO in the near future.

Macksons Tower: The latest mixed development project in Colombo

Macksons Tower by Macksons Developers was launched in Colombo recently signifying the first mixed development project by Macksons Holdings.

Situated at Alfred House Gardens, Colombo 3, the property offers retail and office space with ample parking.

Chairman, Macksons Holdings, Milfer Makeen, Managing Director, Macksons Holdings, Mizver Makeen and Director and CEO, Macksons Developers, Ranga Goonawardena were present. Macksons Tower consists of 19 levels, and a total area of 100,000 square feet; of this 70,000 square feet is rentable space. As a mixed developed



Ranga Goonawardena

project, the property has three levels of car park facilities. Designed by architect Priyantha Prematilake, it focuses on a green concept. Director and CEO,

Laugfs Lubricants teams up with Lanka Sugar Company

Laugfs Lubricants has partnered with Lanka Sugar Company (LSCPL) to provide lubrication solutions to LSCPL's vehicle fleet. LSCPL has made many improvements within their premises, where one significant investment is the setting up of its own vehicle service station powered by Laugfs Lubricants. The two companies symbolised the partnership at a ceremony at LSCPL recently.

"As a truly homegrown company

with a proven track record of success, we believe in supporting other local businesses to pursue growth and become powerful entities. In recent times, LSCPL has been able to achieve turnaround financial performance with a continuous increase in production. This partnership enables us to support LSCPL's journey of success and sustainable growth," said General Manager, Operations of Laugfs Lubricants, Tharaka Mudalige.

Integrated online supermarket launched

An end-to-end integrated online supermarket specialising in grocery was recently launched to cater to households all over Sri Lanka. The service plans to deliver groceries and other items to the doorstep.

Speared by former CEO of a leading retailing company in the country, Sidath Kodikara and Founder of Kapruka.com, Dulith Herath, Superbox will provide a wide-range of items from fresh, chilled, frozen and dry categories.

Superbox will also offer a convenient service to Sri Lankan expatriates

living around the world to send essentials, groceries and gifts to their friends and families at home.

"The Covid-19 pandemic fuelled the already steady growth of e-commerce in Sri Lanka. During the lockdown period, we witnessed the urgent need for a reliable, safe and fast supermarket service. Hence, we worked on the idea of creating the ideal solution to offer convenience, speed and safety to customers. Superbox is the product of our carefully mapped, well-researched and resourced work," said Dulith Herath.



Sidath Kodikara

Superbox will also provide a limited range of gourmet products and

ensure the freshness of fruits and vegetables on offer.

"In forming Superbox, we were committed to venture out to eco-friendly approaches. As such, packaging options with biodegradable material including banana stem fiber packaging. Moreover, we wish to help local industries during these challenging times. Superbox products assortment will contain high quality local cottage industry products, specially imported products alongside other Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG)," said Sidath Kodikara.

Business

LSEG completes buying of Refinitiv

The LSEG (London Stock Exchange Group) and Refinitiv have combined to become a global financial markets infrastructure and data provider.

LSEG's Chief Executive Officer, David Schwimmer said, "The completion of the acquisition of Refinitiv marks an important milestone in LSEG's history. I am delighted to welcome our new Board Directors, shareholders, executive management and all the new Refinitiv col-

leagues joining LSEG. This transformational transaction brings together two highly complementary global businesses with a shared commitment to an Open Access philosophy, working in partnership with customers. LSEG is focused on delivering the benefits of the transaction helping customers to access data, trading tools, analytics and risk management across the financial markets and at scale around the globe. LSEG is well positioned for

long-term sustainable growth in a rapidly evolving landscape as a leading global financial markets infrastructure and data provider."

LSEG and Refinitiv have long provided services and products to the market: the data and analytics used every day to make important decisions; the tools to fight financial crime; the execution venues used to access liquidity, raise capital and discover pricing; the clearing houses used to manage risk and capital.

Over half of LSEG's employees are based across Asia. LSEG's involvement and interest in Sri Lanka spans over a decade, following the acquisition of LSEG Technology (formerly known as MillenniumIT) in 2009. The Group has continued to invest in extending their footprint in Sri Lanka with the opening of a Centre of Excellence, employing over 700 professionals from over 30 different disciplines in 2016.

Ritzbury Mawbimata Weerayek to power Olympic dreams of athletes

As international track and field events including the postponed 2020 Olympics prepare to get underway, Sri Lanka's athletes have received a boost in the form of the Ritzbury Mawbimata Weerayek initiative.

Ritzbury chocolates from CBL Foods International (Pvt) Ltd will support 18 of the country's best and brightest prospects in athletics to reach greater heights and bring glory to the motherland.

General Manager (Marketing) at CBL Foods International Nilupul de Silva said, "As the No. 1 chocolate brand in the country, it is apt that we are supporting Sri Lanka's No. 1 athletes. Too often our athletes are forced to abandon their dream of an Olympic podium finish due to various hardships. It is our sincere hope that through the Ritzbury Mawbimata Weerayek initiative, our athletes can overcome these hurdles and sprint towards the Olympic gold. We are committed to continuing and expanding this program in the years to come."

Ritzbury has a 15-year history of supporting sports in Sri Lanka, including athletics, squash, swimming, rugby and tennis. By putting the sportsperson first and foremost, over the years, the brand has become synonymous with success in the Sri



Some of the athletes who will receive support from CBL Foods International

Lankan sports arena, elevating the profiles of national sportspersons whilst providing them the resources and financial support to excel at

home and abroad. Key among these initiatives in track and field events has been Ritzbury's long standing support of the Ritzbury Sir John Tar-

bat School Athletics Championship, the all-important stage where the next generation of Sri Lankan national athletes are identified.

Milo campaign winners receive prizes

Milo campaign winners were presented laptops, tabs, reloads recently, in support of the brand's campaign to help children learn remotely and stay physically active.

The chief guest was Education Minister Prof. G. L. Peiris.

Milo's latest campaign will provide 10,000 children laptops, tabs, reloads, scooters, bikes, skateboards, basketballs, footballs, skipping ropes, headsets, or school bags to the value of Rs. 10 million 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 give gifts to 1,000 children every week via raffle draws up to April 18.

"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



Education Minister Prof. G. L. Peiris makes a presentation to one of the winners.

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," said Category Marketing Manager for Milo,

Mohamed Ali. "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 help their children go further in life," he said.

JKP - Silver sponsor of charity golf tournament

Around 150 golfers teed off at the Dialog Enterprise Rotary Metro Par 3 Golf Classic yesterday. John Keells Properties (JKP) was the Silver sponsor this year.

Proceeds from the tournament will benefit charities and community development projects managed by the Rotary Club of Colombo Metropolitan.



At the presentation of the sponsorship (from left): JKP Head of Marketing Shafeeka Gunasekara, Rotary Club of Colombo Metropolitan President Ruwan Gunasena, JKH Property Sector Assistant Vice President and Head of Sales, Nadeem Shums, Rotary Club of Colombo Metropolitan Project Chair - Golf, Dilini Hennayake, and JKP Marketing Executive, Darrel Alvares.

HNB Finance Anuradhapura branch relocates

HNB Finance, recently shifted its branch in Anuradhapura to an expansive, modern four-storey premises on Abhaya Place, New Town. Its offices are open for business transactions from 8.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. during weekdays.

To coincide with the relocation of the branch, a special awareness campaign was launched in Anuradhapura to increase awareness of HNB Finance's extensive and reliable portfolio of services amongst the public. The branch is serviced by a team of experienced staff members fully geared to offer customers with an efficient, fully-fledged portfolio of exceptional and comprehensive financial services, including gold loans, business loans, personal loans, leasing facilities, fixed deposits as well as micro and home loans.

The facility is aimed at further strengthening customer



MD and CEO Chaminda Prabhath

relationships in a much more comfortable and efficient manner that is in line with the current health directives enforced in the country. With HNB Finance's time tested, trusted product portfolio and proven track record of excellent customer dealings, the company hopes to continue to uplift the living standards in Anuradhapura, by enabling access to a world-class financial experience.

Port City Colombo presents school bags to Moneragala students

Port City Colombo recently made a donation of 1,000 school bags valued at nearly Rs. 1 million to schoolchildren of low income families in the Moneragala District entering their first year of schooling this year.

The donation was presented to State Minister of Dhamma Schools, Pirivenas and Bhikkhu Education, Vijitha Berugoda, as a contribution to the State Ministry program 'Dinamu'.

The donation was made at the Port City Colombo premises. Officials of the State Ministry of Education, Executive Project Director of Port City Colombo, Raja Edirisuriya, Assistant Managing Director of Port City Colombo, Yue Yeqing, Director, Sales and Marketing, Port City Colombo, Yamuna Jayaratne and Head of Public Relations, Port City Colombo, Kassapa Senarath. Port City Colombo pledged



A token presentation of the school bags to State Minister of Dhamma Schools, Pirivenas and Bhikkhu Education, Vijitha Berugoda,

to continue its commitment to support the 'Dinamu' program and continue other initiatives that benefit the next generation.

Lexco turns five

Lexco, a home appliances brand owned by DPL Lanka Holdings, celebrates a milestone 5th year in operations this year.

The DPL Group also consists of a powder coating factory that imports powder coating raw material, and an outdoor advertising company, DPL Advertising.

Co-Founder and Managing Director Pubudu Suraweera said, "We commenced Lexco under the DPL Group at a time when Sri Lankan consumers were opening up to smart home appliances and looking for high quality products for their homes. In a short span of time our customers have embraced Lexco as a preferred brand for consumer electronics, allowing us to grow beyond the borders of Sri Lanka."

In Sri Lanka, Lexco's product range includes home theatre and speaker systems, kitchen appliances, LED bulbs and many more. A dedicated team of over 80 employees ensure stringent quality con-



The Lexco product range

trol methods, after sales service and customer management.

The advertising arm of the company undertakes the design and implementation of outdoor hoardings, light boards, dealer boards, flex printing, display materials and indoor branding among a range of printing and related services.

In 2019, Lexco took a giant leap, launching operations in Australia and have had notable success in the smart living products category. Lexco Australia specialises in home and kitchen, living and wellness and tech products.

TEA MARKET REPORT

SALE NO.10 MARCH 9-10, 2021

■ This week's tea auction (Sale No. 10) was conducted on March 9 - 10 (Tue/Wed) and, the offer quantity of 6.1 m/kgs showed a gain of 0.7 m/kgs over the previous auction. The Low Grown Leafy/ Semi Leafy/ Tippy and Small Leaf/ Premium Flowery catalogues totalled 2.9 m/kgs up 0.4 m/kgs from the previous sale, while Main Sale High and Medium category amounted to 0.65 m/kgs. The Ex-Estate catalogue had approximately 0.9 m/kgs.

■ In sharp contrast to last week's buoyant market witnessed for Ex-Estate teas, this week's auction saw less demand with the exception of select best Western BOP's and BOPF's which were dearer where supported by special enquiry. In the below-best category, BOP's eased up to Rs. 20 and sometimes more, while BOPF's declined Rs. 20 to 40. Nuwara Eliya BOP's were much dearer for teas backed by Air Mail interest and only firm for others, while their BOPF's counterparts were irregularly easier. Uva/Uda Pussellawa BOP's and BOPF's were Rs. 10 to 20 lower. CTC PF1's from all elevations eased Rs. 10 to 30 per kg, while BP1's too followed a similar trend. Buyers for Germany, UK, Japan, China and Hong Kong were more selective. Russia operated at lower levels for 'Tea Bag' types.

■ There was fair demand for Low Grown leafy teas. Better OP1's dearer with cleaner below-best varieties firm to dearer and, OP/OPA's fully firm. In the semi-leafy catalogue BOP1's in general were a dearer feature with well-made PEK/PEK1's firm to selectively dearer and poorer sorts holding last levels. The best available FBOP's were firm but the balance was irregular following quality. Neater FBOPF1's were in general firm. Buyers for Iran were active albeit selective, while Syria and other Gulf States were active. Russia and the CIS were active on leafy descriptions. Turkey was observed to follow quality. There was good interest at the bottom from Iraq and Libya.

■ This week's auction comprised 11,069 lots totalling of 6,127,681 kgs.

■ The catalogue-wise breakdown was as follows:-

	Lot	Qty. (Kgs)
Low Grown Leafy	2,022	862,588
Low Grown Semi Leafy	1,819	909,340
Low Grown Tippy	2,081	1,081,784
High and Medium	1,352	655,445
Off Grade/BOP1A	2,094	1,130,958
Dust	538	542,974
Premium Flowery	363	59,536
Ex-Estate	800	885,056
Total	11,069	6,127,681

Crop and weather from March 1-7, 2021

■ **Western/Nuwara Eliya Regions:** The Western and Nuwara Eliya regions reported bright weather in the morning and evening showers during the latter part of the week. The Department of Meteorology expects heavy showers in both regions in the week ahead. **Uva/Udapussellawa Regions:** Clear mornings were experienced by both regions, while evening showers were reported towards the closure of the week. Morning showers are expected in the week ahead in the Uva Region by the Department of Meteorology **Low Grows:** The Low Grown Region reported sunny mornings with overcast evenings and occasional showers. Heavy showers are expected in the Sabaragamuwa Region in the week ahead according to the Department of Meteorology

■ **Crop Intake:** The Western, Nuwara Eliya, Uva and Udapussellawa regions maintained the crop intake, while a few sub-districts in the Bogawantalawa, Hatton, Talawakelle, and Maturata regions reported a slight decrease in the crop intake. The Low Grown Region maintained the crop intake, while a few sub-districts in the Sabaragamuwa Region reported a slight increase in crop.

Source: Lanka Commodity Brokers Ltd

Advertorial

NDB teams up with Colombo City Centre

NDB recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Colombo City Centre Residences to introduce ZiF (Zero interest and Fees) Investment scheme, in order to provide customers of both institutions the ability to enjoy exclusive benefits.

This partnership between the two corporates will offer prospective buyers special discounts and flexible repayment options, inclusive of special benefits for professionals.

Hirushka Fernando, Director Sales of Colombo City Centre said "ZiF Investment is an ideal solution that we have offered to invest on a ready to move in luxury apartment in the heart of Colombo with the minimum cash outflow for any investor. When you consider the returns within the first 2 years itself with the rent income along with the value appreciation in Colombo properties, it's an unparalleled offer to which NDB adds more benefits, with attractive lending rates and longer-term grace periods on capital repayments."

He further added "This combination of benefits allows the investor to gain almost 100% or in some cases even more of the down payment of 20% they pay at the point of purchase within the first 2 years itself, as they don't have to pay anything including the management fee for the first 2 years. Having sold almost 80% of our inventory, we are delighted to partner with NDB to offer this revolutionary investment scheme for those who want to invest in our apartments with a minimum payment of just 20%."

Zeyan Hameed, the Vice President Branch Network Management & Product Development of NDB Bank said "This partnership will be greatly beneficial for both our clients seek-



From left: Saranga Mendis - Sales Manager - Housing Loans - NDB, Sameera Senarath - Chief Manager - Consumer Sales - NDB, Zeyan Hameed - Vice President - Branch Network Management & Product Development - NDB, Hirushka Fernando - Director Sales - CCC, Suranga Peiris - Head of Sales - Residential - CCC and Tuan Haniffa - Senior Manager - Residential Sales - CCC

ing a hassle free home loan for a cost worthy luxury apartment."

As a means of rewarding individuals who are willing to take up the mantle of a home loan, NDB has stepped forward with NDB Home Loans where the customer can obtain approval for the loan within just 7 days with a special and lower interest rate for every individual.

Furthermore, such approval can be obtained at a competitive interest rate, whether you are a job holder, entrepreneur or a Sri Lankan employed abroad.

Home Loans are usually granted on the approval based on legal aspects as well as the re-paying capacity which would depend on an

individual's salary. With NDB's hassle free loan approval mechanism, customers will know if the loan amount applied would be viable or not, saving the customer's time and money further providing them with a valid reason to build their dream home.

Obtaining an NDB Home Loan is hassle free and simple especially because the Bank has cleared many projects from well-known developers for customers to choose. The designated sales team member will attend to the customer's home loan request and will guide them throughout their loan process until the end. NDB will provide legal aid and technical support in accordance with the customer's requirements. Customers

do not have to go through an insurance process since they will receive a blanket cover for insurance of up to 20 million. Customers can also enjoy credit card offers throughout the year for housing and construction products. NDB Bank, named the "Bank of the Year Sri Lanka 2020" by the Banker Magazine UK, is the 4th largest listed bank in Sri Lanka and the parent company of the NDB Group. The only financial services conglomerate in Sri Lanka, NDB Group is uniquely positioned towards assisting the growth and development of the Sri Lankan capital market to provide its customers seamless access to the product and service offerings of all its group companies.

AIA reflects on its gender parity journey

Women everywhere deserve a future with equal rights and opportunities for all, free from stigma and stereotypes.

At AIA Insurance, this is a serious mission. Having been recognized as one of the 'Best Workplaces for Women in Sri Lanka' (awarded by Great Place to Work®) for three consecutive years (2018, 2019, 2020), AIA is solid in its commitment to gender parity and women's empowerment.

AIA's Director HR Thushari Perera said, "We believe that caring for oneself and one's family helps us be our best at work. That is why we were the first EPC (Employers' Federation of Ceylon) member to implement a comprehensive maternity benefit scheme for female employees, in the country, with a host of unique benefits that resulted in over 85% of women returning to work after maternity leave."

"Thirty-five percent of our permanent cadre are women with a 38 percent share of senior management being female. Increasing the share of Women in Leadership was a key focus for us while ensuring experienced talent is represented at the senior management and board level. So, we identified structural barriers to women's progression within the company and took proactive measures to mitigate those barriers.

"Insurance sales is a traditionally male-dominated role in Sri Lanka. But we are working to disrupt this norm by actively recruiting women as AIA Wealth Planners and Wealth Planner Managers. Through targeted recruitment campaigns powered by market research, AIA has achieved 25% female representation in its wealth planner cadre; and is looking to increase this.

Additionally, 43% of women in the Top 100 High Performing Wealth Planners, bring in over half of new businesses. So, there is no undermin-



Thushari Perera



Chathuri Munaweera

ing the contribution made by women to our business," she said.

AIA's recent partnership with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), is aimed at increasing access to insurance for Sri Lankan women, including female entrepreneurs, while also allowing a better chance of a job in the insurance industry.

Director and Chief Officer Legal and Operations for AIA, Chathuri Munaweera said, "A 2015 survey showed Sri Lankan women to be the main influencers and decision makers when it comes to their family's protection and future. They play a critical role in the home-front's health and financial well-being. Through this programme we are better positioned to reach women through insurance and empower them to protect what is most important to them - their families."

Boss launches Spring/Summer 2021 Collection

Creativity, optimism and energy are the watchwords of Spring/Summer 2021 for Boss. An international cast of up-and-coming talent, led by South Sudanese supermodel Adut Akech, introduces the new collection in a bold campaign directed by Fabien Baron. Fusing elegance and ease, the looks are more relaxed than ever before.

The work of artist William Farr, who combines flowers with found objects such as wire, is a rich point of reference, inspiring the use of metal eyelets throughout the collection.

The new season offers agenda-setting updates of classic Boss pieces. Graphic patterns combine with new shapes, such as in the combination of a check jacket with track-suit-style pants. The result? A relaxed, easy-wear outfit that is every bit as elegant as a suit. The sophisticated use of stripes, camouflage and a bold logo graphic across knitwear, sweaters and outerwear underlines the contemporary mood. Colours range from



conker, a masculine red-brown first seen on the FW20 runway, to fresh blue and yellow tones. A selection of updated neutrals, including a rich camel brown and crisp off-white, round out the pal-

ette. Worn in combination, the shades infuse each look with an uplifting and dynamic feel.

The Boss Spring/Summer 2021 collection is available at BOSS Store Arcade Independence Square.

Commercial Leasing delivers exceptional nine-month interim financial results

Commercial Leasing & Finance PLC (CLC) delivered powerhouse financial performance despite the wider economic and industry volatility caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

CLC recorded excellent numbers for the first nine months of the financial year ending 31st December 2020, despite challenging market conditions faced by the Non-Banking Financial Institution (NBFI) industry. Profit Before Tax grew to Rs. 2.3 Bn as at December 31, 2020, over the first nine months of the financial year under review. CLC recorded Profit After Tax of Rs. 1,922 Mn, reflecting an increase of 65% over the previous year. Cost of funds reduced by 23% while overheads increased by only 3%.

The Company's performance is a result of excellent management of its Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) and cost of funds, while sustaining revenues by maintaining its product mix optimally.

CLC's low NPL ratio compared to the industry is a result of its well-secured asset base and superior credit quality. Maintaining low NPLs despite the adverse impact on the market during first and second waves of the pandemic is a testimony to strong customer relationships the Company has



Chairman Priyantha Fernando



CEO Krishan Thilakarathne

built. Further, CLC's total assets exceeded Rs. 72.2Bn during the period under review, making it one of the largest NBFIs in the country. CLC's portfolio is well-diversified into all sectors of the economy - spanning auto finance, agri finance, SME finance, microfinance, Islamic Finance, gold loans, and receivable finance through factoring.

Equally significant is the growth of its deposit base by 19% during the period under review which reflects public confidence in the Company's financial stability.

CLC's capital base exceeded Rs. 21Bn as at December 2020, recording a 19% increase, which is far above the regulatory requirement with a Tier

One capital ratio of 20.95% against Central Bank of Sri Lanka's mandatory level of 6.5% and with Tier Two capital at 20.13% as against the regulatory requirement of 10.5%.

CLC Executive Director and CEO Krishan Thilakarathne said, "Our excellent nine-month performance is a result of top notch credit quality maintained over the years.

"We are optimistic about ending the financial year with even stronger results. Looking ahead, we plan to further expand our branch network by 15 more branches in the next financial year in order to leverage the high equity and brand value enjoyed by CLC across the country," he said.

BOC continues business revival program in Northern Province

As part of The Bank of Ceylon's (BOC) continuing efforts to help small-scale entrepreneurs emerge from the financial and operational challenges experienced on account of the Covid-19 pandemic, the bank took their popular Business Revival clinic to Kilinochchi in late-February.

The program which was held in conjunction with the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Kilinochchi district), recently, drew large numbers of the bank's micro, small, and medium scale fisheries-based customers.

The entrepreneurs received an opportunity to participate in a day-long program conducted by BOC, with a series of sessions allowing for direct interaction with the bank's and Executive Management personnel and area plus branch managers, to



voice their business concerns. The bank's Executive Management was represented by V. Sivananthan, Assistant General Manager (Northern Province), and the event also drew the participation of K. Mohanakumar, Assistant Director (Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources - Kilinochchi District). Other lead forum participants included Mrs. S. Nethananthan, Area Manager (Jaffna East), K. Alan

Jeyaharan, Manager (Kilinochchi branch), and S. Sivarupam, Manager, Mulankavil branch.

During the clinic, fisheries-focused customers of Kilinochchi and surrounding areas presented their entrepreneurial challenges to bank officials, with attention paid to identifying the reasons for business failure and subsequently receiving customized solutions to address exact concerns.

Oppo unveils F19 PRO

Pioneer in innovative mobile phones and accessories, Oppo, is set to unveil the latest addition to its F Series - F19 Pro - on March 15, 2021 at 7.00 pm onwards via official Facebook page and YouTube Channel. Designed with the social media-savvy millennial in mind, the new phone seamlessly combines Oppo's trademark ingenuity with user insights to deliver an unparalleled experience.

The all new F19 Pro has been meticulously designed incorporating a many breakthroughs to facilitate pro-quality shooting and processing of videos with minimum



effort; features 48MP quad cameras, 48MP main camera, 8MP ultra wide-angle camera, 2MP macro camera, 2MP mono camera working in uni-

son to deliver better depth, sharper images & overall greater quality of output. The phone is accented by a 32MP front-facing camera for self-

The launch will coincide with the #FunWithEveryShoot TikTok Challenge where three lucky winners will walk away with Oppo Enco W11 earbuds.

To enter the competition, a short video must be uploaded with hash tags #FunWithEveryShoot and #OPPOSriLanka also tagging @OPPOSriLanka Official TikTok account. Entries to be submitted before March 18.

Orient Finance relocates Negombo and Kegalle branches

Orient Finance PLC relocated its Negombo and Kegalle branches to a convenient location in order to deliver a more efficient customer experience to its customers.

The Negombo branch has been re-located to No. 38, St. Joseph Street, Negombo while the Kegalle branch has been re-located to Main Street, Kegalle.

The new premises were ceremonially opened in the presence of the Executive Director/ CEO K.M.M. Jabir, members of the corporate management team and distinguished customers of Orient Finance PLC. Orient Finance PLC is a subsidiary of the well-known Janashakthi group of companies, which provides a wide range of services such as insurance, leasing, investments and real estate. Since its inception in 1981, Orient



K.M.M. Jabir, Executive Director/ CEO Orient Finance PLC ceremonially opens the Negombo and Kegalle branches, along with members of the corporate management team and customers and invitees.



Finance has been listed among the 20 largest finance companies in the country.

The company believes in providing greater economic value to its fast

growing clientele through a widespread network of branches and customer access points spread across the country, together with an unmatched superior customer service.

SPECTRUM

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MARCH 14, 2021

BY PROF. SASANKA PERERA

In a hurried visit to the Bodhi Gaya Archaeological Museum in December 2015 just outside the Mahabodhi Temple, a description of one of the artefacts – a fence-like structure in granite – took me by surprise. While referring to the Mahabodhi Temple, it noted, “A monastery was also built by King Meghavarman of Sri Lanka for his Bhikkus”. The artefact was supposedly a remnant of this monastery.

The world knows about the iconic Maha Bodhi Temple, but hardly anyone knows about what this Lankan king had built in its vicinity, why this was done and what it means. Over the next few months, this single reference directed me to numerous ancient sources, colonial period records and translations and later to an ongoing study on Buddhist pilgrimage across international borders over time.

Kithsirimevan

King Meghavarman is also known as Sirimeghavanna, Kirithi Sri Meghavarana and more commonly in Sinhala as Kithsirimevan. He ruled in the Anuradhapura period – in the 4th century – and is credited in local sources for his sponsorship of Buddhist infrastructure and is also believed to have welcomed the Buddha's tooth relic to Lanka. But he does not occupy the public imagination, or the historical consciousness of the country or the Sinhala as do kings, such as Dutu Gemunu, Vijaya Bahu the First, Parakrama Bahu the Great and even mythical characters, such as Rawana.

This is perhaps due to the warrior status of the latter kings while Kithsirimevan was a monarch of piety and diplomacy. But he is singularly important for his successful project of cultural power projection from Anuradhapura to the court of Samudra Gupta and through him, institution-building in Bodhi Gaya. He effectively built, as the Bodhi Gaya Museum narrative says, a large monastery for monks from Sri Lanka, who visited the location on pilgrimage or for more long-term religious pursuits.

But what were the politics behind this project? The earliest reference to this construction effort is from Hiouen-tsang (602-664 CE). He was a Chinese Buddhist Bhikkhu, scholar and traveller. When describing the Bodhi Gaya in 629 CE, he notes how this construction effort began.

According to him, when the brother of an unnamed Lankan king visited 'India'. Bodhi Gaya, he was not treated well for being a foreigner. The king, upon hearing of his brother's misadventures, wanted to build monasteries for Lankan pilgrims to rest all over 'India'.

Cultural power projection in ancient Lanka

According to Hiouen-tsang, the Lankan king sent gifts of precious jewels to the king of 'India' and asked for permission to build monasteries in his land – in places that were important in the life of the Buddha. However, instead of allowing the construction of Lankan cultural and spiritual edifices all over 'India', the king gave permission to build one monastery in a place of the Lankan king's choice.

Bodhi Gaya was selected as it was believed to be the site of the Buddha's Enlightenment. Hiouen-tsang notes that a copper proclamation established in the completed monastery had asserted, “The Bhikkus of my country will thus obtain independence and will be treated as members of the fraternity in this country. Let this privilege be handed down from generation to generation without interruption.”

Long term effect

If this report is taken seriously, what is described here is not a simple one-off construction of a simple building far away from the shores of Lanka, but a carefully planned and well-funded exercise in cultural and political power projection. It was intended to last well beyond the time of its initiator. Hiouen-tsang's description of the building and the activities he had witnessed in it, suggest that these long-term political and cultural objectives of the monastery had been met when one considers his descriptions are from three hundred years after the monastery was built.

As he notes, “Outside the Northern gate of the wall of the Bodhi tree is the Mahabodhi sangharama. This edifice has six halls, with towers of observation of three storeys; it is surrounded by a wall of defence 30 or 40 feet high. The utmost skill of the artist has been employed; the ornamentation is in the richest colours. The statue of the Buddha is cast in gold and silver, decorated with gems and precious stones. The stupas are high and large in proportion and beautifully ornamented; they contain relics of the Buddha.”

Obviously, this was not merely a monastery, but a religio-cultural



AT A TIME WHEN MANY PEOPLE IN LANKA ARE ENGROSSED IN RESURRECTING STORIES OF MYTHOLOGICAL CHARACTERS, SUCH AS RAWANA, HIS LEGENDARY AIRCRAFT AND HIS MYTHOLOGICAL ADVENTURES AS EVIDENCE-BASED 'HISTORY', THERE ARE CRUCIAL MOMENTS OF OUR DISTANT PAST THAT HAVE BEEN WELL-DOCUMENTED – AS IN THE CASE OF KITHSIRIMEVAN'S MONASTERY. BUT SUCH DOCUMENTATION CANNOT BE SEEN IN LOCAL SOURCES. BUT THE DETAILS THAT DO EXIST

institution that was meant to withstand the ravages of time; a place that was meant to impress and was spatially marked as an independent entity and meant to be defended as a specific cultural and political space. Perhaps, that is the reason it still existed at the time of Hiouen-tsang's visit and its legend was still known. Hiouen-

tsang came to India in 629 CE during the time of Emperor Harsha. His description and what he saw can be timed with a significant degree of accuracy.

Further records

Another seventh century Chinese source, the Hing-tcho-

an written by Wang Hiuen-tse presents specific information on those involved in this construction effort which also allows for its timing to be ascertained more accurately.

Crucially, his records corroborate the general story reported by Hiouen-tsang. Hiuen-tse was a Chinese military officer and Buddhist pilgrim who is known to have travelled to ancient India at least four times during which time he maintained extensive records.

He identifies the Lankan king as Chi-mi-kia-po-mo, which means 'cloud of merit', and has been identified as a reference to Kithsirimevan. His 'Indian' counterpart is referred to as San-meou-to-lokiu-to, who has been identified as Samudragupta. Samudragupta and Kithsirimevan are known to historians. Based in Patali Putra, Samudragupta's reign lasted from 335 to 380 CE while Kithsirimevan who was based in Anuradhapura ruled from 352 to 379 CE.

The timing that can be inferred from Hiuen-tse's references makes the two kings contemporaries and suggests that Kithsirimevan's monastery was a fourth Century CE state enterprise spanning significant geographic, linguistic, cultural and political borders.

This monastery is not merely a lingering reference in seventh Century CE Chinese travelogues. Archaeological evidence unearthed in the late 19th century has also established its physical existence.

Alexander Cunningham, a British Army Officer in the colonial period who had an interest in the archaeology and history of India notes that the walls of the monastery were thirty to forty feet high, offering an initial sense of its scale even in its ruined state in the late 1800s.

What he proceeds to describe is a massive structure closely in keeping with what had been described 12 centuries earlier by Hiouen-tsang: “Here, in November 1885, Mr Beglar and myself discovered the remains of a great monastery, with outer walls nine feet thick and massive round towers at the four corners. One tower of this enclosure is still standing on the west side

in an old Muhammadan burial ground. The outer line of wall with the south-west tower is still traceable. There were four towers at the four corners. Three intermediate towers on each side, making 16 towers.”

Layout of the monastery

Cunningham describes that the overall layout of the monastery “consists of 36 squares, six on each side, of which the four corner squares are assigned to the corner towers and the four middle squares to an open pillared court containing a well. Along-covered drain leads from the well to the outside of the walls on the north-North-West, ending in a gargyle spout in the shape of a large crocodile's head, of dark blue basalt, richly carved.”

The point I want to make in presenting this description today is simple. At a time when many people in Lanka are engrossed in resurrecting stories of mythological characters, such as Rawana, his legendary aircraft and his mythological adventures as evidence-based 'history', there are crucial moments of our distant past that have been well-documented – as in the case of Kithsirimevan's monastery.

But such documentation cannot be seen in local sources. But the details that do exist – such as in the seventh century Chinese records and the late 19th century British colonial records referred to earlier – hardly receive any attention in formal Lankan historiography or popular imagination.

However, a close study of these historical events would indicate important aspects of ancient diplomacy, international relations, statesmanship, politics of wealth and cross border projection of cultural power, which could possibly help us significantly rethink South Asia's past.

Also, one must wonder why Kithsirimevan is not presented in the same 'heroic' mould as other kings in the Pali chronicles even as his local religious pursuits are referred to.

This is an important historical investigation that needs to be undertaken. On the other hand, narratives such as these can also offer fertile resources for imaginative creative writers to think of crafting epic works of fiction on the lines of well-known global examples, such as Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose* and *The Prague Cemetery*.

Particularly in the realms of fiction, such information offers endless possibilities. However, it is unfortunate neither of these historical or fictional journeys have been undertaken seriously in Lanka. This is simply because we are obsessed with fiction as history and amnesiac when it comes to well-documented accounts of the past.

Keeping cool in a crisis

By
R.S. Karunaratne

Your beloved mother dies suddenly. You never expected her to die in the prime of her life. Before the funeral rites are over, you get a letter from your employer terminating your services. While you are wondering what to do, your house is robbed.

All the events take place when your daughter is going through a divorce and recovering from an illness. When pressure mounts like this, you become a prime candidate for a nervous breakdown. You do not know what to do in such a crisis.

Dr. Morton Silverman of the US National Institute of Mental Health said, “Everyone at some point of life may find themselves in a situation that could result in symptoms of mental dysfunction.” In such a crisis, even common physical illnesses can precipitate mental problems. According to Professor of Psychiatry at the University of California at Los Angeles Milton Greenblatt, “Medical disease is accompanied by emotional difficulty in about 60 to 70 percent of cases. We're all at risk to some extent. We're all trying to keep our heads above water.”

Crisis are part of life. If you have never faced a crisis, you have not grown up. Growth means you learn something new every day. A crisis is something like a storm that comes

suddenly without warning. You have no power to halt it. Similarly, you are powerless when a crisis comes up in life. As Osho once said, do not worry about the crisis, dance. After a storm, there will be a period of silence and happiness. When your crisis is over, you will feel relieved. Remember, suffering is a grace. If you can take it in the right spirit, it will become a stepping stone to happiness.

Take responsibility

In a crisis, we seek advice from someone who may not have undergone any crisis. It is better to decide on your own because it is your life that is in danger. When you take responsibility to solve your problem, you begin to grow. Mental health experts say we should all learn a little bit of “psychological first aid.” It will help you to keep your balance in a crisis. Before seeking professional help, such first aid can cushion the fall and make recovery speedier. Even if you get professional advice, it is up to you to pull yourself back from the crisis.

In developed countries, there are many self-help groups to lend their support to people in distress. They meet the affected people and discuss life-enhancing psychological techniques that can be useful to everyone. Even in Sri Lanka, there are similar voluntary organisations, such as Sumithrayo to help people in distress. Recovery Inc. in Chicago, United States is backed by 1,000 support groups.

They train people to function normally despite fears and nervous symptoms. Grow Inc. in Australia encour-



ages people suffering from mental breakdowns. It has mutual support groups in seven countries. Emotions Anonymous International affiliated to Alcohol Anonymous has adapted a 12-step program for use with people who have emotional problems.

According to Psychology Professor at U.C.L.A. Gary Emery, going crazy for most people is not a clinically definable disease. It is an experience of being out of control. Self-help groups show people how to develop the ability to withstand violent crises of anxiety, anger or depression. According to a leading psychologist, in all mental disturbances, you lose your balance because you tend to magnify something so much that your feelings throw your

thinking and behaviour into a chaotic situation. A sensible person can learn how to handle such a situation.

Going crazy

At times, some of us feel that we are going crazy. When you get such a feeling, relax your muscles and change your thoughts. After relaxing your muscles do some gardening or go for a walk. You can read a good novel or a poem to change your thoughts. Doing crossword puzzles will also stimulate your brain. When your mind is fully occupied in something profitable, you will not get negative feelings. When your mind is at ease, you can easily calm down.

When you calm down, it is the ide-

IN A CRISIS, GO BY WHAT YOU KNOW RATHER THAN WHAT YOU FEEL. THE THINGS YOU ARE WORRYING ABOUT MAY NOT BE TRUE. OR THEY MAY BE A DISTORTED VERSION OF THE REALITY. NEVER ENTERTAIN THE FEELING THAT LIFE IS NOT WORTH LIVING. LIFE IS A GIFT AND DO NOT THROW IT AWAY LIKE TRASH

al time to analyse your problem. Even if you fail to control your feelings, you will be able to master your thoughts. Do not worry about distressing symptoms because they are not dangerous. Always remember that your feelings are not facts. The next step is to function as a normal human being despite negative symptoms. If you boldly face up to distressing situations, your stress will disappear. Remain active when you are awake and do not brood over missed opportunities.

Headaches are normal symptoms of stress. They will not last long. If you are unable to sleep, just lie down without allowing negative thoughts to take the upper hand. Lapsing into self-pity will lead you nowhere. Do not blame others for your situation. Think like a normal human being without indulging in negative emotions. You do not have to worry about the mistakes you have made in life. We all make mis-

takes which are temporary failures. Give yourself credit for your achievements, however, small they may be.

Know the cause

In a life-threatening crisis, try to find out what is troubling you. When you know the cause, a solution is easy to find. Many people break down and cry. Crying is good to release negative emotions, but have courage to solve your problem. Sometimes your worries are imaginary. You will worry over the examination results before they are released. Even if you fail in an examination, it is not the end of the world. I have failed in many examinations. Every time I failed, I started doing something new. That is the only way to banish negative feelings.

In a crisis, go by what you know rather than what you feel. The things you are worrying about may not be true. Or they may be a distorted version of the reality. Never entertain the feeling that life is not worth living. Life is a gift and do not throw it away like trash.

Some people live in the past and others live in the future. Avoid both extremes. Live in the present and enjoy whatever life gives you. Love yourself, love others and reach out to help someone in need. The world is such a wonderful place that you can enjoy your life while helping others to enjoy theirs.

Always remember that you are part of the human race. Whatever is troubling you is something that happens to others as well. You are not the only person who is subject to grief, anxiety or depression. Maintain your emotional health at any cost.

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“Women at risk of falling into poverty”

Women overall are at a greater risk of falling into poverty amid the Covid-19 pandemic, said Norwegian ambassador to Sri Lanka Trine Jøranli Eskedal, delivering the keynote address at the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka event held to mark International Women's day 2021. The theme of the discussion was the ‘Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Women and Gender Equality’.

The speech:

“International Women's Day began in the early 1900s as a protest against women's lack of rights and demand for change. It has since become a global movement and celebration of the social, economic, cultural and political achievements and contributions of women. It is also a call to action for accelerating women's rights and equality.

“In 2003, Melinda Gates said: ‘A woman with a voice is by definition a strong woman. But the search to find that voice can be remarkably difficult.’

“Today, the Royal Norwegian Embassy is proud to join forces with the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka to celebrate International Women's Day and be a voice for women's rights.

“In 1995, over 30,000 women from 200 countries attended the Fourth World Conference on Women in China, where the Platform for Action, an agenda for women's rights and empowerment, was created.

“At that historic convening, 68 countries made commitments to recognising women's rights as human rights. Women's political, social and economic empowerment is also at the heart of the global goals for sustainable development; a global agenda to end poverty by 2030, unanimously adopted by the 193 Member States of the United Nations. What all this tells us is that gender equality is smart economics and realising the potential of both halves of the population is crucial to achieving a country's development goals.

Reversing progress

“We are in the middle of a devastating pandemic that has claimed thousands of lives and is continuing to affect people across the world. The Covid-19 is harming health, social and economic well-being of the world's population. Women and girls are harder hit than men and boys. The pandemic has the potential to reverse our progress towards the sustainable development goals and in particular, reverse the progress made on achieving gender equality for women and

girls.

“Pandemics and crises affect girls, boys, women and men in different ways and can contribute to deepening inequalities. Nearly 60 percent of women in the world, work in the informal economy - earning less, saving less. As businesses close down due to the pandemic, millions of women are losing their jobs and will be slower to re-enter the workforce once the economies open up again.

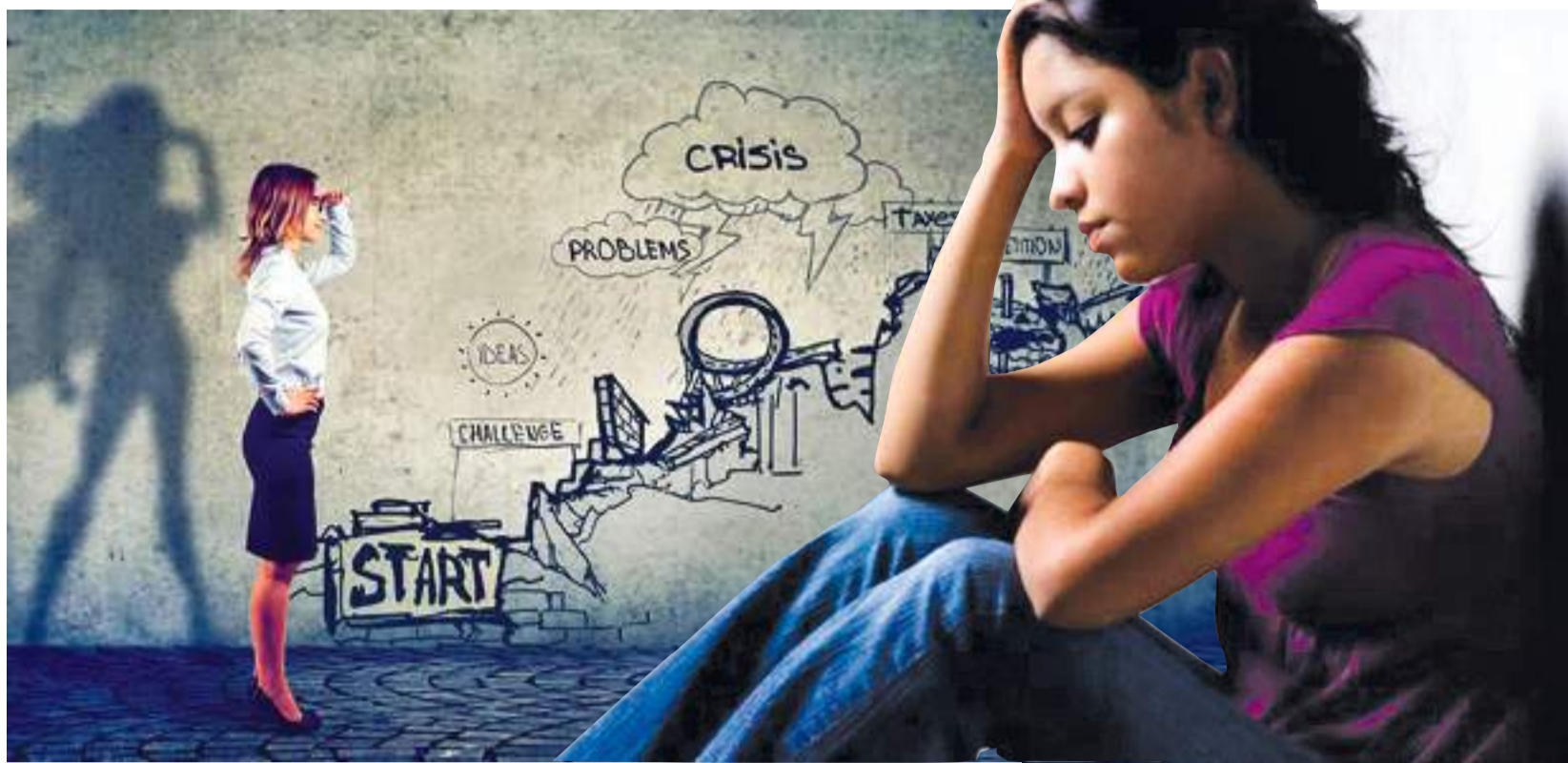
“Schools have been closed for an extended period. In many countries, there is a risk that many girls will not be able to return to school to complete their education. Early and unintended pregnancy is on the rise and so are harmful practices, such as child marriages. Women overall are at a greater risk of falling into poverty.

“Since the outbreak of Covid-19, emerging data and reports have shown that all types of violence against women and girls, particularly domestic violence, have intensified. UN reports that globally nearly 1 in 5 women have experienced violence last year. Many of these women are now trapped at home often together with their abuser and have limited access to shelters or other protection services.

“The impact of the pandemic on women is evident in my country as well. We see that unpaid care work is not equally divided between men and women. Women in general spend more time on household chores and taking care of the children and elderly, than their partners.

“They do this on top of attending their regular jobs. The pandemic has aggravated this situation and re-enforced unequal gender roles even in Norway that is considered one of the most gender equal countries in the world.

“The consequence of all these factors combined is a greater denial



of women's rights and women's opportunities. Progress lost takes years to regain.

“We all understand that the Covid-19 is challenging global economies and support systems. Many countries are struggling to get resources and human capital to deal with the outfall.

Gender equality

“However, we must not forget that gender equality and women's rights are vital to get through this pandemic together, to recover faster and ensure a better future for everyone.

“That is why all governments should put women and girls at the

centre of their efforts to recover from the pandemic. “Efforts to revive the economy, such as cash transfers, credits and loans should target women. Social and economic safety networks for them must be expanded.

“Unpaid care work must be recognised as a vital contribution to the economy. It is important that the voices of women leaders and women in decision making positions in the public and private sector are heard. Fundamentally, all policy responses to the crisis to be successful must be embedded on a gender lens that accounts for women's unique needs, responsibilities and perspectives.

“One of Norway's main priorities for the Covid-19 recovery is to address the issues facing women and girls. Gender equality is vital for a recovery and key to promoting sustainable economic growth. We must make sure that women take part in decision making processes, that girls go back to schools, that women have access to adequate health care and protection services, including sexual and reproductive health. We need to ensure that women's rights are protected and efforts to rebuild the economy is targeted on women.

Equal participation

“Our experience is that it pays to invest in education of girls and increasing women's equal participation in the labour market. Most people assume that Norway's economic suc-

cess is due to our oil and gas industry, fish industry and hydropower. However, an equally important factor is the value of equal participation of men and women in the labour force. In contrast to natural resources, this is a perpetual source of income.

“Covid-19 is a challenge we must overcome together. As the pandemic is global, the solutions must be global.

“Together with South Africa, Norway is co-chairing the Facilitation Council for the Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator, also called the ACT-Accelerator, which has been set up to promote equitable access to Covid-19 tests, treatments and vaccines. If we are to succeed in beating this pandemic, we must ensure that equitable access to vaccines, tests and treatments are available to all. Norway's main task is mobilising for continued support for the global response to the pandemic.

“Our work also involves providing advice and support for the work being done under the four ACT-Accelerator pillars (diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines and health system strengthening).

“In times of crisis, leadership is important. World leaders should be cautious not to use the pandemic to violate human rights and to shrink the democratic space.

“Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg, recently said that - Recover efforts give us a unique opportunity to steer the world and our countries

towards greener paths - and this should be the aim of leaders across the globe.

“The pandemic has been a magnifying glass on women and leadership. We have seen discussions on whether women-led countries have handled the coronavirus better than countries led by men.

Sustainable recovery

“We don't need to draw any conclusions on women and men leaders in this context, but what we must recognise is that countries respecting human rights and thus women's rights, where women are able to reach leadership positions and be equal participants in decision making processes, will be the best able to manage any crisis and ensure sustainable recovery and economic growth for all.

“To get there and stay there, it takes a genuine and concentrated effort on the part of policymakers and of the corporate sector. It takes courage and determination on the part of women and the men who champion them. “An overall national and global recovery process that is based on democracy, gender equality and human rights is key to win the fight against Covid-19 and realise the 2030 agenda on sustainable development. We must build back better, greener and with greater equality ensuring that no one is left behind.”

Source: Norwegian Embassy

GOVERNMENTS SHOULD PUT WOMEN AND GIRLS AT THE CENTRE OF THEIR EFFORTS TO RECOVER FROM THE PANDEMIC. EFFORTS TO REVIVE THE ECONOMY, SUCH AS CASH TRANSFERS, CREDITS AND LOANS SHOULD TARGET WOMEN. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SAFETY NETWORKS FOR THEM MUST BE EXPANDED



Chinese martial arts for mental health

BY ISURU THAMBAWITA

Arrows swifter than the wind, blows stronger than the thunderbolts and the warriors faster than the hawks must not be alien to the fans of Chinese movies though the legend behind the Chinese martial arts may be unknown to them.

It is said that the history of Chinese martial arts dates back to the Xia dynasty and that it has been shaped and sharpened like a sword for over 4000 years.

The yellow emperor, according to the records, is believed to have introduced the martial art techniques to China. We can observe different techniques in Chinese martial arts.

Hand-to-hand combat

In the hand-to-hand combat, two fighters are involved in the fight within a short distance and refrain from using arms, but sometimes, the use of knives, sticks and batons can be observed.

Technique

In the hard and soft techniques, the fighters are expected to ward off the attacks in armed and unarmed combats. Hard techniques basically require a great strength and can be used in offence, defence and counter offence.

The key point of hard technique is none other than avoiding the attacks without receiving any attacks and injuries from the opponent. In the counter offence unlike the offence hard technique the fighter should break the attacks. Soft technique denotes the art of deflecting the attacks to the opponent's disadvantage.

Chinese martial arts can be classified according to the martial arts families.

Among them, the shaolin quan is the most prominent and oldest martial arts family.

Thanks to the tele series titled “Kung-Fu”, the word Shaolin is not unknown to Sri Lankans. It is believed that Shaolin temple was set up during 495 AD under the guidance of Emperor Xiao Wen of Northern Wei Dynasty. Bodhidharma Thera said to have lived during the fifth century is thought to be the founder of the Shaolin chan tradition of China. Bodhidharma Thera that the bhikkus in the temple get feeble because they are not involved in heavy tasks.

The Thera developed martial arts techniques to enable the monks keep fit. The exercises created by him are now regarded as the basis of Shaolin kungfu.

Shaolin kungfu

Shaolin kungfu as clear as crystal and as strong as rock has been rooted in the Chinese culture. It is one style of different martial arts styles in China. This martial art style was named Shaolin due to the influence of the Shaolin temple close to the Zheng Zhou city. It can be said that Shaolin techniques require a great strength and quick movements. The students are expected to undergo a long training program to gain the skill. We can find five major schools of shaolin kungfu: Song mountain shaolin,

Fu Jian shaolin, Guangdong shaolin, Sichuan shaolin and Hu bei shaolin.

Shaolin weapons

Shaolin weapons play a vital role in the martial arts. It is evident that no weapons, such as knives and blades, are allowed in Shaolin kungfu except for the staff. Shao Huo Staff, Qi Mei staff, Liu He stick, Yun Yang stick, Pai stick, Monkey staff and Da Mo staff are the main weapons of the Shaolin style.

The purpose of the Shaolin staff is to increase the force, speed and power and enable the fighter to defend himself while attacking the opponent.

This staff can be thrown at the opponent from a certain distance and is used for joint locks. Qi Mei Gun is a double headed staff and has to be gripped with one hand. The eyebrow staff used in Songshan Shaolin and southern Shaolin styles is different from the other staff.

Traditional weapons

Related to the Chinese ancient weapons, it is not possible to skip the Stone Age and the Metal Age because during the Stone Age, the ancient Chinese made weapons

of stones. In the Metal age, the Chinese used bronze to make weapons. Powerful weapons can be observed in the Chinese martial arts. Among the weapons, the most prominent ones are sword (Dao), the long bow and the cross bow, spear (Qiang), Emeici (this is like an arrow with sharpened ends, but in the middle, there is a tiny rotating ring so that the fighter can use the weapon comfortably), Deer horn knife, Broad knife, Speargun, cudgel, battleaxe, battle spade, halberd, lance, whip, blunt sword, hammer, fork, dagger, shield and snake spear.

ism, it is inevitable to focus on its psychological aspect. Buddhism gives an emphasis on self-mastery, self-realisation and self-enlightenment. Chinese martial arts enable fighters to ponder about one's mind and body and can be divided by function and philosophy into traditional and non-traditional according to the way of teaching.

The traditional teachers teach self-improvement while the non-traditionalists teach the self-defence. Spiritual development, discipline and physical fitness are the areas focused by traditional teachers. Non-traditional teachers focus on combat discipline and spiritual development.

Mental health

Related to martial arts influenced by Buddhism and Dao-

Tai-chi proven to have been based on a fight between a crane



CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS DATE BACK TO THE XIA DYNASTY AND HAVE BEEN SHAPED AND SHARPENED LIKE A SWORD FOR OVER 4000 YEARS. THE YELLOW EMPEROR, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDS, IS BELIEVED TO HAVE INTRODUCED THE MARTIAL ART TECHNIQUES TO CHINA

and a snake, is a style of martial arts which was developed in the 13th century.

The philosophy behind Tai-Chi is inter-connected with the Chinese medicine theory. Tai-Chi can impact on one's health positively: reduce depression and anxiety, increase the physical strength, improve agility, increase memory and reduce fatigue.

Currently if a wayside bush is kicked, hundreds of martial arts practitioners will jump out according to local parlance.

But these practitioners should be aware of the main purpose of martial arts which is none other than self-defence and creating a sane society sans evils.



Race induced Rohingya refugee crisis

BY METHLINI HEWAGE

"I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word". - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

A person who lives a conscious life in today's world, is undoubtedly a witness to the immense amount of pain and sorrow that infiltrate so many lives due to the rampant issues of racism and discrimination in many countries.

As of late, the world's society seems to be gradually straying from the peace, unity and equality that exemplary activists, such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. strived hard to achieve and inculcate in society.

The ruthless and senseless murders of unsuspecting and undeserving victims, such as George Floyd and Breonna Taylor are just a few of the many injustices that have occurred as a result of racism which continues to uproot and burden the lives of many communities and minorities around the world. One of the major issues of racism is the Rohingya refugee crisis in Myanmar.

Discrimination

For decades, the Rohingya people have been victims of discrimination, targeted racial violence and statelessness within the Rakhine state of Myanmar. Such persecution has forced Rohingya women, girls, boys and men into Bangladesh for many years, with significant spikes following violent attacks in 1978, 1991-1992, and in 2016.

However, an influx of refugees to the area of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh from its neighboring country, Myanmar during August in 2017, caught the attention of the rest of the world. Since then, an estimated 745,000 Rohingya, includ-

ing over 400,000 children have fled into Cox's Bazar.

The Cox's Bazar region in Bangladesh is currently home to the world's largest refugee camp as entire villages were burned to the ground, families were separated and killed, women and girls were raped in Myanmar forcing the Rohingya people to flee to the closest safe haven. As of March 2019, over 909,000 stateless Rohingya refugees reside in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas. The vast majority live in 34 congested camps, including the largest single site, the Kutupalong-Balukhali Expansion Site, which hosts 626,500 Rohingya refugees.

Rohingyas arriving in Bangladesh said they fled after troops, backed by local Buddhist mobs, responded by burning their villages and attacking and killing civilians. At least 6,700 Rohingya, including at least 730 children under the age of five, were killed in the month after the violence broke out, according to medical charity Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

They risked everything to escape, by sea or on foot a military offensive which the United Nations later described as a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing". In January 2020, the UN's top court ordered the country to take measures to protect members of its Rohingya community from genocide. But the army in Myanmar (formerly Burma) has said it was fighting Rohingya militants and denies targeting civilians.

The country's leader Aung San Suu Kyi, once a human rights icon, has repeatedly denied allegations of genocide. Although they are one



THE COX'S BAZAR REGION IN BANGLADESH IS CURRENTLY HOME TO THE WORLD'S LARGEST REFUGEE CAMP AS ENTIRE VILLAGES WERE BURNED TO THE GROUND, FAMILIES WERE SEPARATED AND KILLED, WOMEN AND GIRLS WERE RAPED IN MYANMAR FORCING THE ROHINGYA PEOPLE TO FLEE TO THE CLOSEST SAFE HAVEN



of Myanmar's many ethnic minorities, the Rohingya, who numbered around one million in Myanmar at the start of 2017, represent the largest percentage of Muslims in Myanmar, with the majority living in the Rakhine state.

Beatings, shootings, bombings and other physical torture are inflicted upon the Rohingya men coupled with rape, gang rape and other physical and sexual abuse are inflicted upon the women. Rohingyas creates a massive amount of irony as

this all takes place within a majority Buddhist country. One of the main underlying philosophies upon which Buddhism is based is that everyone should be treated with loving-kindness regardless of the differences between people and communities.

The fact that the military, headed by the people in power and major religious leaders of the country's majority religion, carries out such heinous crimes against people simply due to an opinion about their religion and culture, raises the

question as to whether Buddhism is being followed in the country.

Case

The international response to this critical issue began with a report published by UN investigators in August 2018, accusing Myanmar's military of carrying out mass killings and rapes with "genocidal intent". However, when a case was brought up by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Aung San Suu Kyi rejected allegations

of genocide when she appeared at the court in December 2019.

Later, the international powers assisted the Rohingya community due to the fact that although the ICJ has limited power and can only rule on disputes between states, the International Criminal Court (ICC) has the authority to convict those accused of war crimes or crimes against humanity.

Hence, in January 2020, the court's initial ruling ordered Myanmar to take emergency measures to protect the Rohingya from being persecuted and killed and the body approved a full investigation into the case of the Rohingya in Myanmar in November. Many people in Myanmar continue to justify racism and ethnic violence endured by the Rohingyas by exploiting the fact that the Rohingya community is not confirmed citizens of Myanmar as they were denied citizenship.

As a result of this ideology of Myanmar people, although an agreement for the return of refugees was reached in early 2018, none returned. They said they would not consider going back to Myanmar unless they were given guarantees they would be given citizenship.



First sounds from another planet

Soviet Union conquered Venus

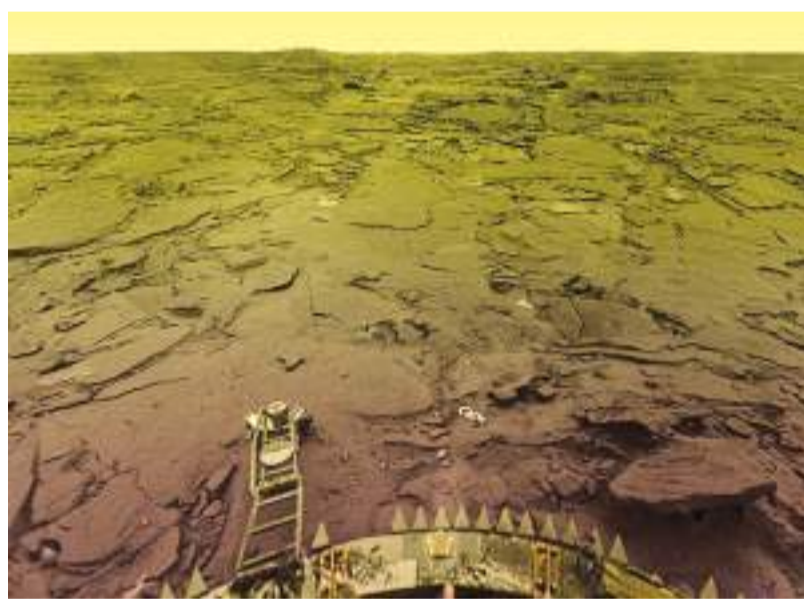
BY CHAMARI SENANAYAKE

All eyes were on the recent highly publicised NASA Perseverance mission to Mars. While everyone watched in awe when Perseverance Rover sent its first clear colourful pictures of the surface of Mars, most of the world has forgotten that less hospitable and extremely hot planet Venus was reached by the Russians a long time before American NASA managed to send data from Mars.

Even according to recent studies by NASA, the title 'most habitable planet on Solar system' went to Venus before our Earth. It is almost the same size as Earth, but its average temperature now is over 460 Celsius. It has a thick atmosphere due to greenhouse effect, which cannot host any known living being. It is also subject to atmospheric pressure 92 times than Earth and could crush any living animal to death.

Once like Earth

Scientists believe Venus was once like Earth three billion years



Surface of Venus by further Venera Missions (public domain)

ago until about 700 million years ago, but what happened to it and why it became such an inhospitable planet is not yet known entirely. It possibly has had life a long time ago just like Mars. Scientists said that it

was even cooler than Earth billions of years ago. It has been speculated by the UV absorbing patterns that its atmosphere contains microbial life even today. This is a startling discovery to some people who haven't



The first colour image of another planet sent in 1982 by Soviet Union Venera 13 (NASA)



Venera 13 Commemorative stamp (Wikipedia)

sought much about Venus as it is considered the hottest planet in our solar system.

It would be surprising to most people that many spacecraft have managed to land on this extremely hot, extremely pressurised inhospitable planet's surface and managed to send data from it.

First colour image

The credit goes to the Soviet Union because Venus provides unique challenges. It was not easy for any country to send probes to its surface whereas the Soviet Union has stopped at nothing to send many probes to Venus, collected data and sent its first colour picture to Earth long before NASA sent colour pictures of Mars to Earth. As Venus rains sulphuric acid, the first attempt to fly by Venus was on May 19, 1961 by Russian 'Venera 1' had communication failure and NASA's 'Mariner 2' did a successful flyby in 1962.

In 1965, Venera 3 became the first probe to enter the Venus atmo-

sphere, but communications were lost. In 1967, for the first time, Venera 4 returned atmospheric data back to Earth while entering the atmosphere. The Soviet Union sent Venera 5 and Venera 6 in January 1969 with such success that both worked for over 50 minutes on the atmosphere sending data before melting in its extreme heat.

On December 15, 1970 for the first time in our history, Venera 7 landed on Venus surface, marking it as the first soft landing. Venera 8 made history on July 22, 1972 with the first successful landing by a human-made space probe on the surface of another planet. Pushing its boundaries, the Soviet Union's Venera 9 made into history books as the first man-made space probe to send pictures of the surface of another planet on October 20, 1975.

Venera 13

The discoveries did not end there, as the Soviet Union made worldwide space enthusiasts' jaws drop when their Venera 13 on March 1, 1982, sent the first recorded sounds from another planet when the space probe landed there and functioned well. Venera 13 had cameras to take pictures of the ground and spring-loaded arms to measure the compressibility of the soil.

Its quartz camera windows were covered by lens caps which popped off after descent which can be heard in the sound recording. This amazing sound recording of another planet is available on the internet for anyone to listen to. Viewers can see the first colour images it sent back to earth and can hear this man-made probe drilling into the ground of the extremely hot planet - Venus.

The drilling sound and sample collecting are clear while the wind can be heard moving so fast like on a hurri-

cane day on the planet Earth, but our robotic space probe keeps working, drilling and analysing data in a heat that is about to boil its hard metallic gear soon. It is such a haunting sound to hear, with only the wind making the noise, with no other living being there under the sun.

Our probe works not just the expected 32 minutes, the planned designed life, it exceeds the limit by functioning for about 127 minutes in an environment temperature of 457 Celsius, sending such valuable data to mankind, finally before losing communication and dying on another planet succumbed to its extreme conditions. A postage stamp was issued on its memory and the great achievement.

Further data

Later on, Venera 14 also recorded images and sounds from Venus. Data analysis determined the average wind speed at the surface to be between 0.3 and 0.5 metres per second. The Soviet Union's final Venera 15 and 16 also entered the orbit and functioned from 1983 till 1984.

When space travel was in its primary stages, there was not enough data to prepare for such disasters. Most space probes were destroyed in the environment. In 1961, the Soviet Union had to learn a few clues about the surface of this hot planet by analysing its disasters.

From 1961 to 1984, Russia sent many missions to Venus, more than half of them becoming victim to its harsh environment and yet Russia, as always the pioneers in space travel, achieved the unthinkable of sending first colour images and the first sound recordings from another planet almost forty years ago, at a time when space travel was in such a primitive stage, making monumental discoveries for mankind.

Features

Kumberlin, Christus and Kristina

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 that Sarah be his niece's home-visiting tutor, and introduces her to the family.

Episode 9

More than a decade ago, things had been as follows:

It was the residence of Kumberlin and Christus, and no one else lived there. Apparently, they were quite a happy couple. Christus was a man of rules and regulations. Kumberlin lived a life of pretence then, just like she did now, although the circumstances were different. For her, Christus was the only man that existed in the world or so she showed that she didn't value anyone else as much as she valued Christus.

He was a selfish man, but for Kumberlin, he was a self-centred man, and she thought it was the most positive character description that anyone could receive. At events of charity in the community, Christus, being richer than an average townsman, hardly contributed. If anyone criticised him for not being a donor, he became self-centred, and made sure that such criticism didn't even enter his ears.

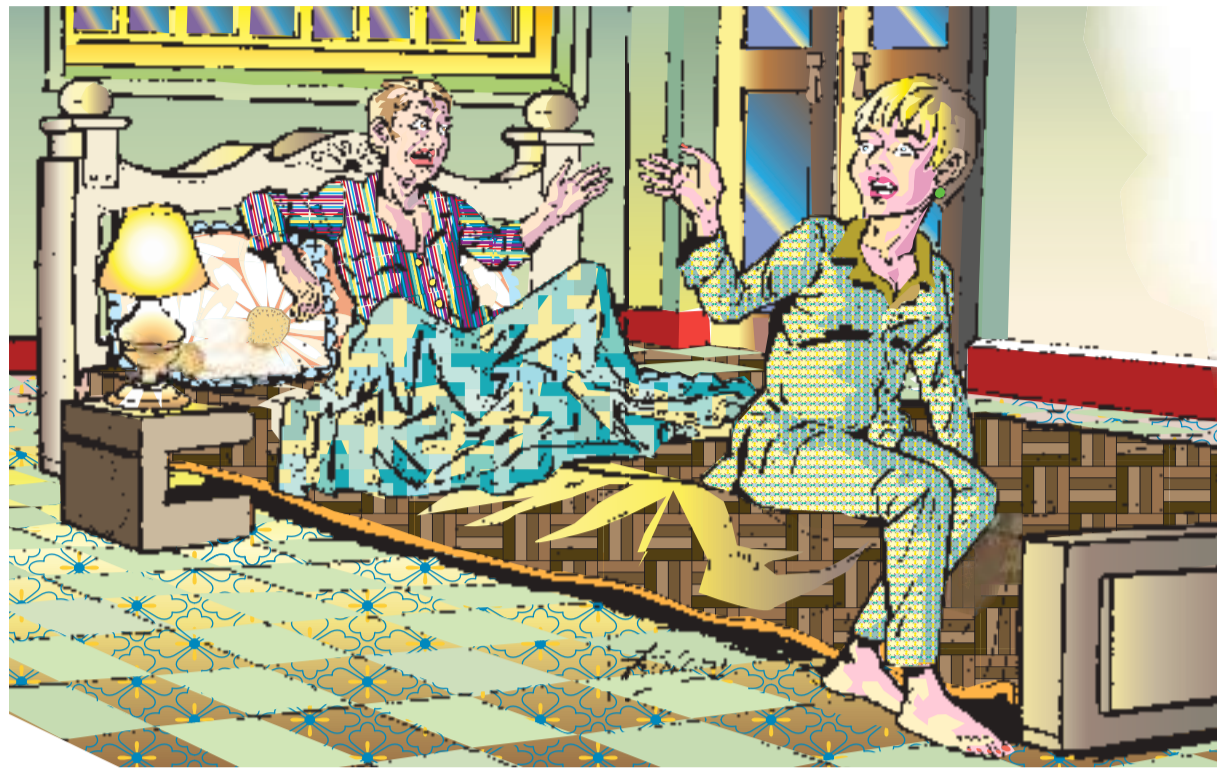
"People haven't identified him well. He's such a rare human being. They say he's selfish, but he isn't. He's not a selfish man; he's a self-centred

man. He'll donate anything to anyone." Kumberlin often said.

Perhaps she was right from her own perspective. However, it was bizarre that she spoke about their generous nature, even when it wasn't necessary. No one expected them to be charitable, but she expected everyone to expect it from them. When her brothers Sherman, Sidney and Jerad were teenagers, they lived far away in their main house, and she gave away her husband's old, worn out underwear to them. They looked at them with disgust, held them with their fingers when she was gone and tossed them in the garbage.

Christus could easily be angered, and hardly anyone knew it. Kumberlin was successful that way; she saw to it that none of her siblings knew about the kind of life she lived with him. In brief, it was a failing marriage.

Once, Christus returned home unexpectedly and Kumberlin took a longer time to open the door for him. He rang the doorbell many times and waited outside for a few minutes. When she did open the door, he was in utter fury, and grabbed her by her hair and thrust her to the wall, asking



why she had taken that long. She was frightened and quiet and to his surprise, she also had a family friend visiting her at the same time who he hadn't seen before he entered. It aggravated his fury and he let go of his wife and tried to physically attack her friend. Her friend, knowing that she was in some kind of danger, rushed out of the house.

There were many such incidents with regard to Christus's aggressive behaviour. It was surprising that Kumberlin had managed to hide the real face of their relationship from her siblings for decades. However, Kumberlin was always capable of hiding the truth, no matter how hard it was.

How unfortunate! She didn't know that the truth was like the sun or the moon. If all human hands stretched towards the sky in an attempt to cover the sun or the moon, would the sun or the moon stop glorifying the earth with their brightness? The answer is, no. Without any effort, they'd rest their prestige on earth. The truth was the same, no matter how brilliantly one hid it from the rest of the world it'd be exposed one day.

One day Kumberlin visited the registry office with Christus. He dropped her off and went to park the car, and Kumberlin walked towards the office by herself. A man working in the registry office opened the door for her, asking what she needed to get done.

Before, she answered, Christus came in between and questioned him on the reasons for having to talk to his wife.

"Yes, what can I do for you? What do you want to know from her?" he asked.

"Sir, I'm trying to help her, direct her to the right counter." The man replied.

"You don't have to worry. We know where we're going."

At this the man became silent, and Christus walked with Kumberlin softly muttering, "I don't know why these people try to gather around a good-looking woman just to get attention and show they know everything. If he had argued, I'd have called the cops on him." Kumberlin was delighted about his attitude, no matter how wrong it was. The man had been really doing his job, directing people to the right counter. He hadn't had any intention of approaching a woman to get attention.

Christus often travelled abroad on business. Once, when he was lining up to board a plane, he caught sight of a familiar face, a man from the same neighbourhood. Recognising him, the neighbour made a friendly gesture and walked towards him, but Christus ignored him.

"I don't know you." Christus said, despite the effort made by the other party to talk to him. Although Christus knew him well, his self-esteem had brought him down very badly or per-

haps taken him high up to the sky that he hadn't been interested in falling into conversation with a neighbour who he thought was inferior to him. He was jubilant about ignoring him and making him feel less important. His mannerism and personality matched well with those of Kumberlin, no matter how unsuccessful their marriage was.

Kumberlin, although she thought she was married to a high-ranking man, she loved to be fancied by other men. Whenever they attended a friendly get-together and she was left alone in a crowd she fell into weird conversations with other men. Once, amid some people having a drink, she heard someone making a comment on an unmarried young man.

"He's lived alone enough now, looking for a girl to marry."

Kumberlin, highly excited to hear the words, raised her voice, and looking straight at the bachelor said, "Well, I am here!"

Everyone looked at her, some taken aback and some not, as they knew her well. And, to make her comment seem casual, Kumberlin burst out laughing, as if she had been joking.

It was when Christus went abroad on business once, that things came to a crucial point. Yes, that was the climax. It was quite a long absence, as he was taking a longer time abroad than usual. That was the time that Kumberlin visited a friend, and met a nice gentleman,

Ronald, who lived in the same town. Kumberlin invited him home, and although he was a married man, he visited her alone. He visited her many times during Christus's absence, and Kumberlin was successful in getting many household work done by him. In other words, he became a handyman for her. He fixed broken drawers, wall cupboards and also shopped for groceries. Kumberlin, being thorough in the art of getting work done by men never spared him by any means.

Christus called her often, but she wasn't affected by his absence. She was happy about it, as it gave her a longer time with Ronald. She was enjoying his company, including everything that Christus had failed during their eleven years of marriage. Yes, they were married for eleven years, trying to have a baby, although it was a failure. Kumberlin was a very successful woman in this regard. She was overjoyed to hear the news of herself going to become a mother, knowing well that the father of her child wasn't Christus, but Ronald. It was the news of a lifetime. However, two weeks after receiving the news, Christus returned.

Kumberlin tried her best to hide it from him, at least for some time, so that she'd be able to pretend otherwise, but she was unsuccessful. Christus, getting to know the truth, was furious. One night before falling asleep, they had a severe argument.

It made him sick. Kumberlin denied the accusation; she continuously said that she had conceived a baby before his departure. However, her efforts of hoodwinking him were futile. He never believed her, and despite his efforts, he never got to know the name of the man she had been having an affair with.

The next day Christus went to take a walk outside in the same mindset. The argument of the previous night and the devastating incident had tormented him. He returned home with a failing heart, laid himself on the bed and took his last breath in front of his wife.

Kumberlin was shocked and saddened. She called her siblings and passed the news of the sudden death of her husband, and also that she had conceived a baby. Her siblings were shocked to hear the news, although none of them knew the story behind. After his death, Sherman, Jerad and Sidney came to live with Kumberlin, and at the due time baby Kristina was born.

To be continued next week
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Occupational stress among pilots

By
Nirosha
Rajapakse



At this very moment, you may be experiencing the agony of stress, albeit it is not a strange feeling but a natural phenomenon. Also, you should not necessarily treat it as a negative phenomenon since it is generally part and parcel of your daily life. However, stress may stand as a hazardous factor as a disparity between an excess of demands and the ability of an individual to meet them. It has been found that this is generated by an anxiety of the psycho-physical equilibrium, psychic and behavioural responses directed at bearing it up. Once this ability of bearing up with the situation fails, stress may bring out dangerous repercussions in terms of social, mental and physical well-being of the individual and the society at large.

Elements such as human relations, work organisation, environmental factors and the demand for jobs may contribute to stress at work. Also, it is reported that the impact which it has on health, performance, efficiency and job satisfaction may vary depending on the phenomena such as; social support, coping resources of individuals and psycho-physical characteristics.

Stress at work

Since the early 1980s, the Western world's consideration on the rise and causes of stress at work as well as in life in general has been noteworthy. Since 1900, the sequence of change has significantly increased. Fiona Jones and Jim Bright in their book on "Stress: Myth, Theory and Research" state that, science and technology have dramatically influenced this rate of change which started to happen with the introduction of electricity and aircraft in 1900; afterwards in the 1930s, the invention of the television and radar, discovery of nuclear power in the 1950s, the initiation of space travel in the 1960s and 1970s and the internet and the rapid development of information technology in the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s.



John Ivancevich, Robert Kono-paske and Michael Matteson in their book on "Organizational Behavioral and Management" point out that around the world many people are affected by stress, and unless it is arrested, it may give rise to catastrophic consequences. Over the years there have been different definitions on stress. The 'pressure from the environment' is its initial perception and 'tension within the person' being its notion later on. 'Interaction between the situation and the individual' is considered as the commonly accepted current definition.

And it is the physical and psychological condition which comes into being as the resources available in the individual are not enough to bear up the pressures and the demands of the situation. The achievement of aims and targets of individuals and organisations can be eroded by stress. Dr. Hans Selye defines stress as "any event which may make demands upon the organism, and set in motion a non-specific bodily response which leads to a variety of temporary or permanent physiological or structural changes".

By simplifying the above definition Richard S. Lazarus says that "Stress is a condition or feeling experienced when a person perceives that demands exceed the personal and social resources the individual is able to mobilize".

could be the result of the job stress.

As believed by researchers, work stress is one of the crucial factors which can influence productivity. Ahmadi and his team of researchers of the Behavioral Sciences Research Center in Baqiyyatallah University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran in their study on "Stress and job satisfaction among Air Force Military pilots" point out that labour stress could be recognised as one of the main sources of stress in the modern era.

In the USA, Japan and in the UK, researchers say that the financial cost of work stress has substantially risen around the world. As stated in the most recent handbook of work stress, job stress is considered as an international issue. Regardless of whether industrialised or developing countries, considerable concern is given to work stress, for it does not only affect the employee but the organisations and the society at large.

Vulnerable

Anybody is vulnerable to become a victim of occupational stress. However, the jobs which are responsible for people are considered as the most stressful. The stressfulness of a job is contributed by the probability of physical danger either to oneself or to others. Also around the globe employees report and complain that they are growingly stressed at their work.

With the initiation of modern powered flight in 1903, the foundation was laid for air transportation which has evolved as one of the major industries of the world. There has been a rapid

expansion on the global travel industry, predominantly dominated by air travel. Since the Second World War, the expertise of the psychologists has been used in the selection of pilots.

Following the war and also with the expansion of commercial aviation, psychology has also been included in elements such as designing the layout of the aircraft's flight deck enhancing a sound communication between the pilots and the air traffic controllers, formulating the most effective and safest ways of escaping from aircraft in an accident and giving advice in making staff rosters from avoiding the crew getting disturbed by fatigue.

Of late considerable attention has been paid on the effects of stress on human performance, but a less awareness is available on psychological stress of the pilots of the commercial airlines. Leo Jeeva and Chandra Mohan wrote "notwithstanding mystique about the aviators' intrepid coolness, rationality and fortitude; yet pilots are human in the context of mood, emotion, and predisposition,...."

In aviation stress is a daily reality. It is considered as a threat to aviation safety. There prevails a high risk environment within the aviation environment where there are potential stressors such as decompression sickness, hypoxia, noise and communication, acceleration, temperature and exhaust fumes and motion sickness.

These environmental stressors create a negative effect on the safety of flight which affect both military and civil aviation pilots. As stated in "Aeromedical Training for Flight Personnel" stress leads the aviators to make think-

ing errors and taking mental shortcuts which could be deadly.

Angela Blogut in her research on "Stressing Factors in Aviation" states that generally pilots are compelled to remain in small cockpits for a long time as it is the nature of their job. The usual flight demands such as radio communications, turbulence, navigation, etc., may give the kind of tedious feelings to the pilot in whom stress may be prevalent by being in an aircraft which is rather noisy with high vibrations. Therefore, it is suggested that pilots should have a well-rested time prior to their flight while being concerned with their physical fitness to fight against stress of this nature.

Aviation

In determining the security of aviation, stress is regarded as one of the main factors. It is also considered that a high level of stress paves the way for the job performance reduction in pilots. Also it stands as a main symptom for pilot error. Cyralene P. Bryce in the book, "Insights into the concept of stress" mentions the most stressful occupations with a rating "air traffic controller (8.0), policeman (8.0), pilot (7.7), doctor (6.8), nurse (6.5), fireman (6.3), paramedic (6.3), and teacher (6.2)". The above clearly demonstrates that the employees in the aviation and law enforcement have a relatively high rate of stress than the other fields of work.

Since there involves a variety of complex tasks within a 'Pilot Performance', it requires a high degree of physical and mental well-being. It is consid-

ered that a commercial airline pilot's job is a highly stressful one. As the flyers of commercial aircraft are responsible for flight safety, they carry a relatively higher job stress than other occupations.

Pilots are subjected to stress of different amounts at every phase of flight; their reaction to stress can explain whether the outcome is a safe flight. As per "Federal Aviation Administration" the reasons of stress of a flyer may vary depending on the circumstances, from unexpected weather conditions to mechanical problems onboard to personal problems not related with flying. Also, the pilots are required to cope with unpredictable weather conditions and schedules and mismanagement among other issues within the industry.

Even under ordinary circumstances stressors such as decreased barometric pressure, accelerative forces, vibration and noise are experienced by pilots and other crew members in the flight environment. Crew members on board that span into several time zones experience fatigue and altered sleep-wake cycles.

If the factors contributing towards the job stress are not properly handled, the prevalence of stress will be consistent. It should be noted that unendurable stress can cause a huge negative impact on the psychological and physiological aspects of the commercial pilots whereas their flying ability reduces.

The mission's execution and aviation safety are unfavourably affected by stress and fatigue in flight operations. As a result it is important for the air crew members to be familiar with their effects of stress and fatigue in their body. They should be aware how their lifestyles and behaviour can decrease or increase the degree of stress and fatigue experienced by them. As flying is a sensitive job and once errors are reported, the disastrous repercussions it can create both on human security and economy are rather terrifying.

The aviation organisations should be bound by the duty of studying, evaluating and mitigating the pilot's errors. In that context it is evident that researching on job stress to improve flight safety is an essential factor which can contribute for the enhancement of the competitiveness of airlines.

MONTAGE

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MARCH 14, 2021

Handagama returns to theatre with A Death at an Antique Shop

By
Anuradha
Kodagoda



It is indeed exciting news for all theatre lovers that the avant-garde filmmaker of our time, veteran artiste Asoka Handagama returns to stage after three decades with his latest theatrical venture *A Death at an Antique Shop* this month. His second coming on stage is since his last theatre production *Magatha*, which was awarded the best original play at the State Drama Festival in 1989.

Being an avant-garde filmmaker in the country, Handagama's artistic approaches have always been an encouragement for many generations and this time his return to stage is expected to help revive Sri Lankan theatre, which has been severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"It is indeed an inspiring feeling and is like coming back home," in an interview with the *Sunday Observer*, Handagama expressed his great pleasure to return to the stage where he started his artistic career decades ago. Being very critical in his artistic expression, his stage plays like *Maghatha* and *Hena*, as well as many of his cinematic expressions, can be described as his critical reactions to the socio-political conditions of the time he represented. However, today the socio-political conditions are much different, much more complex than before. Therefore, as he explains his return to the stage this time is by no means an extension of the art practice he brought to the stage in the previous era, but it will be a novel artistic approach.

"Today we live in a different socio-political context compared to the era that I was engaged in stage drama in the late 1980s. The change began in the early 1990s and today we are going through a developed version in a society that has undergone that transformation. The socio-political condition at this moment is not straightforward compared to the past. It needs a different approach to talk about this different social condition and you may have experienced this different artistic approach in my cinema practice. In that sense, I would like to introduce my return to stage as another reflection of my cinematic practice," Handagama said.

Having been highly influenced by Brechtian theatre techniques such as alienation effect, form without content is quite evident in Handagama's every artistic venture where the audience is hindered from simply identifying itself with the characters in the artwork. "It is a conscious decision that I have made to follow this alienation effect in my every art piece and that has been supported by the concept of form without content as I don't pay much attention to linear character development as well as linear storytelling. I pay more attention

ON OPENING PERFORMANCES OF A DEATH AT AN ANTIQUE SHOP ARE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD AT THE LIONEL WENDT THEATRE, COLOMBO ON MARCH 19, 20 AND 21, 2021



Asoka Handagama

on developing a form to bring out my artistic expression, because as I believe the most important thing in artistic expression is the form in which you express it, not what you have to say," Handagama explained. Handagama does not admit that the art of stage drama has collapsed as many complain. Although there has been a decline in audience at-

traction and changing the priorities of the state and private funders for the arts, he does not see a shortage of quality drama productions. "There's no upper middle-class in our country that has an interest to invest on art. Very few people today invest in art for their own self-satisfaction. As a country we have an attitudinal poverty. However, in the midst of all this chaos, there's no greater inspiration than to engage in this collective entertainment medium of art, which has a different effect and impact that cannot be experienced by any of the individual entertainment mediums that are quite popular today," Handagama emphasised.

As he retired from his 30-year career at the Central Bank last year, a film and a stage play lined up in Handagama's mind. Taking advantage of his early retirement and the Covid-19 lockdown time, he completed both scripts and was able to create swirling waves on social media by his Zoom-based short film 'Beer without alcohol' last year.

For Handagama work is the only thing that gives substance to his life. "When we started the rehearsals for *A Death at an Antique Shop* no one but I believed that we will be able to stage this as scheduled in March. I'm very much process driven and when

I start something I always want to complete it and in that sense I am very much a result oriented artist. For three decades I had to stay away from stage dramas mainly because of my career at the Central Bank. When I decided to retire, I wanted to dedicate my retirement completely to art and it is an excitement to start my retirement from theatre," Handagama added.

The cast of the *A Death at an Antique Shop* includes the most distinguished actors in Sri Lankan theatre, led by veteran theatre and cinema actor and Prof of Visual and Performing Art, Saumya Liyanage. Pasan Ranaweera, Nipuni Sharadha and Stefan Thirimanna are the other lead performers. Music for the play is by Chinthaka Jayakody, Production Design by Bimal Dushmantha, and Lighting by Anuruddha Mallavarchchi.

This play will be performed in keeping with the Government's Covid-19 regulations and safety measures. All the seats in the theatre are box-planned and can be purchased only at the theatre. The tickets sale and the box plan are already open from March 6.

This new theatrical exercise by award winning filmmaker and dramatist Asoka Handagama, will be a novel experience for the theatre audience of Sri Lanka.

My journey to Hansa Vilak

BY DHARMASIRI BANDARANAYAKE

I fell in love with cinema almost by accident. As I was growing up, Sri Lankan films that I watched generally had a set format: the mandatory song and dance, the jokes, the girl, the boy, the villain. They fought valiantly. The comedians made us laugh. The dances were entertaining. But at the same time, we also watched a few vastly different - more artistic movies and these stood out. These were less superficial than the ones we were used to.

As far as possible, I exposed myself to a different genre of movies. The name of Lester James Peiris became ingrained in my mind as a filmmaker who made this type of movies. In the 1960s, foreign films started to appear in Sri Lanka. Among these foreign filmmakers, the one who stole our hearts and minds was the esteemed Indian director, Satyajit Ray.

It was through Lester James Peiris' creations that we acquired the art of appreciating the cinematic artistry of these filmmakers. We had only watched *Rekawa*, now we could watch *Pathar Panchali*. Going to the cinema once wasn't enough. We watched them twice, thrice and more. *Gam Peraliya*, *Delowak athara*, *Parasathumal*, *Nidhanya*, *Golu hadawatha*, *Ahas gawwa*, *Hanthane kathawa*, *Walmathuwu*, *Sath samudura*, *Getawarayo* and *Sihina hathak* are a few Sinhalese films that come to mind.

With this, I was pushed into the rank of filmgoers who preferred to watch good, artistic films. In my late

THE NEW ARCHIVE OF THE VETERAN FILMMAKER DHARMASIRI BANDARANAYAKE'S MASTERPIECE *HANSA VILAK* WAS BACK ON THE SILVER SCREEN FROM MARCH 10

teens, I was fortunate enough to watch the screening of a short film that left a lasting impression on me. It was the Polish film *Passenger*. In my mind's eye, I can still visualise prisoners being taken to an underground Nazi gas chamber. A small child who was in the crowd of prisoners begins talking with an armed Nazi soldier. The soldier plays with the child. But in the end, the child also gets locked inside the chamber. These scenes were embedded in my memory.

Real life

The power of capturing real life situations into cinematic art was brought to life in my world by this Polish film. I went searching for the name of the director. The film was directed by Andrzej Munk. Since then I have been a fan of Polish and Czech cinema. In the early 70s, my job brought me to Colombo on a daily basis.

Theatre soon became an indulgence just as much as cinema. I bought an old 16mm projector on an instalment payment basis. This projector became my guru of cinema. The French, Canadian and Russian embassies lent their 16mm film copies to me. Two



Dharmasiri Bandaranayake

reels of film weighed around five kilos. Premasiri Khemadasa, Vasantha Obeyesekere and Dharmasena Pathiraja used to visit me at my home to watch these films. My love for Polish, Czech, Russian and French cinema grew over the years. The Czech Consulate had only 64 films, all of which I watched multiple times. It was my 'projector guru' that helped me study and understand screen writing, cinematography, editing and directing. Around this time, I had the opportunity to act in films directed by Dayananda Gunawardena, Lester James Peiris, Parakarama De Silva and Sunil Ariyaratne. The experiences I had as a stage director fu-



elled my urge to direct a film. In 1978, I wrote a screen play.

I wanted to visit the social construction of a marriage from a different perspective. This is how I ended up writing *Hansa Vilak*. I based the screen play on my own life experience that took place five years into my marriage. The screen play was woven around four characters - some aspects of these characters were based on reality, others on fantasy. I was able to develop these characters while transcending the traditional 'beginning', 'middle' and 'end' construct known to films at the time. *Hansa Vilak* was based on a structure that was yet unseen in Sri Lankan cinema and I believe that this has been the lasting appeal of the film. *Hansa Vilak* is still considered to be a modern and a relevant film. It hasn't aged.

While writing the screenplay, I made great effort not to include a fifth male character into this four - person dynamic. Had I introduced another character, it's very likely the fascination that the audience has for this film would have been lost. Fantasy and realism merged effortlessly so much so the audience was gently pushed into a discussion on what was real and what was not. My own portrayal as Nissanka was not by choice. However, as most actors I approached were reluctant or had

scheduling difficulties, I was pushed into taking on the role myself! I am told that I have done justice to the character. At the first screening of the film, Fr. Earnest Poruthota was in the audience.

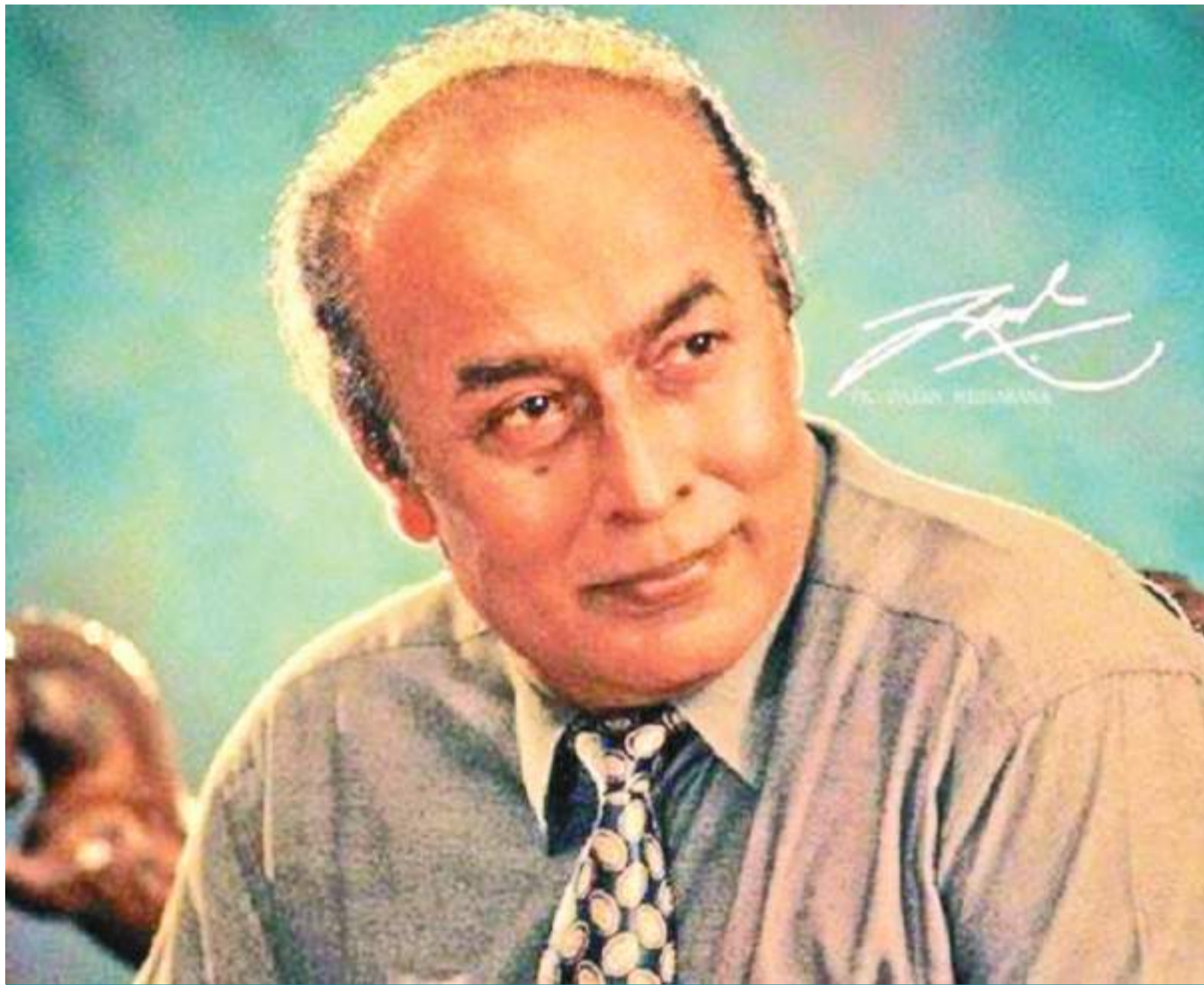
He was so appreciative of the film that he took it upon himself to send it to the Mannheim International Film Festival in West Germany in 1979. The film festival was focused on novice directors around the globe and I was part of it. *Hansa Vilak* won appreciation from a discerning audience. More valuable to me than any award won on the international or local stage, is the continuous positive appreciation of *Hansa Vilak* by the Sri Lankan audience. To date, whenever this film is shown on television or at a film festival, people still share their perceptions of the film with me.

Melodies

The melodies by Master Premasiri Khemadasa, still echo in their ears. The continued success of the song *Heminsare Piyavida* attests to this fact. One of our most acclaimed cinema critics, Dr. Reggie Siriwardena wrote to the Lanka Guardian in 1979: 'To have found the means of reflecting through the form and techniques of the film, the pressures of society and the family in the mind of a bewildered and tormented individual is Dharmasiri Bandaranayake's great achievement in the film. That achievement is sufficient to make *Hansa Vilak* a permanent landmark in Sinhala cinema, just as *Rekawa* or *Ahas Gauwa* were in their own time'.

Source: Lankan Isle

Features



Gamini, a colossus in Sinhala cinema

BY ISURU THAMBAWITA

The lamp of the Sinhala cinema lit up by veteran film director the late Dr. Lester James Peries was 're-kindled by the renowned artiste' the late Dr. Gamini Fonseka.

Born on March 21, 1936 in Dehiwala, Gamini began his career as an actor in 1956. The film titled "Rekava" - (The line of destiny) directed by Dr. Lester James Peries was the turning point in Gamini's destiny.

Mischievous teenager

It was S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia from which Gamini received his primary education. Having been taught by Kalasuri Arisen Ahubudu, he had a brilliant knowledge of Sinhala. Gamini, by imitating teachers and the staff members of the school, had gained a popularity among his school mates.

He used to watch stage dramas with his father and play those characters at home. It is said that the youth of the area had never missed the chance of watching little Gamini's performances.

Gamini, being the most mischievous and talented boy in the classroom, was asked by his teacher to participate in the school concert. Unexpectedly, little Gamini who made the sound of Tabla by snapping fingers, could amaze the audience, engraving his name in everyone's heart.

Unshaken

No doubt that Gamini less criticised and more praised by the critics had remained unshaken like a rock.

When young Gamini went to

famous dramatist and film maker Wimalaweera to seek an opportunity for a film, he had disheartened Gamini saying that he is not gifted to

perform. Fortunately as if through a miracle of destiny, Dr. Lester James Peries who had realised Gamini's inborn skills, had cast him as a



GAMINI BEGAN HIS CAREER AS AN ACTOR IN 1956. THE FILM TITLED "REKAVA" - (THE LINE OF DESTINY) DIRECTED BY DR. LESTER JAMES PERIES WAS THE TURNING POINT IN GAMINI'S DESTINY

villager in the film "Rekawa."

After Gamini worked as the second assistant director in the film titled "Bridge on the River Kwai" directed by one of the most renowned American film directors David Lean who had witnessed Gamini's talents and capabilities, called him "The American actor."

A poet

No one might have thought that Gamini whose name had been etched on our hearts as an actor, can be regarded as a poet. Among the songs and poems penned by this versatile artiste, these songs have stolen our hearts. "Sondura Numba Mata" sung by Victor Rathnayake, "Sudo Man adarey" sung by Sujatha Aththanayake and "Mihi pita agalak himi nethi miniheK" sung by Pandit Amaradeva. "The dream woman" is an English song penned by Gamini.

Nidhanaya

No, doubt that the film titled "Nidhanaya" (the Treasure) directed by the late Dr. Peries had brought the Sinhala cinema to the international arena. In the film, Gamini played the role of a bankrupt businessman named Willy Abenayake who sacrificed his beloved wife Iren Abeynayake to gain a hidden treasure in a rock. The climax of the film is the last scene in which Willy Abeynayake stabbed Iren Abeynayake to death.

The spectators whose eyes are glued to the screen, had been bewitched by the scene in which Gamini rolled his eyes back to portray that he was possessed by a devil. But sadly the legend of Sinhala cinema, Dr. Gamini who had dedicated his life to lead the rays of light to the Sri Lanka's film industry breathed his last at 68.

'PSYCHO'

Forces of past sins and present happiness

BY ASHEN PERERA

Psycho is a 1960 American psychological horror thriller film produced and directed by Alfred Hitchcock. The screenplay, written by Joseph Stefano, was based on the 1959 novel of the same name by Robert Bloch. The film stars Anthony Perkins, Janet Leigh, Vera Miles, John Gavin and Martin Balsam.

The plot centers on an encounter between on-the-run embezzler Marion Crane (Leigh) and shy motel proprietor Norman Bates (Perkins) and its aftermath, in which a private investigator (Balsam), Marion's lover Sam Loomis (Gavin) and her sister Lila (Miles) investigate the cause of her disappearance.

Psycho was seen as a departure from Hitchcock's previous film North by Northwest, as it was filmed on a lower budget in black-and-white by the crew of his television series Alfred Hitchcock Presents. The film was initially considered controversial and received mixed reviews, but audience interest and outstanding box-office returns prompted a major critical re-evaluation. Psycho was nominated for four Academy Awards, including Best Supporting Actress for Leigh and Best Director for Hitchcock.

Famous work

Psycho is now considered one of Hitchcock's best films and is arguably his most famous work. It has been praised as a major work of cinematic art by international film critics and scholars due to its slick direction, tense atmosphere, impressive camerawork, a memorable score and iconic performances. Often ranked among the greatest films of all time, it set a new level of acceptability for violence, deviant behaviour and sexuality in American films, and is widely considered to be the earliest example of the slasher film genre.

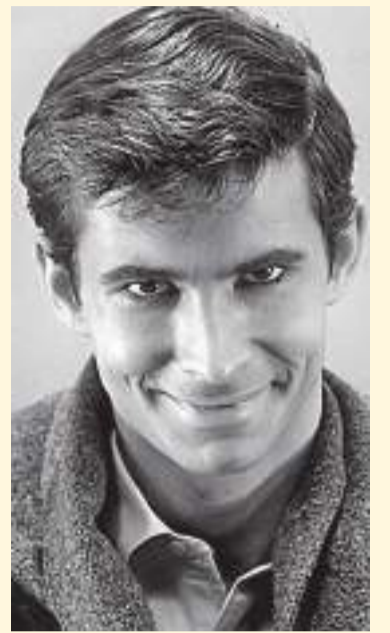
After Hitchcock's death in 1980, Universal Pictures produced follow-ups: three sequels, a remake, a made-for-television spin-off and a prequel television series set in the 2010s. In 1992, the Library of Congress deemed the film "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant" and selected it for preservation in the National Film Registry.

In Psycho, Hitchcock subverts the romantic elements that are seen in most of his work. The film is instead ironic as it presents "clarity and fulfillment" of romance. The past is central to the film; the main characters "struggle to understand and resolve destructive personal histories" and ultimately fail.

Lesley Brill said, "The inexorable forces of past sins and mistakes crush hopes for regeneration and present happiness." The crushed hope is highlighted by the death of the protagonist, Marion Crane, halfway through the film. Marion is like Persephone of Greek mythology, who is abducted temporarily from the world of the living.

The myth does not sustain with Marion, who dies hopelessly in her room at the Bates Motel. The room is wallpapered with floral print like Persephone's flowers, but they are only "reflected in mirrors, as images of images—twice removed from reality".

In the scene of Marion's death, Brill describes the transition from the bathroom drain to Marion's lifeless eye, "Like the eye of the amor-phous sea creature at the end of Fellini's La Dolce Vita, it marks the



birth of death, an emblem of final hopelessness and corruption."

Marion is deprived of "the humble treasures of love, marriage, home and family", which Hitchcock considers elements of human happiness. There exists among Psycho's secondary characters a lack of "familial warmth and stability", which demonstrates the unlikelihood of domestic fantasies. The film contains ironic jokes about domesticity, such as when Sam writes a letter to Marion, agreeing to marry her, only after the audience sees her buried in the swamp.

Sam and Marion's sister Lila, in investigating Marion's disappearance, develop an "increasingly conubial" relationship, a development that Marion is denied. Norman also suffers a similarly perverse definition of domesticity. He has "an infantile and divided personality" and lives in a mansion whose past occupies the present.

Norman displays stuffed birds that are "frozen in time" and keeps childhood toys and stuffed animals in his room. He is hostile towards suggestions to move from the past, such as with Marion's suggestion to put his mother "someplace" and as a result kills Marion to preserve his past. Brill said, "Someplace" for Norman is where his delusions of love, home and family are declared invalid and exposed."

Light and darkness

Light and darkness feature prominently in Psycho. The first shot after the intertitle is the sunny landscape of Phoenix before the camera enters a dark hotel room where Sam and Marion appear as bright figures. Marion is almost immediately cast in darkness; she is preceded by her shadow as she re-enters the office to steal money and as she enters her bedroom. When she flees Phoenix, darkness descends on her drive.

The following sunny morning is punctured by a watchful police officer with black sunglasses. She finally arrives at the Bates Motel in near darkness. Bright lights are also "the ironic equivalent of darkness" in the film, blinding instead of illuminating.

Examples of brightness include the opening window shades in Sam's and Marion's hotel room, vehicle headlights at night, the neon sign at The Bates Motel, "the glaring white" of the bathroom tiles where Marion dies and the fruit cellar's exposed light bulb shining on the corpse of Norman's mother. Such bright lights typically characterise danger and violence in Hitchcock's films.



World Kidney Day focuses on Organ Replacement to improve the quality of life of affected patients

Diabetes, blood pressure, main causes for kidney disease

By **Carol Aloysius**

World Kidney Day was observed on March 11 across the world. The recent upsurge of kidney infections especially, Chronic Kidney Diseases (CKD) in the North and North East in Sri Lanka has raised concerns among nephrologists currently battling to reduce fresh cases of kidney diseases in other districts including the over populated Western province. The *Sunday Observer* spoke to Consultant Nephrologist, Sri Jayawardanapura General Hospital, Dr Chinthana Galahitiyawa, to find out what causes kidney disease a subject still to be properly understood by the public, and the options available to those dependent on dialysis to survive, to help them gain a fresh lease of life.

Following are excerpts...

Q. Kidney disease has come into focus recently with an upsurge of kidney patients being reported island wide. Although it is one of the leading non communicable diseases (NCD) in the country, many people still don't know what exactly kidney disease is, or for that matter how and where it originates. Can you explain to our readers what role the kidneys play in helping us maintain a healthy life?

A. Kidneys are the main filter of the body. All the toxins that enter the body with food and beverages and produced inside the body in its complex metabolic processors are cleared by the kidneys. Kidneys play a major role in balancing the body water content, acid-base status and salt and electrolyte content. They contribute to the production of a hormone called erythropoietin which gives the signal to produce red cells (hemoglobin) and vitamin D. Kidneys are responsible for maintaining the blood pressure of the body as well.

Q. Are there different kinds of kidney diseases? If so what are the most common?

A. There are three main types of kidney diseases. The first type is due to the lack of blood supply to the organs such as in shock and in severe dehydration. The second type is due to the diseases of the kidney tissues itself e.g. diabetes related and nephritis. The third category is by blockage of the drainage system e.g. prostate enlargement.

Q. Which of these are most prevalent?

A. The commonest causes worldwide is diabetes and high blood pressure related kidney failures. Poorly controlled blood sugar levels and blood pressures are the main factors that trigger the rapid irreversible deterioration of kidney functions. The commonest type in Sri Lanka as well as anywhere in the world is type two.

Q. Can kidney disease be inherited?

A. There are many hereditary kidney diseases, e.g. Polycystic kidney disease, Alport's syndrome. But more importantly, diabetes also has genetic predisposition.

Q. Today being World Kidney Day Steering Committee has declared 2021 the year of 'Living Well with Kidney Disease'. What is the significance of this theme to Sri Lankans?

A. Living Well with kidney disease is a timely theme as these patients need lot more attention, education and treatments to maintain their health status, to prevent them reaching end stage kidney failure and improve their quality of life. The main focus is to identify CKD patients and educate them regarding the available treatment and therapeutic options to improve their quality of life and life span. Untreated patients will rapidly deteriorate to reach end stage where they need dialysis or kidney transplant.

Q. What are the early symptoms of the disease? Are they visible at the onset?

A. The danger of CKD is that it does not have early symptoms. Usually patients will start developing symptoms once their kidneys have damaged more than 70 percent. But certain kidney diseases can be detected early by investigations. The best example is mild protein leak in diabetics. This is why all high risk persons for CKD should be screened periodically to detect at an early stage.

Q. Is anaemia a sign of kidney disease?

A. Yes. As we discussed at the beginning the red cell production of the body will be reduced in CKD. This usually happens when the kidney functions have dropped below CKD stage 3 due to the deficiency of the hormone called erythropoietin.

Q. Are there different stages in the progress of kidney disease? If so what are they?

A. CKD is classified according to the rate of kidney functions. Scientifically it is called 'estimated glomerular



Dr. Chinthana Galahitiyawa

filtration rate (eGFR). Normal eGFR is more than 90. When the disease progresses this figure drops and becomes less than 15, which is called the end stage kidney failure (CKD stage V). CKD stage V patients need assistance to carry out the functions of the kidneys by some other way such as dialysis or kidney transplant.

Q. As it advances what are the symptoms to look out for?

A. Symptoms of advanced CKD are loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, lack of sleep, itching of the body, swelling and confusion. They may pass less urine and have difficulty in breathing.

Q. Can CKD be cured??

A. CKD is not curable. Early detection of CKD will help to protect the kidneys from further deterioration and prevent reaching end stages. But there are many kidney diseases that are curable if detected early, e.g. nephritis, kidney infections, blockage to drainage system.

Q. How is kidney disease diagnosed? What are the tests required, who does them and where?

A. This depends on the type of kidney disease suspected according to the patient's history and examination. Basically, urine analysis, blood biochemistry, plain X-Ray of kidneys and ultrasound of kidneys will detect the majority and guide further planning.

Q. Symptoms - Does a new patient with early symptoms require to be hospitalised? Or can he return home and continue his normal life?

A. No. Most of the early patients can be educated and treated on outpatient basis and periodically reviewed at clinic levels.

Q. How do you monitor the control of disease?

A. Basically, a blood test called 'serum creatinine' is the main indicator of kidney function. Depending on the severity patients will need to perform this test at regular intervals before they see the doctors.

Q. Treatment: How do you treat a patient who has just been diagnosed with kidney disease?

A. Treatment is based on the cause and the degree of kidney damage. Both of these should go parallel with each. The best example is the diabetic kidney disease where the main focus is on blood sugar control. Diabetes and high blood pressure patients are at the highest risk of getting CKD and they account for two-thirds of the CKD population.

Q. Is the treatment tailor-made to suit the patient's current health status?

A. Yes. Each patient is unique. The treatment, water intake and the diet will differ accordingly.

Q. Can healthy lifestyles prevent kidney disease?

A. Yes. Healthy lifestyles, proper hydration, maintaining ideal body weight and cessation of smoking can prevent or retard the progression of CKD.

Q. Exercise? Is obesity a contributory cause for early development of chronic kidney problems?

A. Yes, obesity can cause CKD in many ways. Obese patients are more prone to diabetes and high blood pressure which are the main causes of CKD. Further, in obese people, both blood sugar and blood pressure controls are poor. Obese individuals develop CKD by mechanisms independent of diabetes and high blood pressure.

Q. At present we are in the midst of a Covid-19 pandemic with a new variant circulating in four districts. To what degree are kidney patients at a higher risk than the normal population if exposed to the new variant that is also mutating?

A. CKD patients are at higher risk of catching Covid-19 infection and their outcomes are worse, especially, kidney transplanted patients carry the highest risk and their mortality is the highest.

Q. What are the options available for kidney patients in Sri Lanka today?

A. A comprehensive care package is available in the state sector for all CKD patients. This includes specialist clinics, a complete array of investigations, medical treatment, dialysis and kidney transplant.

Q. Will replacing a kidney with a new kidney give the patient a new lease of life?

A. Of course. A single functioning kidney is adequate for any individual to run a normal life. After a kidney transplant, patients will regain their normal health status and can get back to their normal life to carry out all basic functions, occupation and even to have family life and children.

Q. I understand that this procedure is available at the Sri Jayawardanapura Teaching Hospital where you currently work? How successful has it been so far?

A. Yes. We have a successful kidney transplant program in Sri Lanka. Our patient and graft survival rates are comparable to all developed countries.

Q. As there is still a severe shortage of kidneys even using both methods, how do you recommend overcoming this obstacle?

A. We are working on a national organ donation program. With this aim, we at the Sri Jayawardanapura General Hospital established the Organ Donation and Transplant Foundation (ODTF). It is a pilot project to develop a national data base for healthy individuals who volunteer to register to donate their organs upon their death. At the same time a data base of patients with organ failure will be maintained.

In the event of a brain death of a registered donor, with the agreement of the family, the medical staff will remove the necessary organs and tissues to transplant them in patients ready in the waiting list. Once this national organ retrieval and allocation system is established, most of the people in long term dialysis will get cured. This will be based in state sector hospitals free.

The donor will save up to eight sick patients and there will be no disfigurement to the donors' body and no undue delays for the funeral proceedings.

Q. How are the kidneys obtained?

A. They can be retrieved either from a living person or from a brain dead person with the consent from the family. Organ donation can be done in both these situations. In Sri Lanka live donation can be done to a family member or a close relative. But finding healthy donors from the family is difficult due to unavailability and the familial nature of kidney diseases.

Brain dead persons who are unsalvageable can contribute by donating their organs. The decision has to come from close family members. It is better to donate organs from brain dead persons for the betterment of many lives than wasting these precious organs in the form of burials or cremation.

From one brain dead person eight lives can be saved as he can supply two kidneys, one liver, one pancreas, two lungs, one heart and bowel. In addition to these main organs they can donate nearly 50 tissues such as eyes, skin, joints, tendons and bones. I invite all healthy individuals to register with us to donate your precious organs and tissues upon your death to save many lives.

Q. Your message to the public with regard to organ donation?

A. Life is a gift. Pass it on.

Family Time Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			14				16			
15			16				17			
18			18				20			
		21					22			
23	24			25	26			27	28	29
30				31				32		
33				34				35		
			38					37		
44				45				46		
47				48				49		
50				51				52		

DOWN

- (K) Place to heat up a bun
- (K) Country in South America
- (K) On-the-road safety device (2 words)
- Like an animal with its back against the wall (2 words)
- (K) "At what time?"
- (K) Amount of laundry
- (K) Like a guy who basked too much
- (K) They're used in soccer and tennis
- (K) Part of a growing carrot
- Tough, heavy burden
- (K) Marry
- Very healthy type of 16-Across
- Declines to participate in (with "out of")
- Round sovereign symbol
- (K) Honey Nut Cheerios
- critter
25. Detects with the eyes
- (K) Suffix with "collect"
- (K) About to get 38-Across
- Well-selected or well-chosen
- ___ caution while driving
- (K) Secures shoelaces
- (K) Musical instrument with vertical strings
- (K) Complete, as a crossword
- (K) Board material for filing nails
- Festive party
- (K) Spoken for anyone to hear
- (K) Writer of rhyming lines
- (K) It can lead to a great creation
- (K) New York's ___ Canal
- (K) U-turn from "buy"
- "To the max" suffix

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

S	N	T	H	O	S	A	S	E	R	A	S	T	O
H	A	B	E	R	A	S	E	R	A	S	T	O	
O	P	E	R	A	T	I	C	S		V	I	D	L
T	F	E	R	A	S	E	R	F	F	A	T		
S	W	E	L	A	R	A	T	I	Z				
H	N	I	F	I	E	K	I	N	R	I	F		
A	L	E	S	I	C	E	L	I	H	E	O		
C	A	N	D	I	T	M	I	L	A	N			
N	U	T	S	D	L	I	T	U	D	C			
A	L	D	E	R	S	E	E	L	E	C	S		

ACROSS

- Photo ___ (publicity chances)
- Poking tools for cobblers
- (K) Eye liner?
- Two-finger victory symbol
- (K) The "you" in some Bibles
- Sought-after rating
- (K) Small period of history
- (K) Lima or pinto
- (K) With the volume cranked up
- Basic essentials (3 words)
- (K) "Little ___ Blue"
- (K) Co. that makes deliveries
- Comply with, as a sergeant's orders
- (K) Motocross surface
- Greek T
- Good things to have in business and life
- (K) "I'll ___ a penny you can't do that again"
- (K) "___ this puppy cute?"
- Payment for a poker hand
- (K) Quick, abbreviated time period
- Unit of work or energy, in physics
- (K) Result of seeing something truly amazing (2 words)
- (K) Countess's husband
- (K) Traveled on horseback
- Anger or deep fury
- Any Bulgar, Serb or Czech
- "... ___ the twain shall meet"
- Zero in some sports
- (K) Folk story
- (K) Remain where you are
- (K) Hairstyling stuff

Sudoku 8

Have fun with this highly addictive logic-based number placement puzzle, the objective of which is to fill the 9x9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 sub-grids that compose the grid contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. The solution to the puzzle will appear next week.

2	5				7		6	
7				6		3	2	
	4							
					3	2	4	
			5	9				
	1	5	4					
							3	
	8	2		7				1
5		4					8	7

Can you find the answer to this riddle within the solved puzzle?

Riddle:
One in an accelerated program?

Last week answer:
34-D) Limit

Last week solution

1	3	6	2	7	5	9	8	4
5	2	7	9	4	8	3	6	1
4	9	8	3	6	1	7	5	2
9	8	1	6	2	4	5	3	7
2	7	4	5	9	3	6	1	8
6	5	3	1	8	7	4	2	9
7	1	2	4	3	6	8	9	5
8	6	5	7	1	9	2	4	3
3	4	9	8	5	2	1	7	6

Feature



Jak fruits on a tree at Divalakada.



A lush dense forest canopy at Arambe-gedera seen behind the stretch of paddy fields

Picturesque Divalakada

—Text & Pix by—
Mahil Wijesinghe



This week I chose to write about 'Arambe-gedera' of Divalakada – a beautiful rustic village, adjoining Botalegama in Bulathsinhala in the Kalutara district, rich in greenery, fresh air and beautiful landscapes. It may sound awkward, but 'Arambe-gedera' means a home situated in a grove. It is where the renowned journalist and newspaper editor, the late Gunadasa Liyanage was born, on April 22, 1930, and grew up as a village lad.

He had his primary education at the Botalegama Mixed School and later entered Sri Paali College, Horana to pursue his higher education. Botalegama and Divalakada are important to me for two reasons – one, Botalegama is where I was born and grew up as a village boy. The second is its adjoining village of Divalakada, where the author, journalist and newspaper editor, Gunadasa Liyanage was born.

Reaching this scenic destination is not only an adventure in itself but also a reminiscence of my nostalgic memories of four decades, as a village lad. Perhaps, it is because I grew up in Botalegama surrounded by mountains and paddy fields, that I am always enticed by them. I visited Divalakada frequently, as a boy and used to meet Gunadasa Liyanage at his ancestral home – Arambe-gedera.

Recently, I visited Divalakada again and found it completely changed, compared to what it was 30 years ago. I parked the vehicle on the roadside and walked the few yards crossing the paddy fields and reached Arambe-gedera surrounded by a thick grove. "Liyanage's four children who live in Colombo, never forget to visit their father's legacy frequently and they also visit us whenever they are here" an elderly villager said. Divalakada, is a historically important ancient village situated in Bulathsinhala. It is mentioned in an ancient chronicle, known as 'Rajawaliya' and is also described in Sunethra, a historical novel written by W.A. Silva.

Prince Veediya Bandara

The brownish water of the Kalu Ganga flows west of Divalakada. Kalugala, a hillock overlooking the valley of Kalu Ganga is a tribute to the battle known as 'Pelada Satana' between Prince Veediya Bandara and Prince Tikiri believed to have taken place in Divalakada. The warrior prince Veediya Bandara and his

THE BIRTH PLACE OF GUNADASA LIYANAGE (GULI TO MOST OF HIS READERS), SHOWCASES VIGNETTES OF HIS LIFE AS THE LAST OF THE GENERATION OF INDEPENDENT JOURNALISTS DESCRIBING HIS ETERNAL LOVE FOR HIS RUSTIC VILLAGE, DIVALAKADA AND ITS SIMPLE VILLAGERS



Author and newspaper editor, Gunadasa Liyanage

queen Sooriyadevi who fled from Seethawaka mustered an Army and weapons at Pelada in Palindanuwara and led a battle against the Portuguese during the latter part of the 16th century.

According to historical notes, Prince Veediya Bandara led a battle against King Mayadunne, the ruler of Seethawaka and the Portuguese and attacked them from time to time, camping at Pelada. After the death of Queen Sooriyadevi, Prince Veediya Bandara married the sister of Prince Tikiri Kumaru (King Mayadunne's daughter).

King Mayadunne also led a battle against Prince Veediya Bandara due to his cruelty to his daughter. The battle between Prince Veediya Bandara and Prince Tikiri is believed to have taken place at Divalakada near Bulathsinhala. Even today, testimony to this historic event could be witnessed in the village where a generation of blacksmiths who made weapons for the battle and their descendants still live.

The leftovers of the cast iron for making weapons in ancient times known as 'yabora' (black gravels) are found in some places in the village. Some ancient coins were also found by villagers in Divalakada while digging the land for culti-

vation and these coins were handed over to the Department of Archaeology.

Divalakada boasts of a long history and folklore about its origins. In ancient times, this wooded area comprised marshy lands known as Diyavalakada which eventually became Divalakada, which is easier on the tongue. Liyanage loved his rustic village Divalakada and its simple villagers and found a rare peace and quietness there. In the early days, when his mother was alive, he used to come to Divalakada every weekend to visit her. He constructed a small but beautiful house with quite a large pond full of water lilies in the foothill of a wooded hill where his ancestral home 'Arambe-gedera' stood.

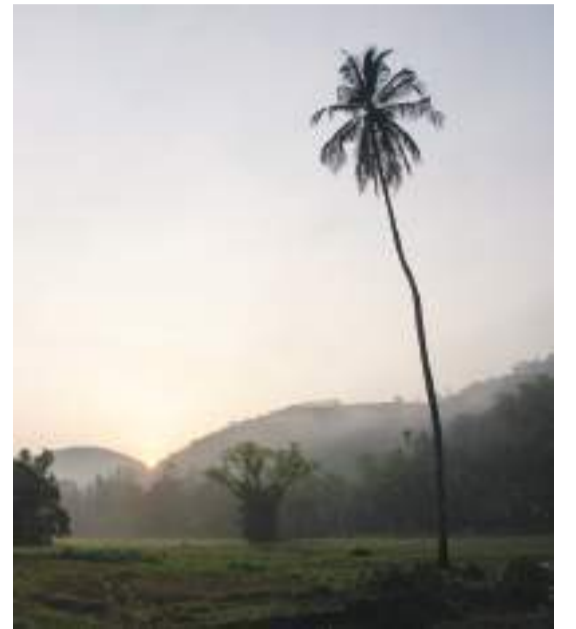
I have witnessed Liyanage accompanied by his family members spending the holiday and enjoying the rural setting of Divalakada. The placid big pond, was a sought after place for Liyanage's children, especially, the two young sons, Srimath and Vajira, who are both journalists, today. They would jump into the clear waters from the bund to swim and splash.

Gunadasa Liyanage

The name Gunadasa Liyanage needs no introduction in Sri Lanka's literary world. During his lifetime he has boosted the publishing of literary works of ordinary men and women, whose lives were made extraordinary with his pen. Liyanage's writings were simple, with much insight and sincerity, with a touch of psychology.

His stories portrayed characters in all their glory, with humour and satire; he brought out the reality of their lives in a small rural village. Liyanage rose to become the Editor of a few national newspapers and magazines, such as 'Kalpana' from the ranks of a provincial reporter. This was due to his perseverance and commitment to journalism. Working under the well-known newspaper editor, D.B. Danapala, he excelled in both Sinhala and English languages in the field of journalism and was once Sri Lanka's correspondent of the now defunct 'Asiaweek' newsmagazine which was published in Hong Kong.

He also excelled in the field of broadcasting and television in the recent past and was presented a Kalasuri title by the government. The towering trees surrounding Arambe-gedera still loom in the backdrop of the lush greenery and paddy fields. The figure of Gunadasa Liyanage who was raised in a rural setting still reverberates in the hearts of the villagers of Divalakada.



The early morning sun ray filters through mist-laden hills to the just harvested paddy fields of Divalakada

THE NAME GUNADASA LIYANAGE NEEDS NO INTRODUCTION IN SRI LANKA'S LITERARY WORLD. DURING HIS LIFETIME HE HAS BOOSTED THE PUBLISHING OF LITERARY WORKS OF ORDINARY MEN AND WOMEN, WHOSE LIVES WERE MADE EXTRAORDINARY WITH HIS PEN



Villagers reap the paddy harvest in Divalakada.



OBSERVER EDUCATION

MARCH 14, 2021



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MSU OFFERS BACHLOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

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SLIM SIGNS MOU WITH THE FACULTY OF...

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OVER 4,500 STUDENTS SAT CA SRI LANKA'S...

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Western Province Schools open tomorrow for Grade 05, Grade 11 and Grade 13

- Minister of Education Professor G.L. Peiris

Minister of Education, Professor G.L. Peiris said that schools in the Western Province will reopen on March, 15 only for Grade 05, Grade 11 and Grade 13 and all other grades will be started after the April holidays on April, 19.

Minister Peiris said so at the Press Conference held on of March, 9 at the Ministry of Education.

Continuing, the Minister said "the recommendations of the Director General of Education were received today".

The recommendations are that only Grades 5, 11 and 13 be commenced on Monday



March, 15 at the schools in the Western Province and classes for other grades

be commenced after the April holidays on April, 19. Therefore classes for other grades will be started on April 19.

Students have already been admitted to schools. But those classes have not started as yet. Accordingly, all schools in the districts of Colombo, Kalutara and Gampaha in the Western Province will be started on April 19.

There is no problem in reopening schools in other areas within the island. Accordingly, classes for all grades in schools throughout the island except in the Western Province will be started on March 15 2021, he said.

SLASSCOM joins Royal College Union Skills Centre Board for TechKids

Passionate in grooming Sri Lanka's next generation with capabilities to take the island into a new era of knowledge-based innovation and growth, Sri Lanka Association for Software and Services Companies (SLASSCOM) has always dedicated itself to the cause of Technology Education for children. As an initiative of the Association's Capacity Forum, TechKids has been one of the most influential children's educational programmes that have instilled IT knowledge and developed a thirst for technology education among school kids.

Continuing the quest of influencing the next generation of Sri Lankans to be digitally savvy citizens in every sphere of activities they embark on, SLASSCOM recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Management of The Career Guidance, Counselling & Skills Development Centre of the Royal College Union (RCU).

The event was participated by Channa Manoharan, Chairman, SLASSCOM, Nishan Mendis - Director, SLASSCOM, Boshan Dayaratne, Chairman, Board of Management of the Career Guidance, Counselling & Skills Development Centre of the RCU, Vasana Wickremasena, Bulletin Editor, RCU, Harshana Adikari, Manager, RCU Skills Centre, Chamil Jeevantha, General Council Member, SLASSCOM and Hasini Narangoda, Associate Manager - IT Education, SLASSCOM.

SLASSCOM Chairman Channa Manoharan, outlined that the TechKids initiative supports the endeavour of embedding future skills in kids and youth thus improving the nation's IT literacy. "This collaborative partnership between SLASSCOM and the Royal College Union Skills Centre not only expands the reach of TechKids to a wider audience but also leads to improving the digital acumen among Sri Lanka's younger generation" he added.

The Royal College Union Skills Centre having successfully introduced several educational programmes for children, will now have TechKids as its latest venture. Under the agreement, the Royal College Union Skills Centre will be operating TechKids coding clubs and conducting sessions leading to TechKids Certification distribution for participating students. This will be carried out through the facilitation of SLASSCOM - accredited trainers and in accordance with the Association's TechKids curriculum to ensure the authenticity of the programme contents and teaching.

SLASSCOM will play an engaging role, which includes being involved in assessing the quality of

the delivery and coverage of content as per the curriculum and delivery outline of the sessions. SLASSCOM will also facilitate the engagement of industry resources to review the TechKids syllabus and provide continuous updates to the Royal College Union Skills Centre with regards to the TechKids Certification Curriculum and provide curriculum contents for Scratch, Microbit, HTML and CSS, Python and other related technologies, as well as training and accreditation for the TechKids facilitators of the Royal College Union Skills Centre.

Boshan Dayaratne, Chairman, Board of Management of Royal College Union Skills Centre of the RCU, sharing his views on the partnership, highlighted the importance of such collaborations to ensure that young children are taught IT and technology related content with a proper balance of academics and industry relevance. He notes: "It is indeed a very exciting venture for us to be engaged in the operations and delivery of the TechKids programme. Technology is a key enabler of careers across industries, and we hope that with the support of SLASSCOM we will be able to in-

spire many young minds to explore the field of technology at greater lengths, whether or not their career goals will be directly involved with IT".

Expanding its scope to yet another prospective cluster of young Sri Lankans, the Capacity Forum of SLASSCOM is dedicated to ensuring the successful operation of TechKids at the Royal College Union Skills Centre, and will be working closely towards a long-term partnership to benefit a wide array of students in their journey towards becoming digitally savvy citizens. SLASSCOM is partnered and supported in their initiatives by their Corporate sponsor Dialog Axiata PLC.



Exchanging the MoU between SLASSCOM and the Royal College Union Skills Centre Board

Evaluation of Ordinary Level Examination Question papers begins on March 27th

- Minister of Education Professor G.L. Peiris

Minister of Education Professor G.L. Peiris said that the evaluation of Ordinary Level Examination Question papers will commence on 27th March 2021 and that he expects to start the practical tests for the aesthetic subjects in the month of May. Minister made these observations while participating at a observation tour of Ordinary Level Examination Centre at Kotte Ananda Shastralaya.

Speaking further, he said; Today is the last day of the G.C.E. Ordinary level Examination. This exam was held for 10 days. 622,000 of our children sat this exam in 4513 examination centres. We conducted this examination while facing many challenges. At the time we started the exam

there were 38 students who were contracted with Covid - 19 virus. When the examination concluded there were 62 students contracted with covid virus.

We were ready to face such a situation. We established 40 special examination centres throughout the country. In addition to that there were 322 students who were on quarantine. In every examination centre a special classroom was established. Owing to the inclement weather experienced in the last two days some problems cropped up. But we could successfully deliver the question papers to the examination centres on time.

We have decided to conduct the practical tests for the aesthetic subjects in May. It gives the opportuni-

ty to these children to get ready for the practical test in the months of March and April. We will start evaluating the question papers on the 27th of this month. Accordingly, we will be able to release the results in June and start the G.C.E. Advanced Level classes in July.

We will open the full school system to implement this complete programme so as to continue the education without any interruption.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the Principals, teachers, Provincial and Zonal Directors of Education, Department of Examination, Ministry of Education, Health Authorities, Local Government institutions and the media for all the help extended to us.

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Advertorial

Ganlaths venture into overseas education programs

BY JAYASRI JAYAKODY

Ganlaths, a reputed law firm for over 30 years and registered migration agents for Australia and New Zealand has begun a new venture in facilitating student placements for reputed overseas Universities.

Chairman Lalith Ganlath, Managing Director David Ganlath and General Manager Jagath Alvis on behalf of our readers who are interested in overseas education spoke to Sunday Observer Education section writer to explain their vision.

Ganlaths Migration Facilitators, Managing Director, David Ganlath stated, "Given a choice for Sri Lanka students to complete their further studies in Sri Lanka or move overseas, the majority would choose to study abroad. Many students prefer Universities in Australia, New Zealand, the U.S.A. and Canada other than those looking at specific programmes of study in countries such as Russia, Latvia, Germany, India, China and Ireland."

"The reason for Ganlaths to venture into overseas education was that there were many enquiries from students requesting us to get offer letters from recognized Universities and Colleges, apart from our services in facilitating visas. My father Don Lalith Hilary (Don) Ganlath, is the founder of Ganlath Migration, a renowned law firm he floated over 30 years ago through which he successfully managed, and still manages, skilled migration programmes into Australia and New Zealand. The trust gained by the company is so great that its reputation has been cultivated through a constant flow of skilled immigrants.

Although we did not facilitate this service before, we have decided to tie up with reputed Universities to cater to the huge demand. Some students would also look into the option

of staying in the country from which they got qualified. I would like to speak about various Universities we are affiliated with for the edification of students and their parents looking for overseas education," he said.

"The University of Delaware in the USA has 150+ Majors and 100+ Minors. The percentage of graduates who are employed or furthering their education is over 95%. The University is consistently ranked for value. According to Forbes, the University of Delaware is among America's Best Value Colleges in Rankings", he stated.

He further said, "The University offers programmes that are extremely realistic as students would be granted a scholarship including a specified percentage of course fees together with free meals and accommodation. Certain components are excluded in this package and the University further offers the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Programmes. An automatic two year work visa is assured after graduating from the STEM Programme.

Then, the student can obtain a job offer and convert that to permanent residency in the USA. Applicants to Silicon Valley, the hub of global technological innovation, research and engineering programmes reap huge benefits from The STEM Programme. The University of Delaware is specialized as a research institute. For their engineering research, the US government has provided a sizeable grant", he elaborated.

"Ninety nine point four per cent (99.4%) of the class of 2019 of Trine University in the USA was employed or in graduate school within six months of graduation, which has 30 majors. According to U.S. News & World Report, Trine University has achieved consistent ranking among the Midwest's Best Universities. Trine University is more affordable than the University of Delaware and



cater to a broader base of students", said Ganlaths Immigration, General Manager, Jagath Alvis.

He continued, "Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU) is a private Liberal arts University in Delaware, Ohio. It was founded in 1842 by Methodist leaders and Central Ohio residents as a nonsectarian institution, and is a member of the Ohio Five - a consortium of Ohio Liberal Arts Colleges. Ohio Wesleyan has always admitted students irrespective of religion or race and maintained that the University "is forever to be conducted on the most liberal principles. It is also affordable and maintains a nice balance between athletics and academics".

"The 200-acre (81 ha) site is 27 miles (44 kms) North of Columbus, Ohio. It includes the main Academic and Residential Campus, the Perkins Observatory, and the Kraus Wilderness Preserve. In 2010, Ohio Wesleyan had the eleventh highest percentage of international students among Liberal Arts Colleges for the seventeenth straight year. In its 2015 edition of U.S. College rankings, Niche ranked Ohio Wesleyan the 56th (out of 880 Colleges) most Politically Liberal College in the United States. U.S. News & World Report ranked Ohio

Wesleyan 95th among U.S. Liberal Arts Colleges in its 2018 edition", Alvis said.

"Ohio Wesleyan University of the USA, another of our affiliates, has 70+ Majors. We conducted a survey of 2019 OWU Graduates and 95% responding to our survey report are employed and/or in graduate school. The OWU has 24 varsity sports. It is a competitive member of the NCAA Division III and the North Coast Athletic Conference. Varsity athletes consist 37% of the student body of the OWU. According to The Princeton Review, OWU belongs to the list of "Colleges that pay you back" and "Best Colleges for your money" according to Money Magazine", he elaborated.

"We are also affiliated with MI College of Contemporary Music, one of the world's top Colleges seeking a career in the music industry, which is located in Hollywood, heart of the entertainment industry. The MI College of Contemporary Music offers students the opportunity to study music with some of the best working musicians of the world. The University has acclaimed faculty and guest artists. The MI College of Contemporary Music offers 24/7 access to private practice labs, rehearsal rooms



Chairman Lalith Ganlath

Managing Director David Ganlath

General Manager Jagath Alvis

Pix by Thushara Fernando

and project recording rooms, and a student can experience practical applications of various musical styles, genres and concepts", stated David Ganlath.

"Crandall University of Canada is another University we are affiliated with. Crandall University was founded in 1949 by the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada (CBAC) which continues to support the University and to elect and ratify appointments to its Board of Governors. The University is responsible to provide quality education for the leaders of tomorrow", he said.

"Then, we have the University of Ireland, which is located in the heart of Ireland, Dublin. The applying process for the September 2021 intake has commenced. The university does not charge any application fees from international students. Fifty percent (50%) scholarships for MSc in Entrepreneurship are available for the first five confirmed applicants", stated David Ganlath.

He further said, "We are also affiliated with the University of Latvia, which consistently retains the position of the national, leading and most influential higher education institute in Latvia. The University

of Latvia is also the largest University in the country in terms of total number of students and it is ranked among the top 800 Universities in the world".

"All Universities affiliated to Ganlaths Migration offer online courses due to health restraints caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic", he said.

"We generally endeavour to have a 100% success rate. We do not undertake any student who may not meet the threshold qualifications. The prospective students are vetted by an initial vetting process to ensure their financial viability so they do not drop out of their University programmes halfway due financial or other constraints", he said.

"The verification of documents, a matter of concern that has which had been prevalent over the past few decades and Ganlaths Migration has had vast experience in documentation as well as being staffed with Notaries Public, Sworn Translators and other such relevant officials. Ganlaths Immigration has been handling legal and other matters for skilled immigrants for a long time. From skilled immigration, it was an easy step to overseas education" said David Ganlath in conclusion.

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OR
(b) GCE (A/L) Examination in three (3) subjects under the new syllabus.
OR
(c) Foundation Programme equivalent to the GCE (A/L)
AND
- (2) Demonstrated competence in the relevant field and potential for future career development;
AND
- (3) Good working knowledge and the competence of the instructional language of the Diploma programme.

How to Apply

Application form should be submitted online. Please log into www.ihra.cmb.ac.lk to fill the online application.

Before submitting the application, please make sure that you have made the application fee using the voucher that can be downloaded from the same website and attach a copy of it in the right place of the application. Once submitted please keep a copy of application for your reference.

Application Fee - Rs. 1,500/=

Course Fee - Rs. 100,000/=

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Duration : 01 Year

Application Closing Date
31 March 2021

Deputy Registrar
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Colombo 07.

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070 - 117 25 37
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E mail - smgt@ihra.cmb.ac.lk
Website - www.ihra.cmb.ac.lk

PIM sets up Prof. Sisira Jayakody Memorial Research Centre

It was a poignant moment for the Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM) when it initiated the Prof. Sisira Jayakody Memorial Research Centre, recently. It was an appropriate gesture of appreciation of a scholar whose life-ambition was to elevate research activities and promote high quality scholarly works. It was the late Prof. Sisira Jayakody who elevated the PIM's research activities to a well-knit unit of activities that provided the much-desired impetus and inputs for the Institute to be on a par with all recognised research centres.

During the 5 years of his stewardship as Head of the PIM's Research Centre he had a strong vision to create the most sought-after doctoral programme in Sri Lanka, which he tirelessly pursued to achieve through the PIM. He firmly believed that without research, a relevant and modern curriculum does not exist. Consequently, the PIM's research activities have now been recognized as of high standard, as many a student who were involved in the Institute's research activities have gained recognition in internationally reputed seats



Mrs. Priyanka Jayakody, together with the two sons of late Prof. Jayakody opens the plaque, in the presence of Dr. Nilakshi Galahitiyawa, Head of Research Centre (extreme left), Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri, Director, PIM and other scholars look on.

of learning. He was a leading scholar in management research in recent times who raised the bar of scholarly work with international accolades. His research articles that were carried in reputed international research journals stand as monuments for his commitment to engage in re-

search activities. Further evidence of his firm's commitment to elevate research as a management discipline is the contributions, he made to the Sri Lankan Journal of Management (SLJM), PIM's flagship journal and his serving as member of the journal's Editorial Board.

Digital Platform for complete educational reforms from 26th March...

- Secretary to the Ministry of Education, Professor Kapila C.K. Perera

Secretary to the Ministry of Education Professor Kapila Perera said that digital platform for complete educational reforms will be inaugurated on the 26th March 2021. He said so while participating at a preliminary round discussion for "Complete Educational Reforms" as per the policy statement "Vision for Prosperity" of the new government.

Speaking further, the Secretary said;

As per the 'Vision for Prosperity' policy statement of the new government priority has been given to educational reforms. I feel that there has not been any educational reform after the 1970s. Educational reforms means not only the amendment or changes to the syllabuses. Country's future lies only on the qualitative education given to children. A country's development process could be taken to the future only by that. That is why His Excellency the President and the government have established a separate state ministry for educational reforms. That State Ministry along with the Ministry of Education have made inroads in many spheres within a very short period by now.

In addition to this, two task forces have also been established. One of them is the task force approved by the Cabinet of Ministers. The other one is the Task Force appointed by His Excellency the President for the complete educational reforms under the guidance of His Excellency the President amidst covid pandemic. The government anticipates to make these reforms on behalf of the children in all spheres such as school system, university system, pre-school system skills development considering the past, present experiences and the future. By now, a large amount of work on this has been completed.

His Excellency the President has paid his attention to these reforms many years prior to his election to office and knowing that these reforms should be undertaken that he had established a separate task force for this purpose. These educational reforms are carried out for the sake of the country. This will be carried out with the participation of all sections of the society from the labourer to the President of the country. Rather than calling for traditional conferences we have taken action to create

digital platforms for this purpose. Accordingly, this digital platform will be launched on the 26th of this month. Through this digital platform we intend to obtain proposals, comments, ideas regarding the educational reforms programme, policy framework, methodology of implementation. This digital platform will be in place for three months.

Reforms will be carried out only after studying the ideas of all the people such as intellectuals, educationists, university community, school community, ordinary people, various professionals, organizations, journalists. Therefore, we kindly invite everyone share with us your ideas on educational reforms through this digital platform after the 26th of March.

Secretary to the State Ministry of Education, Dr. M. Upali Sedara, Additional Secretary Hemantha Prematilleke, Deputy Director of Education (Acting) Prabhath Vithanage, Dr. Nalaka Hewamadduma, Media Secretary of the Ministry of Education Buddhika Wickremadara, Media Secretaries of the State Ministries Prasad Dolewatte, Udesch Indula were also present.

MSU OFFERS BACHLOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

DISCOVER THE COMPLEXITIES OF HUMAN DISEASES, UNDERSTAND SCIENCE BEHIND MODERN HEALTHCARE

Medicine and Healthcare are becoming increasingly sophisticated, Biomedical Science has today become a dynamic and fascinating field, where important and dramatic contributions to the improvement of human health are being made. With the growth of this industry, the global demand for people who are highly skilled in the field has also accelerated.

Biomedical Science field provides a strong professional and industry focus, where students obtain a solid foundation in both biological and Medical Sciences, and practical experimentation through extensive theoretical knowledge and advanced laboratory skills.

It is uniquely structured to furnish students with an understanding of the principles that underpin a wide range of key Biomedical disciplines, including Anatomy and Human Biology, Physiology, Organic Chemistry, Pathology, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Neuropharmacology and Clinical Diagnostics.

The field in biomedical science also provides students with an intellectually stimulating education in modern molecular, cellular and systems biology and neuroscience along with a strong, integrated academic background incorporating the most important basic sciences relevant to Human Health and disease.

All subjects are taught by lecturers with extensive industry and clinical expertise, ensuring that students will be exposed to relevant and contemporary knowledge as well as to state of the art laboratory techniques and equipment.

A career in the Biomedical Science is challenging and dynamic

with a long-term prospect in management, consultant role, research, education



and specialized laboratory work.

Alternatively, Biomedical Science graduate can also earn a living in the insurance company as a Medical Underwriter. They may also consider a career as Academicians imparting their specialised knowledge at any tertiary institutions.

In tandem with the high demand and potential offered by biomedical science field, the Management and Science University (MSU) is offering a three-year Bachelor of Biomedical Science Degree (Hons) through the Management and Science Institute (MSI), its learning center in Colombo.

The Management and Science Institute (MSI) is fully administrated and affiliated by MSU Malaysia, which is currently in the top 47 per cent, ranked 551st place of the world's

best Universities; world top 100 among the world's top young Universities, ranked 139th among Asia's best Universities and top 301+ for graduate employability ranking by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).

The University's award-winning Academic programmes meet stringent standards of local and international bodies.

These include from the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), the University Grant Commission (UGC) Sri Lanka and Sri Lankan Medical Council (SLMC)

Apart from Bachelor in Biomedical Science, MSI offers a wide range of diplomas, bachelor degree and postgraduate programmes with aims to develop knowledge and skills of students while preparing them to obtain employment or continue their higher studies.

These areas of specialisation includes Hospitality and Tourism Management, Biomedical Science, Event Management, Business Management, Accounting and Dialysis Technology.

In addition, MSI provides students an opportunity of continuing their studies at MSI Colombo, MSU Malaysia or at

any of their partner Universities in the United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, and Japan. For more information on programmes offered at MSI call us at 0112576644,

0112576700, Hot Line 0770777880, email at enquiry@msi.edu.lk, www.msi.edu.lk or visit Management and Science Institute at No 300 Galle Road, Colombo 3.



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Advertorial

CIMA COMPLETES MILESTONE LAUNCHES!

CIMA unveils Top 20 Employers (2021) in Sri Lanka

The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), is delighted to announce the Top 20 Employers in Sri Lanka for 2021. These are the employers who support CIMA students to progress in their studies whilst also employing qualified CIMA graduates as well as Members. The selection was based on the number of the CIMA community employed within these organizations.

Rank	Organization
1	MAS Holdings (Pvt) Ltd
2	Central Bank of Sri Lanka
3	John Keells Holdings PLC
4	DFCC Bank PLC
5	Hayleys PLC
6	KPMG Sri Lanka
7	Brandix Apparel Limited
8	National Development Bank PLC
9	WNS Global Services (Pvt.) Ltd
10	Ernst & Young Sri Lanka
11	Acuity Knowledge Partners
12	HSBC Sri Lanka
13	Dialog Axiata PLC
13	Hatton National Bank PLC
15	HSBC Global Service Centre Sri Lanka
16	Peoples Bank
16	Standard Chartered Bank Sri Lanka
18	Aitken Spence PLC
18	Bank of Ceylon
20	Hemas Holdings PLC
20	Pricewaterhouse Coopers Sri Lanka

There are over 150,000 employers that we work with globally and the Top Employer Award was conceptualised as we wanted to celebrate the Employ-

ers of CIMA members and students within Sri Lanka.

CIMA being a household brand in Sri Lanka, has a great reputation for quality professionals who lead and transform organizations. Thus, this is our way to highlight and showcase our Top Employers in Sri Lanka who not only recruit CIMA members/students but also support them with their studies and professional development. Organisations from all backgrounds, in all sectors both Government and Private in Sri Lanka were considered when the selection was made.

The Top Employers will continue to benefit throughout the year with continuous support from CIMA for recruitment and training of staff, complimentary and discounted CPD sessions, effective communication through the Brand Ambassador Club (BAC) and many more benefits which are exclusive to CIMA Top Employers.

CGMA FLP embraced by leading Tuition provider/Universities Recommended as the biggest revolutionary product in professional education!

CIMA's revolutionary alternate route to completing the professional qualification was welcomed by leading higher education Providers in Sri Lanka post being launched in January. The CGMA Finance Leadership Programme (CGMA FLP) provides an opportunity for Students, Employers and University students to embark on their CIMA studies through a state-of-the-art system. Created in response to the increased demand worldwide to deliver remote access and flexible self-paced online learning, this will develop future generations of Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) designation holders, required for driving

business performance and supporting economic recovery.

The first reseller on board for the CGMA FLP route is Imperial College of Business Studies (ICBS) who in addition to providing the CGMA FLP product will also be assisting the CIMA students with additional support such as coaching, mentoring and exam techniques for the three case study exams.

The University of West of Scotland (UWS) Degree programme offered by ICBS has joined as the first University Partner offering the CGMA FLP pathway to their students. This new e-learning and assessment platform provide instant on-line access for aspiring business and finance leaders to learn finance skills needed in business to the equivalence of a master's degree level of education.

The CGMA FLP covers competencies in finance, accounting, business, people, and digital skills set out in the CIMA Professional Qualification syllabus and assesses their application across operations, management and strategy. Students can start their learning journey at an appropriate entry level, building on existing education achievement, credentials and practical experience, with their College, Employer or University able to monitor and support their students as they progress.

There are several other leading higher Education Providers and Universities also signing up with CIMA Sri Lanka on this affordable and attractive proposition who are to be revealed soon.

Fadhil Jiffry appointed as CIMA Country Network Committee Chair

Chief Financial Officer for LSEB in Sri Lanka Fadhil Jiffry, FCMA CGMA was recently elected as the Chair of the CIMA Country Network Committee for 2021.

Fadhil is a finance professional with more than 18 years of experience covering Manufacturing, Financial Services, Oil and Gas, Plantation, Information Technology and Business/Knowledge Process Outsourcing sectors. He has previously held senior leadership positions at Goodhope Asia Holdings Limited, HSBC Sri Lanka and MAS Holdings (Pvt) Ltd.

Besides being a Fellow Member of CIMA, he also has a Bachelor of

Science (B.Sc.) Degree from the University of Colombo and a MBA from the Postgraduate Institute of Management, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. A former lecturer and mentor for students, he has served CIMA as the President of the Students Society and as a Sub Committee member in the past.

The Vice chair is Damith Pallewatte, ACMA, CGMA, Deputy General Manager - Wholesale Banking Group at Hatton National Bank PLC. Other members of the Committee include Rajeev Aloysius FCMA, CGMA, Joint Managing Director, The Autodrome PLC, Kapila Krishantha Athukorala FCMA, CGMA, Group Chief Financial Officer, RN Group of Companies, Chamila Cooray FCMA, CGMA, General Manager - Operations, WNS Global Services (Pvt) Ltd, Indika Liyanahewage FCMA, CGMA, Chief Executive Officer, Eskimo Fashion Knitwear (Private) Ltd, Manohara Tillakawardana FCMA, CGMA, Director, ABS Information Systems Private Ltd., Asitha Jayamaha ACMA, CGMA, Chief Financial Officer, Noorani Estates (Pvt) Ltd., Githanji Dilisha Kaluperuma ACMA, CGMA, Executive Director, Stafford Motor Company (Pvt) Ltd and Kamaya Perera ACMA, CGMA, Partner - Advisory, KPMG Sri Lanka.

On his appointment, Jiffry stated that he is excited to take over this leadership position and is honoured to have such an experienced Committee with him, all of whom are leaders in their own organisations. Despite the global pandemic and the many restrictions in physical gatherings, CIMA has done a wonderful job in engaging with the fraternity in innovative ways, and he said that his committee would be keen to continue with this trend and ensure greater engagement with members and students in the coming year. He also said that there is a greater role CIMA members can play in driving organisational and national agenda's forward during periods of crisis and that they are keen to engage with all stakeholders towards supporting this need.

The CIMA Sri Lanka Network Panel will be supported by the CIMA Sri Lanka office headed by the Country Manager Zahara Ansary, ACMA, CGMA.

ACCA Sri Lanka holds Financial Hackathon Season 2



ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) having been instrumental in holding the first ever financial hackathon in the country in 2018, due to its tremendous success, was there after held virtually for State Universities over the last two consecutive years.

ACCA recently conducted a financial hackathon for a host of foreign/Private Universities that was held as a platform-based competition.

The teams from leading foreign Private Universities worked around the clock, to come up with intelligent solutions to case studies presented to them on managing and overcoming the current challenges that have arisen in the finance industry.

The teams then pitched their ideas to a panel of top Academics and Industry Experts, where they were evaluated on a range of criteria's that comprised of user potential, level of innovation and commercial potential.

The Panel of judges included Suren Rajakarier - Partner KPMG and ACCA Member, Dr. Sanjeevanie Cooray - Senior Lecturer of Accounting Department at University of Sri Jayawardanapura, Ms. Rathnija Arandara - Operations Officer at International Finance Corporation (IFC), Ravishankar Wickneswaran - CFO at Fairst first insurance and ACCA Member.

After some impressive presentations and pitches from all participating teams, the team representing CA

Sri Lanka School of Accounting and Business came out on top, with the 1st runner-up being the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology and the 2nd runner-up being secured by the National Institute of Business Management.

Nilusha Ranasinghe Head of ACCA Sri Lanka added, "Our main aim through this event is to foster and harness out of the box thinking and collaboration amongst our youth in a virtual environment and to help them contribute their talents to think of ideas that will revolutionize the way forward for the financial industry that is evolving at a very rapid pace, especially due to the pandemic in force. It also gave a great opportunity for the participants to be coached by some of the top industry experts, meet new people virtually and learn new skills. Inspiration, innovation and learning in a digital environment was the backbone of ACCA Virtual FINHACK and we hope it gave our participants a deeper understanding of the challenges they will face to stay at the forefront of the finance Industry in the future".

As the world's most forward-thinking professional accountancy body, ACCA believes that accountancy is vital for economies to grow and prosper, and works with Government and Businesses across the world to build the profession and make the industry more ethical and transparent.

True Friends are the ones who have nice things to say about you behind your back.

GOOD FRIENDS COME WITH A PRICE

"TRUE FRIENDS ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE NICE THINGS TO SAY ABOUT YOU BEHIND YOUR BACK."

By Vasana Abeynayake



Friendships fill our souls, and shape our identities in the path of life. Good friends improve immunity, spark creativity, drop our blood pressure, ward off dementia among the elderly, and even decrease our chances of dying at any given time. If you feel you can't live without your friends, you're not being melodramatic. These are the friendships that fill our souls, and heighten and shape our identities and life paths. Friends play an important role in a person's life. They encourage when one is sad, they entertain when one is lonesome, and they listen when one has problems. There are varieties of friends: co-workers, social workers, schoolmates, and much more. Each type of friends is helpful in one way or the other. Co-workers could help solve problems and stress gain in the workplace. Friends from the community widen one's perspective by introducing new people from different areas. Friends that grew up with would share the happiness and sadness one might have. However, friends that grew up with might not always be the best friends because they could fake it or been concealing some secrets. So, it is very important for one to recognize all the friends she/he has because good friends are hard to find. Good friends should not be measured only base on the time spent together. With good friends, one is able to have a more meaningful life. It is very difficult to have a definition of a good friend for everyone to agree upon. Since everyone has different personalities, friends one looks for could be very different. Nonetheless, there are some common characteristics shared among most of the definitions. The three main qualities that define a good friend are loyal, understanding, and encouraging.

But even our easiest and richest friendships can be laced with tensions and conflicts, as are most human relationships. They can lose a bit of their magic and fail to regain it, or even fade out altogether for tragic reasons or no reason at all. Then there are the not-so-easy friendships; increasingly difficult and bad, gut-wrenching, toxic friendships. The pleasures and benefits of good friends are abundant, but they come with a price. Friendship, looked at through a clear and wide lens, is far messier and more uneven than it is often portrayed.

Backstabbing friends are a part of life, and the act itself happens to nearly everyone at some point in life. The betrayal of a trusted friend or colleague inflicts pain and hurt. How do you deal with low-blow deceptive attacks? Learn the ways as to why and how they backstab friends and decide if saving the friendship is worth the effort. People who backstab tend to be insecure.

Behaving like your best friend with smiles, a helpful attitude, and promises of loyalty and trustworthiness, the backstabber waits for the right moment and then turns on you with a vengeance. The backstabber's ways

BEHAVING LIKE YOUR BEST FRIEND WITH SMILES, A HELPFUL ATTITUDE, AND PROMISES OF LOYALTY AND TRUSTWORTHINESS, THE BACKSTABBER WAITS FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT AND THEN TURNS ON YOU WITH A VENGEANCE

are manipulative as she uses low-ball tactics that make you appear to be a liar, a thief or someone not to be trusted.

Reasons why people backstab others range from cowardice to a need for power. The sole purpose of backstabbing is gaining the upper hand and garnering power. Backstabbing is not limited to one individual or another. Countries backstab from within and without. One of the most famous examples of backstabbing comes from ancient Rome where Julius Caesar was stabbed 23 times by members of the Senate and his friend, Brutus. As the blows fell from Brutus' dagger, Caesar's last words, "And you Brutus?" underscore the disbelief he had that a friend could backstab him.

By criticizing other people, the backstabber feels better about herself. Backstabbing may be nothing more than idle gossip about you to other co-workers. Although it makes the backstabber look good temporarily, in the long run, she/he will lose the confidence of her peers. No one wants to feel the betrayal of backstabbing best friends or colleagues. It does happen and when it does make certain that you are prepared to deal with the backstabber in an appropriate manner. For friends it may come down to cutting them out of your life. You will not have that option in the workplace. Finding ways to live with the backstabber or remove you from the situation. A good quote to live by comes from Renaissance clergyman and poet George Herbert, "Living well is the best revenge."

Backstabbers are everywhere. At your place of work, in your marketing department, in your accounting department, in your IT department, or for that matter, could be standing right next to your cubicle; pretending to be your best friend. Backstabbing and double-talking is not just limited to high school and college anymore. It has gone main stream and is quite rampant at most companies. You may not know it, but right this very minute someone could be giving unkind remarks of you.

Going forward, avoid negative people who like to focus on things that are off beam, and you are likely to stay more cheerful yourself. Even the teachings of Lord Buddha say how to select good friends out of the bad lot. Naysayers, second-guessers and backstabbers are everywhere. You have to find, expose and weed them out. Instead of vehemently confronting them, try to take the higher path. Follow the righteous path of Gandhi and Mandela. Don't kill them with vengeance; win them with your kindness.



UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA

Faculty of Humanities - Department of Linguistics

DIPLOMA IN TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION - 2021

Applications for the entry of the above diploma will be issued by the Department of Linguistics from 15.03.2021 to 23.04.2021.

The objective of the programme is to provide candidates with necessary knowledge and practice required for professional translators/interpreters.

Diploma in Translation Course: I Tamil- Sinhala Translation Diploma
(Candidates who have language skills in both Sinhala and Tamil)
II English- Sinhala Translation Diploma
(Candidates who have language skills in both English and Sinhala)

Course Duration: One academic year. Lectures will be held on every Saturday from 9.00am to 4.00 pm. Due to the prevailing pandemic, lectures will be held online and at the university premises depending on the situation.

Course Fee: Rs. 60,000/- (Sixty Thousand Rupees only)
The first installment which is Rs. 35,000/- (thirty five thousand rupees) has to be paid at the time of registration and the second installment which is Rs. 25,000/- (twenty five thousand rupees) has to be paid within three months from registration.

Minimum Entry Requirement: Passed the G.C.E. (A/L) exam.

Selection Criteria: Interview conducted by the Department.

Commencement: May 2021

Application Fee: A receipt should be obtained by paying Rs.750/= to the account number 055-100110667549 of University of Kelaniya with the title "Diploma in Translation and Interpretation-2021" at any branch of People's Bank.

How to Receive the Application: You can download the application by visiting <https://hu.kln.ac.lk/depts/linguistics/index.php/notices> or

Those who are expected to get the application forms by mail, send the relevant bank receipt together with a self addressed stamped (Rs.15.00) envelope (9"x4") on or before 10.04.2021 to the above address. When obtaining the application forms by post, the top left hand corner of the envelope should be marked as "Diploma in Translation and Interpretation - 2021 (Request for application)".

How to Send the Application:

Completed applications should be sent to the "Coordinator, Diploma in Translation and Interpretation, Department of Linguistics, University of Kelaniya, Kelaniya" addressed by registered post on or before 23.04.2021, and "Diploma in Translation and Interpretation -2021" should be written on top left hand corner of the envelope. A scanned copy of the completed application that has been obtained via any of the above methods should be sent to the dipintranslation@gmail.com email address on or before 23.04.2021. The originals of the bank receipt and the application form should be sent to the above address only via registered post. (The bank receipt should be sent by the applicants who have downloaded the application from the web page) Please mark the top left corner of the envelope as "Diploma in Translation and Interpretation - 2021"

Incomplete or delayed applications could be rejected as the number of admissions is limited.

Priority will be given to the order in which applications are received.

For further details visit or contact Co-ordinator, Diploma in Translation and Interpretation Programme, Department of Linguistics, (K2-116), University of Kelaniya, Kelaniya.

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SELECTION TEST



Candidates must pass a 1-hour Computer-based Test conducted at OUSL Regional and Study Centers from 19 April 2021 - 25 April 2021

Pay the application fee (LKR 600.00), select a convenient Centre, Date and Time to sit for the test and download the Admission Card

No changes to Center, Date or Time allowed after downloading the admission card.

No one allowed to sit the test without a valid admission card.

PRE - ORIENTATION



The programme will be delivered through 28 Regional and Study Centers of OUSL.

Details about the programme will be presented during pre-orientation sessions to be held in March, 2021. Reserve your seat at: www.ou.ac.lk/bsehons



Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering
The Open University of Sri Lanka,
Nawala, Nugegoda.



Tel : (011) 288 1081, (011) 288 1000 (General)

Fax: (011) 288 1285

Email: bseinfo@ousl.lk

Website: www.ou.ac.lk/bsehons

BSE @ OUSL - Lighting up the Future!

Advertorial



Prof. Sudantha Liyanage receiving the token of appreciation after making the commemoration speech for Emeritus Professor W.S. Fernando



M.R.M. Haniffa receiving the token of appreciation.



President Prof. Sagarika Ekanayake offering flower bouquet at the statue of Prof. J.N.O. Fernando.

Prof. J.N. Oleap Fernando's 77th Birth and 6th death Anniversary Commemorated by ICC

The 77th birth anniversary and the 6th death anniversary of Emeritus late Professor J N Oleap Fernando were commemorated on 3rd March 2021 at Adamantane House, Institute of Chemistry Ceylon. In honor of Professor J N O Fernando, needy items were donated to Sunshine Home for Elders, Holy Emmanuel Church, Moratuwa in the morning. The ceremony was held virtually (Zoom) with the participation of members of Institute of Chemistry Ceylon, 100s of College of Chemical Sciences Alumni, academic and non-academic staff, students of College of Chemical Sciences, and family members of Prof. J N O Fernando as well as his close associates.



Ms. Nishmitha Ramaraj compeering the commemoration ceremony.



President Prof. Sagarika Ekanayake delivering the welcome speech.

was read by Member of CCS Alumni Association, Dr. Dinesha Dabera, Battery Scientist working at Johnson Matthey PLC, UK. The commemora-

tion oration titled 'Education Then and Now, Classical vs Modern' was delivered by M R M Haniffa, Senior Lecturer in Chemistry at the Open University of Sri Lanka and Past President of Institute of Chemistry Ceylon.

The commemoration of the 1st death anniversary of Emeritus Professor W. S. Fernando was also done as a part of this program and the commemoration speech was given by Professor Sudantha Liyanage Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sri Jaywardenepura and Past President of the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon.

Udari Wijesinghe,
Graduate Teaching Assistant.



Audience at the commemoration ceremony.



Participants of the donation to the Sunshine Elder's home. From Left: Mrs. Mandrupa Feernando (Standing), N I N S Nadarasa, Dr. A.A.P. Keerthi, K.R. Dayananda, Shihan Kumaratunga at the Sunshine Elders Home.



Donating Items to Sunshine Elder's Home by Shihan Kumaratunga.



Prof. Sagarika Ekanayake addressing the inmates of the Sunshine Elder's Home and Mandrupa Fernando in the picture.



Donation of needy items to Sunshine Home for Elders by K.R. Dayananda.



University of Sri Jaywardenepura

Faculty of Graduate Studies

M.Sc. in Applied Statistics (2021)

Offered through the Department of Statistics

Applications are invited from interested candidates for the MSc in Applied Statistics (SLQF 10) offered by the Department of Statistics, University of Sri Jaywardenepura. This program has been designed for graduates with a basic knowledge in Statistics to provide them with an opportunity to further develop their knowledge in Applied Statistics. Those who complete the program successfully will gain knowledge in advanced statistical theory, as well as will receive an extensive training in statistical data analysis and statistical computing. The MSc in Applied Statistics program provides (a) advanced theoretical knowledge in Statistics, (b) an opportunity to do research, and (c) an opportunity for graduate employees to gain higher educational qualifications required for their promotions and career development.

Target Group

- Those who need academic qualifications in Statistics.
- Those who are planning to start a career or already employed as statistician data analysts.
- Those who teach Statistics related courses in schools, universities or other educational institutes.

Minimum Admission Requirements:

- A Bachelor's Degree with 30 credits in statistics and/or mathematics or a related discipline from a university or an institution recognized by UGC

OR

- Successful completion of Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Statistics program offered by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Jaywardenepura

and

Fulfillment of at least one of the following:

- A Bachelor's Degree from any field of study with 10 credits in Statistics and/or a related field from a recognized university.
- At least one year working experience in a related field.

Please visit: <http://science.sjp.ac.lk/sta/msc> for more information regarding the program.

Application:

The online application is available from the Faculty of Graduate Studies website <http://graduate.sjp.ac.lk>

Please pay the application fee of **Rs. 1,000/-** to account number: **053010006582** through any People's Bank branch and attach the receipt to the completed application.

The program will be offered only if at least 20 candidates are registered.

Duration: Two (02) years

Course Fee: Rs. 200,000/-

Commencement: August, 2021

In addition, a library fee, an examination fee and registration fee should be payable at the time of registration

Lectures and practical classes will be conducted during weekends (Saturday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

Closing date of applications: April 20, 2021

For further information

Dr. Neluka Devpura

Coordinator

Postgraduate Programs in Applied Statistics,

Department of Statistics,

University of Sri Jaywardenepura

Tel: **011-2758905**

Email: ndevpura@sci.sjp.ac.lk

Faculty of Graduate Studies, USJ

Mrs. Manjula: 011-2881555

Registrar,
University of Sri Jaywardenepura



University of Sri Jaywardenepura

Faculty of Graduate Studies

Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Statistics (2021)

Offered through the Department of Statistics

Applications are invited from interested candidates for the Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Statistics (SLQF 7) offered by the Department of Statistics, University of Sri Jaywardenepura. This program has been designed for graduates who wish to gain a basic knowledge in statistics. Upon successful completion, professionals from various fields such as medicine, engineering, management, social sciences, biological sciences, marketing, pharmaceuticals, nursing, etc. will be able to design surveys/experiments and then analyze the data collected through them. The Postgraduate Certificate program in Applied Statistics provides (a) An opportunity for graduates who have not studied Statistics to learn Statistics, (b) Knowledge in applications of Statistics and training in data analysis required by graduate employees in various fields, (c) An opportunity for graduate employees to gain higher education qualifications required for their promotions and career development.

Target Group

- Those who need an academic qualification in statistics.
- Professionals from various fields who wish to gain a basic knowledge in statistics.

Minimum Admission Requirements

- A Bachelor's Degree from any field of study from a recognized university.

Please visit: <http://science.sjp.ac.lk/sta/pgcert> for more information regarding the program.

Applications:

The online application is available from the Faculty of Graduate Studies website <http://graduate.sjp.ac.lk>

Please pay the application fee of **Rs. 1,000/-** to account number: **053010006731** through any People's Bank branch and attach the receipt to the completed application.

The program will be offered only if at least 20 candidates are registered.

Duration: One (01) year

Course Fee: Rs. 130,000/-

Commencement: August, 2021

In addition, a library fee, an examination fee and registration fee should be payable at the time of registration

Lectures and practical classes will be conducted during weekends (Saturday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.)

Closing date of applications: April 20, 2021

For further information

Dr. Neluka Devpura

Coordinator

Postgraduate Programs in Applied Statistics,

Department of Statistics,

University of Sri Jaywardenepura

Tel: **011-2758905**

Email: ndevpura@sci.sjp.ac.lk

Faculty of Graduate Studies, USJ

Mrs. Manjula: 011-2881555

Registrar,
University of Sri Jaywardenepura

ICON Business School to launch next Generation Learning Management System

ICON business school a leading Educational Service provider in the fields of accounting, finance and business management is set to lead the way in the shift toward online learning with the launch of a new world-class, advanced Learning Management System (LMS), an initiative that would benefit their current and future population of students and their industry renowned lecture team to make an impact on their learning and teaching, respectively.

This market-leading learning management system will do much more than host virtual classes and will contribute in helping students learn and access class work, assignments and relevant study material

from anywhere at any time, thereby driving deeper learning.

Designed with quick, easy individualised learning and feedback systems, flexible grading schemes and sophisticated dashboards that delivers real-time learning progress, the LMS will also empower lecturers to fast-track the creation and delivery of innovative learning experiences to support student engagement and course completion.

Enabled with a host of new age features, it allows lecturers to create and assign lessons, conduct online exams and track student attendance and performance. The platform can personalise learning based on individual student goals and results, as well as maximising peer-to-peer learning



The key team of ICON Business School

through group activities and online communication tools.

Lecturers can also mix and match a variety of learning activities and assessments to boost student learning

boards, simplified assignment submission and viewing and enhanced instructor interaction.

Overall, this powerful and user-friendly learning management system is designed to meet the needs of today's online training and scale with all of the institutes future eLearning needs.

The sophisticated Learning Management system will be combined with a new business site and utilized for all the programs at ICON that includes classes in ACCA, CIMA and OBU degree in accounting and finance.

The Promoters of ICON Business School said "student's success is at the forefront of everything we do and as such our aim has always been to put the power of modern learning methods and technology into the hands of

our lecturers. At no time has the need for this been as great as right now, and we're committed to helping our lecturers provide an amazing student experience that will give them the maximum support in continuing their studies uninterrupted and with no compromises made in their quality of learning but rather in having it enhanced. It also gives us the ability to quickly adapt to changing educational trends and technologies going forward.

With ICON's mission and values of effective student learning and accessibility, the Learning Management System will allow the institute to maintain a continued focus on innovation and affordability towards the best interests of their students in the current pandemic era.

SLIM signs MoU with the Faculty of Management, Uva Wellassa University

The Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM), recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Faculty of Management (FOM) of the Uva Wellassa University to offer a gold medal and a scholarship to the best marketing student of the Entrepreneurship and Management Degree program. The MoU was signed by the SLIM Treasurer/Chairman - Research, Education, Policy & Strategy, Dr. Jayantha N. Dewasiri and the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Jayantha Lal Ratnasekera.



Officials exchanging Memorandum of Understanding

The MoU is valid for a period of five years from the date of execution. SLIM will offer a gold medal and a 100% scholarship to the Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing Management for an outstanding performance of the best student of the Marketing Management discipline, Entrepreneurship and Management Degree program at the Department of Management Sciences, Faculty of Management, Uva Wellassa University. In addition, SLIM will grant students of FOM, Uva Wellassa University who have successfully graduated from the 'of Entrepreneurship and Management' degree programme and who satisfy the prevalent entry criteria, to directly enroll for the Postgraduate Diploma in the Marketing Management programme with special concessionary rates where applicable at the discretion of SLIM. Further, SLIM will facilitate the staff members and students of FOM, Uva Wellassa University to participate in workshops, seminars and training Programmes organized by SLIM, so as to benefit from eminent personalities in Business and Marketing at a concessionary rate. Also, the Faculty of Management of the Uva Wellassa University will permit SLIM to be engaged in activities like presentations at events, career guidance programmes and

guest sessions organized by the institution.

SLIM Chairman-Research, Education, Policy and Strategy/Treasurer, Dr. Jayantha N. Dewasiri, Vice-Chancellor of the Uva Wellassa University, Professor Jayantha Lal Ratnasekera, Head of the Department of Management Sciences, Ms. Y.M.C. Gunaratne and Professor Imali N. Fernando were present at the ceremony.

The Vice-Chancellor of the Uva Wellassa University, Professor Jayantha Lal Ratnasekera stated, "It is indeed a great pleasure to join hands with the national body for marketing in enhancing professional competencies of our management graduates. I strongly believe that national Universities should collaborate with professional institutions for academic and professional integrity as this may help to reduce the discrepancies within academia and the industry".

SLIM Chairman of Education, Research, Policy and Strategy Dr. Jayantha N Dewasiri stated, "SLIM has always campaigned for high professional standards, greater recognition for the profession and marketing excellence in Sri Lanka through education, training and development.

SLIM has been recognised as one of the finest professional

educational institutes which has produced many highly competent marketers that have benefited the nation. Through this collaboration with one of the best marketing faculties in the country, we aim to continue this service and produce highly trained professionals and excellent marketers for our nation".

Sharing his thoughts on the partnership, SLIM's President Roshan Fernando said, "As the national body for Marketing in Sri Lanka, SLIM has the credentials and capacity to conduct pioneering educational programmes for the marketing fraternity of Sri Lanka. SLIM is providing this exceptional opportunity to expand and elevate the knowledge of the graduates of the Faculty of Management at the Uva Wellassa University and contribute to develop and promote future marketers in the country. SLIM hopes to continue its commitment towards working with the marketing fraternity in the country to provide them with the highest level of support in enhancing their skills and performances".

Commenting about the collaboration, SLIM Vice President Nuwan Gamage stated, "The Marketing fraternity in Sri Lanka has kept confidence in SLIM's educational programmes since these

programmes effectively contribute towards enhancing the performances of marketers in the industry. The educational pathway created by SLIM's professional programmes would aid in steering the careers of the graduates of the Uva Wellassa University and gear them to step into international platforms and stand as equals with their global counterparts".

SLIM CEO/Executive Director Sanath Senanayake stated that, as the national body for marketing, SLIM plays a vital role in imparting marketing education to the nation. "We are delighted and happy to provide a 100% scholarship and a gold medal for the best student of Entrepreneurship and Management Degree programme in the discipline of Marketing Management".

SLIM is the national body for marketing in Sri Lanka and has been promoting marketing excellence and elevating the status of marketing since 1970. It is a member of the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (NCCSL), Organisation of Professional Associations of Sri Lanka (OPA) and Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL). SLIM also has received ISO 9001:2015 certification in recognition of its superior quality management system and ISO 29990:2010 for Learning Service Provider (LSP), providing non-formal education and training services.

ST PETER'S COLLEGE - COLOMBO 4 LONDON ADVANCED LEVEL

-for Quality and Discipline-
EDEXCEL International Advanced Level Curriculum

ADMISSIONS 2021

Subject combinations offered are:

1. Mathematics, Physics and Further Mathematics
2. Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry
3. Biology, Physics and Chemistry
4. Accounting, Economics and Mathematics
5. Accounting, Economics and Business Studies

Applied ICT could be followed as an additional subject in addition to the above combinations

Comprehensive coverage of syllabus supported by tutes, lessons in the smart classroom, past papers and practicals for Science subjects in modernized and well equipped Laboratories.

Admissions are open for March 2021 OL students, IGCSE students of 2020 and 2021.

For appointments and inquiries, contact London A/L office on 0721057275 or 0774475577 during normal working hours.

SPECIAL NOTICE



External Degrees and Extension Courses Unit University of Sri Jayewardenapura, Sri Lanka External Degree Examinations

Due to the fact that, external Degrees and Extension Courses Unit of the University of Sri Jayewardenapura, Sri Lanka was unable to conduct external Degrees Examinations, scheduled to be held commencing from the month of November 2020 onwards for the reason of unfavourable health situations, prevailed in the country, due to COVID-19 Pandemic and arrangements have been made to conduct all those examinations, from March 2021 onwards.

Accordingly the Examinations to be conducted during the period of March / April 2021, are as follows.

Examination	Scheduled to be Conducted (Dates)
BSc. Business Administration (General) external Degree 1 (Revision) Text (New Syllabus)	27.03.2021 03.04.2021 04.04.2021 10.04.2021
BSc. Management (Public) General (External) Degree 1 Examination (New / Old Syllabus)	27.03.2021 03.04.2021 04.04.2021 10.04.2021

The Time Tables of the above Examinations and information regarding other Examinations to be held in the future period and special notices concerning conducting of examinations on the prevailing specific health condition in the island, could be downloaded, visiting our Official Website : www.external.sjp.ac.lk

**Registrar
University of Sri Jayewardenapura**

University of Kelaniya

Centre for Distance and Continuing Education

Bachelor of Arts (General) Degree Second Year Examination (External) - 2015

The above examination is scheduled to be commenced on 20th 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

Advertorial

Charles Henry de Soysa commemorated

Charles Henry de Soysa was a born Christian but was a great human being who rejected religious extremism, communalism and racism. His ideas and opinions are a clear example to the present society, said Hon. Minister of Education, Professor G.L. Peiris at the 185th Commemorative Ceremony of Charles Henry de Soysa.

Speaking further, the Minister said;

He contributed immensely for the establishment of schools and hospitals such as the Prince of Wales College, Princess of Wales College, Soysa Hospital, Lunawa Hospital, Panadura Hospital. The most important message of this noble human being was that all are human beings sans religious, communal, racial caste differences. He proved that through his actions. In today's society where it is difficult to find a person as an example, Charles Henry de Soysa is a clear example.

When I was working as a member of the Commission inquiring into the Youth Frustration



in 1990, we were able to identify the reasons for youth frustration especially the reasons for the misunderstandings that prevailed among our people. We have to give our children the knowledge in languages. We have to work towards cultural, religious amity and to accept everyone alike without showing any differences such as Northerners, Southerners, Easterners and Westerners. We also can organize various programmes at school level to start with the children, he concluded.

Many people including the Principals of the Prince of Wales College and Princess of Wales College were present.

Over 4,500 students sat CA Sri Lanka's Corporate and Strategic Level exams



Corporate and Strategic Level exam of CA Sri Lanka in session at an exam centre.



Over 4,500 students of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CA Sri Lanka) sat for the Corporate and Strategic Level exams recently which were conducted in four main cities in the country as well as overseas.

The Corporate and Strategic Level exams which were conducted as a physical exam in February and March 2021 concluded successfully in Colombo, Kandy, Galle and Jaffna with over 4,400 students sitting for the exams, with Colombo being identified as the exam centre with the highest number of candidates

recording over 3,600 students.

Meanwhile, CA Sri Lanka also conducted the Corporate and Strategic Level online exams for the benefit of CA Students who are currently working in Maldives, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (Dubai). The highest number of candidates overseas was recorded from Maldives, followed by Qatar.

For the benefit of the overseas students who were sitting for the online exam, CA Sri Lanka conducted mock exams to gear students for the online exam so that they would have a clear understanding on how to answer papers digitally.

The Corporate and Strategic Level exams were conducted as a special exam for the benefit of CA students who were unable to sit for the Corporate and Strategic Level online exams held in December 2020. The Institute followed all Covid-19 Health regulations during the physical exams conducted in Colombo, Kandy, Galle and Jaffna.

Marking an important milestone in its 60-year long progressive history, CA Sri Lanka conducted several online exams last year as an alternative to the conventional physical exams, due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Among the exams conducted online last year was the Corporate & Strategic Level exam in December with a total of 1983 candidates. The Institute also conducted the Business Communication 1 mock exam for 850 students online. Further, due to travel restrictions on account of the global pandemic, CA Sri Lanka conducted the case study exam online as an alternative to the physical exam for the benefit of CA students residing in Qatar, UAE, Maldives, Bahrain, Kuwait and India as they were unable to travel to Sri Lanka due to the non-availability of flights and other restrictions.



Partially funded education in France

The opportunity is only for limited number of students - Admission interview for this funded education program ends on March, 2021

Why should you choose France as your study destination?

France is the ideal place to study abroad for your degree thanks to its rich culture, gastronomy, architecture, and thriving student life!

Studying in France gives you the opportunity to learn the language and gain cultural perspective. The experience will give you the upper hand when pursuing an international career and will give your CV a competitive edge.

Studying in another country can enhance the value of your degree as



it demonstrates to potential employers that you have stepped out of your comfort zone, and are able to adapt to new environments and cultures.

Several good reasons to study in France

- Attractive tuition rates in France
- Quality Higher Education adapted to students' needs
- Outstanding research and development opportunities
- France is a world-class economic power

- France is home to leading international corporations: Airbus, Total, Orange, LVMH, L'Oréal, and DANONE.
- Young talent is valued in innovation and entrepreneurship sectors
- French lifestyle: Paris is the No.1 student city! (QS Best Student Cities, 2014)
- French is the third most common business language
- France is an appealing destination for students worldwide
- Nine out of ten international students recommend France as a study destination

The Higher Education System in France

Home to some of the oldest Universities in existence, France has a diverse system of education that sets it apart from many counterparts. They follow the Li-



cence - Master- Doctorate (LMD) system of education, based on European Credits Transfer System (ECTS) that facilitates students with transferable credits. The French higher education system is characterized by the coexistence of several types of

institution. There are: Universities; Grand establishments publics (major public institutions); Grandes écoles (elite schools); administrative public institutions; private higher institutions or schools.

The Elite Grande Écoles - The Elite Graduate Schools, France

Almost 20% international students study at The Grandes Écoles in France, which are public or private higher education institutions recognized by the state. Although many Catholic institutions have adopted the title of 'University', an old French law states that no private institution can call itself a "University". The Grandes Écoles are highly selective and often referred to as the Ivy Leagues of France.

How Your Education Gets Partially Funded in France?

In France, Private industry plays an active role in higher education. Grande Écoles are funded by a Group of Companies and those Companies are taking the responsibility of affording 40% off per student annual training cost on education. So the student will have to afford only around 60% of their whole tuition fee. Most importantly students will have the opportunity to get internships in France as well as in other European Countries; This Internship opportunity will drive the students through a permanent job by the end of their degree. Also after completion of the degree program, students will have the opportunity to engage in paid postgraduate work opportunities in the European Union.

It is very rare to find this

kind of a unique education system, where students are mostly involved in practical assessments in organizations; Since Other Countries' University System just focuses on degree completion.

Partner Elite Grande Écoles of American International Campus (AIC)

- Grande Écoles in Engineering**
- ESIGELEC Graduate School of Engineering
 - EPF School of Engineering
 - ESTP School of Engineering

Engineering Majors - Aeronautical, Mechanical, Mechatronics, Civil, Computer, Robotics, Electrical, Electronic, Automobile, Telecommunication, Embedded Systems Engineering, Big Data and many, Digital Technologies, Building & Eco cities, Space Engineering and many more.

Grande Écoles in Biomedical Sciences

- Sup 'biotech Specialised School of Biotechnology
- Biomedical Sciences Majors - Microbiology, Molecular Biology, Biotechnology, Genetics, Pharmacology, Food Science, Bioinformatics, Biomedical Science, and many more.

Grande Écoles in Business and Management

- Montpellier Business School
- Rennes School of Engineering
- IPAC Business School
- Business Majors - International Business, Marketing, Management, Entrepreneurship, Event and Sports Management, Accounting, Finance, Human Resource Management, Economics, and many more.

For more information and admissions

Admissions are open now for 2021 March Intake. For more information you are requested to call 077 977 9776// 077 443 6725 or visit AIC Campus website www.aicedu.lk or European Transfer Program Website <https://www.aicedu.lk/AmericanTransferProgramWebsite> <https://www.aicedu.lk/state-to-states-us-transfer.php> You could also visit our Campus. No. 154, Havelock Road, Thimbirigasyaya, Colombo - 05, Sri Lanka.



Eastern University, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts & Culture

Master of Arts (MA) in Geography (Taught course) - 2020/2021

Applications are invited from qualified candidates for the above programme.

Entry requirements:

1. Special degree with stipulated Subject from a recognized University or Higher Education Institution. **or**
2. General degree with class in the stipulated Subject from a recognized University or Higher Education Institution.

Note: The candidate who does not possess a class in general degree in the stipulated Subject required to sit for a qualifying examination and has to pass the same.

Mode of Selection : Qualifying examination and an interview.

Course Fee : Rs. 152,000.00

Duration of the program : One year

Application closing date : 16.04.2021

Medium of instruction : English

Those who wish to obtain application forms and relevant details could download from the university website (www.esn.ac.lk). Downloaded application forms should accompany with the paid Bank Slip for the deposit of a sum of Rs.500/= credited to the Account No: 227100190000390, at any branch of the people's Bank, drawn in favour of "Bursar, Eastern University, Sri Lanka. The Application forms could be obtained from the Office Academic Affairs Department from Monday to Friday during office hours by submitting the paid Bank Slip. Those who wish to obtain application forms by post are requested to send a self-addressed stamped envelope (9"x6") along with the paid Bank Slip to Senior Assistant Registrar/Academic Affairs Department, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, Vantharumoolai, Chenkalady before 25.03.2021.

Completed applications should be sent under registered cover to reach Senior Assistant Registrar/Academic Affairs Department, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, Vantharumoolai, Chenkalady on or before 16.04.2021.

For further details please browse the University website (www.esn.ac.lk) or contact Senior Assistant Registrar/Academic Affairs Department, via 065-2240584 during office hours.

**Registrar,
Eastern University, Sri Lanka,
Vantharumoolai.**

10.03.2021



Zahira College, Colombo 10 ADMISSIONS GRADE ONE - 2022

Applications are invited for admission to Grade One - 2022

- 1 Boys to be admitted must be 5 years of age as on 31st January 2022.
- 2 All Grade 1 applications must be submitted online. The form will be available on the website: www.zahiracollege.lk from 17th March 2021 to 21st March 2021. Instructions on how the form should be completed and submitted will be available on the website.
- 3 Completed application forms must be submitted **online** and a copy of the submitted form along with the copies of the relevant documents should be sent by Registered Post on or before 05th April 2021.
- 4 Admissions will be strictly on merit after an extensive short listing and interview process. Third party interference, canvassing by applicants and recommendations of all forms are strictly prohibited. Any such attempt will result in the application being rejected.

Principal
Zahira College
406, Orabi Pasha Road,
Colombo 10.

Principal

IMMEDIATE VACANCY

Printing Estimator

- 2-3 years work experience in a similar field
- Preferred those who have followed a course in Costing & Estimation at INGRIN / SLIOP
- Good communication skills in English & Sinhala, and computer skills (Word / Excel)
- Knowledge in Quote & Print estimating Software preferred
- Age: Between 20-35 years. Salary: Negotiable

Please email your complete resume with contact details of two non-related referees:

Software Printing & Packaging (Pvt) Ltd
hr@software.lk / Jayah: 772 642651

SENIOR ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT
Minimum Three Years Experience .
Forward Your CV'S to
rajabojunhr@gmail.com

Director General Manager,
Raja Bojjan (Pvt)Ltd,
Liberty Arcade,
No : 282 R.A.De.Mel Mawatha,
Colombo 03.




VACANCY
A Sofa (Furniture) Manufacturing
Company in Kohuwala. we are Seeking
FACTORY SUPERVISOR
+ Preferred in Colombo Areas

- Minimum 3-4 years experience.
- Guiding and Handling the staff and ability to get work done by them
- Age between 35-55
- Fluent in Sinhala & English (Tamil Language will be an added advantage)

E-mail: info@sotafactoryoutlet.lk
Call: 076 9656 500/ 0727 711 711

HOVAEL Construction (Pvt) Ltd

We are CS2 Graded Company, looking for the following qualified and experienced persons to be part of our team.

Site Engineers

- BSc (Civil) or equivalent
- With 03 years' experience of which 02 years in Road Projects
- Should familiar with structural design

Technical Officers - (For Road & Water Supply Projects)

- NCT (Civil) or equivalent
- With 04 years' experience of which 02 years in Road Projects / Water Projects

Supervisors

- With 06 years' experience of which 03 years in Road Projects

Foremen

- With 05 years' experience in Road Projects
- Good Knowledge in ABC & Earth Work

Store Keepers

- Minimum 03 years' experience in Construction Projects
- Ability to work in a computerized environment

Accounts Assistants

- AAT Qualified or similar qualification
- Computer Literacy

ATTRACTIVE REMUNERATION PACKAGE IN LINE WITH EXPERIENCE & QUALIFICATIONS AND ACCOMMODATION WILL BE PROVIDED

If you are keen to build your career with us, please send in your resume to pradmin@hovael.com including the position applied for on the subject line within 07 days of this advertisement.

Hovael Construction (Pvt) Ltd,

No. 245/47, Old Avissawella Road, Orugodawatte
Contact No. 011 4641550

GOLDEN BAKE PRIVATE LIMITED

Golden Bake Private Limited is a subsidiary of Maliban Group and We are Producing Wafers and Biscuits.

We are seeking dynamic, self-motivated and result oriented individual to fill the following position.

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR / COORDINATOR

Requirements & Responsibility

- GCE A/L in Bio Science Stream.
- Minimum 05 years' experience in Manufacturing sector would be an advantage.
- Excellent Leadership, Communication & analytical skills.
- Should be a good team player.
- Age above 28-35 years.
- Male candidates only.

Salary - An attractive remuneration package awaits the right candidate.

Please forward your resume via e-mail or by post within 7 days of this advertisement to the address stated below or to hr@gbpl.lk

Please indicate the post applied for on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

GROUP HR & ADMIN. MANAGER

GOLDEN BAKE PVT LTD, No 72 A, Kandawala Road, Rathmalana.

VACANCY

Quantity Surveyor (Male)

- Age below 30 years
- Diploma in Quantity Surveying or Equivalent Qualification
- Should have good communication, presentation & interpersonal skills.

Site Supervisor (Male)

- Age below 40 years
- Successful Completion of NCT, NDT,HNDE Civil Course or other Course At a reputed institute

Accounts Assistant

- Age below 30 years
- Successfully Completed G.C.E. A/L Commerce
- Computer Literacy is a Must
- Candidates who is following Qualification in accounting AAT, or other Course At a reputed institute

If you can fulfill the above requirement, please send your application with non-related references to

dulakshi1982@gmail.com

archiohr@gmail.com

070-3063307 / 070-3736255 / 077-3736255

Please indicate the position applied for as the subject of your email

ARCHIO (Pvt) Ltd.
No 331, Colombo Road,
Kurunegala, Sri Lanka
Web: www.archio.lk



BE A PART OF A LEGACY DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS



The Overseas School of Colombo (OSC), located in Pelawatte, Bataramulla, is Sri Lanka's most prestigious international school offering a holistic and academically rigorous educational programme from preschool to Grade 12. OSC is dually accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and the Council of International Schools, and is authorised to offer the International Baccalaureate Programme. OSC is a highly successful school, having a stellar reputation for offering high quality individualised learning to a globally diverse student body of over 50 nationalities.

OSC is seeking to hire a full-time Director of Admissions to start as soon as possible after the closing date of the search. Working collaboratively with the leadership team, members of the administrative office and the marketing department, the Director of Admissions supports families wishing to apply for entry into OSC, and settles them into the school community. The Director of Admissions works collaboratively with the Head of Administrative Operations and reports to the Head of School.

In this position, the Director of Admissions (DoA) will be a key front-line member of the team. As the ultimate OSC School Ambassador, the DoA will act as a first point of contact for Admissions. She/he will support enquiry through enrolment and settling in, with the goal that every new family is well informed about the mission, vision and programmes of the school, and experiences a personalised and smooth enrolment process.

The incoming DoA will understand the tenets of the IB Programmes, have previously worked in or experienced an IB or like-accredited school with a diverse parent population who are eager, interested and involved as engaged stakeholders.

If you have a passion for education and people, enjoy using your strong interpersonal skills, and are looking to develop your career as part of a world class school, we look forward to hearing from you.

The position is full-time which includes some work at evenings and weekends.

To Apply: Your application should contain a CV, letter of application, and references.

Closing Date: March 30, 2021.

Start Date: As soon as possible after the closing date.

Email your application to hr@osc.lk

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

A key front-line member of the OSC team, acting as a first point of contact for admissions, from enquiry through to enrolment.

Responsibilities will include:

- Campus recruitment, visit management, enrolment, recording of accurate information and liaison with key members of staff.
- Research and lead very best practice in international school admissions and enrolment procedures.
- Responsible for producing timely, accurate and high-quality data using relevant software to support continuous analysis and improvement of the admissions office.
- Work collaboratively with colleagues to develop marketing materials, coordinate and deliver events and raise awareness through social media.
- Work at establishing processes that settle families in, to ensure they are connected and begin to build a sense of belonging in our school community.
- Builds strong knowledge about OSC academic programmes, activities, sports, and school culture.
- Provide for high quality enquiries, visits, follow-up and orientation process for families interested in the school.
- Support and participate in the coordination and delivery of school events and initiatives including Open Days, Student Recruitment Fairs, Orientation Day and Academic Review Evenings.
- Plays an active role in building links and maintaining close relationships with local businesses, organisations, relocation agencies and developing outreach strategies to these organisations in order to generate awareness about the school.
- To develop parent liaison and relationships ensuring that word of mouth comments are positive.
- To participate in the student retention process including the leavers survey and consequent follow-up and reporting.
- Continual development through the identification and implementation of a Personal Development Plan.

PERSON SPECIFICATIONS

Qualifications/Training:

University Bachelor's Degree or higher (preferably in Business Studies, Marketing, PR, Economics, Communications, Sales etc.).

Essential Experience/Knowledge:

5-8 years' experience in a like school; sales and/or customer service/education fields. Experience in a customer-centric, service delivery sector, education sector experience; customer service skills; high level networking to build creative and mutually-beneficial relationships; have experience in working with people from different cultural backgrounds, be able to build relationships with representatives from relocation agents and corporate companies; working with client relationship management software or systems.

Essential Skills:

Excellent personable and relational skills, time management and organisational skills; fluent communicator in and high level written and oral English skills; possess excellent communication and presentation skills, commercially aware and results driven and proactive with good business acumen; good number sense; affinity with and interest in the benefits of an international accredited education; a second language is highly desirable.

Personal Attributes:

High levels of personal integrity; excellent organisational and time-management skills; attention to detail; ability to work under pressure and remain calm; willingness to take on multiple tasks; proactive and able to prompt others to ensure deadlines are achieved; self-motivated and enthusiastic; ability to work independently as well as a part of a dynamic team; community outreach skills; continually strives for improvement by further developing their in-depth knowledge of the school, IB educational system and programmes, as well as the holistic OSC experience; adaptability - and a sense of humour (always helps!).

Other: Holds a clear & current police background check in Sri Lanka.



WE ARE A
CIS
MEMBER
SCHOOL



Pelawatte, P. O. Box 9,
Bataramulla, Sri Lanka

(+94) 11 2784920-2

admin@osc.lk
<http://www.osc.lk>

Founded in 1957, The Overseas School of Colombo is the oldest and most prestigious international school in Sri Lanka, and the only one to offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme from Preschool to Grade 12

VACANCY

Senior IT Manager cum IT Teacher & Experienced, Qualified Physics teacher (English Medium)

Government approved school with 15 years of experience in Education Field looking for IT teacher to join senior School (Government Approved Bilingual Syllabus) with immediate effect.

Requirement

Well qualified with Degree in Management
Web page Maintenance and Developing
Network Management
Experience in teaching O/L & A/L IT syllabus

Attractive Salary

077 78 37 636
071 24 43 453

Please send your application to e-mail address
ydcnawaloka@gmail.com

ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER

- Ideal candidate should be below 45 yrs of age, with an engineering degree from a recognized University and a minimum of 8 years experience in manufacturing industry.
- The prime responsibility would be meeting strict production targets and ensuring high productivity and quality standards.
- Should be conversant with production planning to achieve the sales requirements, increasing factory performance levels while ensuring continuous improvement to maintain high standards and to increase efficiency.
- Monitoring and optimizing manufacturing and packing output and reducing wastage of materials and energy resources.
- Knowledge of modern manufacturing process control techniques, problem solving & analytical skills and excellent interpersonal skills are essential competencies that are required.
- Should be conversant with ISO standards for quality and environment.

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. 3/HR/148

GROUP HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER - HETTGODA GROUP
No 33/3, Sri Dharmaraja Road, Ratmalana.
E: jobs@siddhalepa.com
T: 011 2736910 / 077 3370991 F: 011 2735465

VACANCIES

Supervisor / Technical Officer / Assistant Engineer

Qualifications:

- NVQ/NCT/Construction Supervisor
- NDT/HNDE/NDES qualified
- Minimum 3 years experience (Specialized in irrigation & water supply)

HR Manager
Thushara Roofing (Pvt) Ltd
Kurunegala.
Contact: 037-2221827
hrm@thushararoofing.com

VACANCY

Young Females to be recruited as HR Executives.
previous experience and excellent communication skill will be added advantages.

Salary Negotiable

pls apply via
deranalandsandhomes2@gmail.com
Contact-0741 755 677

ELSL Construction (Pvt) Ltd.

we are leading construction and Engineering company looking for a smart energetic candidates for the following vacancy

ACCOUNTANT

- Fully qualified Chartered Accountant with at least 5 years post qualifying with overall 10 years experience, preferably in construction sector
- A Bachelors degree in finance accountancy or business management
- Sound knowledge in preparing final accounts, capability of monitoring, analyzing & reporting promptly to the management
- Strong interpersonal skills, analytical skills, ability to grasp business and technical issues & industry trends and ability to work in management systems environment
- Computer literacy and good communication skills will be an added qualification
- Age above 35 years

Remuneration package is negotiable

If your profile matches our requirements, please send your application to careers@elslanka.com on or before 25th March 2021.

Group Manager,
Human Resources, Administration & Training
ELSL Group,
82/7, Neelamahara Road, Katuwawala,
Borallegamulla.

Web :- www.elslanka.com, Tel 0114309494

State Ministry of Rural and School Sports Infrastructure Improvement

Sugathadasa National Sports Complex Authority

Applications are invited from eligible applicants for the post mentioned below.

Assistant Director (Administration) (MM 1-3) - 01

Possess First Degree in Public Administration / Commerce / Management / Law or any other Degree along with a Postgraduate Degree qualification in Management, obtained from a University recognized by the University Grants Commission and possess minimum 03 years post qualifying experience in the relevant subject field after obtaining the qualifications.

Internal Applicants

Should have completed a satisfactory service period of five (05) years in the Junior Management Service Category in Grade 1 in the subject field relevant to the post.

Salary Scale and Category - MM 1-3-2016 - Rs. 55,925 - 10x1375 - 15x1910 - 98,325

Age limit - Should not be below be 22 years and
Should not be above 45 years

General Conditions

- Applications are invited only from Sri Lankan citizens
- The maximum age limit is not applicable to applicants presently engaged in the Public Service.
- Application along with certified copies of Certificates should be sent by Registered Post to the address below to be received on or before **29.03.2021**. The name of the post applied for should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.
- Internal applicants should submit their applications with the recommendation of the Head of the Department.

N.B. : Selection of applicants for the post mentioned above will be done according to approved recruitment procedural provisions of the Department of Management Services.

Chairman
Sugathadasa National Sports Complex Authority
P.O. Box 2211, Arthur de Silva Mawatha,
Colombo 13.

Post of Secretarial Assistant (on Assignment Basis)

Extension Courses in English

Department of English - University of Colombo

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the above position at the office of the Extension Courses in English, Department of English, University of Colombo.

The candidates should possess the following qualifications:

- G.C.E (O/L) Examination passes in six subjects at one sitting with credit passes in English, Sinhala & Mathematics
- G.C.E(A/L) Examination passes in all subjects (except common general paper) at one sitting

AND

- The ability to
 - work with MS Word and Excel
 - prepare draft budgets and handle accounts
 - work independently without supervision.
 - handle official correspondence and communications in English
- At least five years of work experience in a similar capacity, preferably within the university system.
- Able to work on Saturdays and Sundays (the selected candidate is entitled for two weekdays off)
- Age below 30 years

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

These assignments are on full-time, contract basis, initially for a period of 5 months. Upon satisfactory performance the contract can be extended up to one year. The appointee has no right to claim permanency under any circumstances.

Salary : Negotiable and commensurate depending on experience.

The selected candidate will contribute 8% of his/her salary to EPF and the Institution will contribute 12% to EPF and 3% to ETF.

Closing date: 16.04.2021

Please forward your Curriculum Vitae along with copies of relevant certificates and the names, and contact telephone numbers of two non-related referees, to the Head/Department of English, University of Colombo, Colombo 03 to reach on or before 16.04.2021.

Registrar
University of Colombo
12/03/2021

MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION

CENTRAL ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY BUREAU (CECB)

VACANCY

Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau, a premier Engineering Consultancy Organization at the forefront of infrastructure development in the country with wide range of expertise in different disciplines, invite applications from citizens of Sri Lanka for below mentioned post on Contract basis.

No.	Post	Qualifications and Experience
1	Computer Programmer	a) Bachelor of Science Degree in Information Technology or Computer Science which is recognized by University Grants Commission. b) Minimum of 2 years of experience in Design, Development and Testing of Web and Windows applications complying with industry standards. c) Good understanding on OOP & MVC d) Strong capabilities in Microsoft .Net stack e) Knowledge and experience in HTML, JavaScript, JQuery, CSS and other related frontend technologies f) Hands-on experience with Microsoft SQL Server & MySQL databases. g) Experience in Android App Development using Android Studio and iOS technology stack will be an added advantage. h) Ability to work on extended hours. i) Strong problem Solving and Analytical skills and ability to execute assigned tasks with minimum supervision j) Ability to collaborate with other team members and stakeholders k) Knowledge and experience in website development using WordPress would be an added advantage

Salary : Selected applicants will be placed on a suitable salary point depending on qualifications and experience.

Other Benefits : i An attractive package of fringe benefits is available including annual bonus, monthly incentive payment, encashment of unutilized medical leave, medical insurance scheme and performance based incentive.
ii Contribution of 12% and 3% of salary to the Employees Provident Fund and Employees Trust Fund respectively by the Bureau.

Method of Selection : Selections will be made on the order of merit determined by an Interview Panel.

Applications with copies of certificates should be sent under Registered Cover addressed to the **Deputy General Manager (HR & Admin), Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau, No. 415, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07** on or before 27.03.2021.

Chairman
CENTRAL ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY BUREAU

A reputed Beach Resort in Trincomalee is looking for qualified and experienced personnel.

1. Senior Sous Chef
2. Sous Chef
3. Housekeeping Supervisor
4. Receptionists (Male/Female) with Computer Literacy
5. Maintenance

Duly completed curriculum vitae with two non-related referees should be forwarded to reach us within 7 days to

krishmasholdings@gmail.com,
kulan29@gmail.com
T.P. Nos. 0262228000, 0764145511

Vacancy for a Junior Electrical Engineer

Contract - Start ASAP - March/April 2021

Powerconsult is an engineering consultancy and contracting firm with many years of experience in power and electrical engineering projects. We are looking for a suitable Junior Electrical Engineer to join us to primarily work on our solar power projects (grid connected utility and industrial scale etc.)

The successful candidate would be based in our office in Colombo and make regular visits to our work sites and may be deployed to outstation sites based on the project requirements. This position would commence as a 12 months contract and extended based on performance.

Essential qualities and qualifications:

- Experience in solar or electrical systems (2-3 years)
- NDT, Higher Diploma or equivalent
- AutoCAD and MS Office (essential)
- Recognize the importance of project deadlines.
- Any project planning/management qualifications would be advantages.

If interested, please send your resume to powerconsult@sltnet.lk on or before **21st March 2021**. For further information please contact our office on **011 2508882**.

Sanasa Life Insurance Company Limited

Vacancy Senior Manager - Legal

Job Role

- ▶ Drafting & preparation of legal documents of the Company
- ▶ To implement & proceed housing loans & vehicle loans to the staff
- ▶ Attend all the legal matters on behalf of the Company
- ▶ Liaising with external legal counsels, regulators, entities & stake holders for all legal matters
- ▶ Carrying out legal compliance of the Company

Qualifications

- ▶ Should be an Attorney-At-Law With the Notary License in Colombo District
- ▶ Minimum 02/03 Years' experience as a Legal Officer in a Bank or Finance Company
- ▶ Excellent communication skills in English & Sinhala languages
- ▶ Excellent proficiency in MS. Office Package
- ▶ Good interpersonal and negotiation skills
- ▶ Ability to work independently

If you think that you are fit for the above position, please send us your Curriculum Vitae along with contact details of two non-related referees and forward it to careers@sid.lk within 14 days of this advertisement.

Head of Human Resources
Sanasa Life Insurance Company Limited,
No.340, 2/1, R.A. De Mel Mawatha, Colombo 03.

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Services for Cinnamon growers:

- Conducting basic land suitability evaluations and making related recommendations
- Visiting cultivations and providing research based technical advice to enhance crop productivity
- Identifying critical reason/s associated with low productivity and giving solutions
- Formulating better management practices with available information
- Making appropriate fertilizer recommendations with required measures
- Providing necessary reports

Cinnamon Quest Crop Consultancy Service - CQCCS
Contact: 0718169707 or samaraweernadn@yahoo.com

Dr. D. N. Samaraweera
(B.Sc Agric., M.Sc. Trop. Soil Mgt., Ph.D. Soil Agric. Chem.)
Former Director (Research), National Cinnamon Research and Training Center
28 years research experience in Cinnamon Research on Agronomy, Fertilizer and Soil Fertility Management.

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Inspiring goodness...

Maliban Biscuit Manufactories (Pvt) Ltd, is a World Class Producer of quality Biscuits for over half a century with an extensive distribution network and exports to Europe, North America, Middle East and Africa, making Maliban a truly Global Company.

We are seeking dynamic, self-motivated and result oriented individuals to fill the following position immediately.

CHANNEL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Responsibilities

- Developing strategies to generate incremental volume, growth in revenue and increase the market share whilst ensuring flawless execution of the strategies while establish new channels.
- Establishes productive, professional relationships with key personnel in assigned channels.
- Evaluate the markets and execute strategic promotion plans with the support of Marketing.
- Meets assigned targets for profitable sales volume and strategic objectives in assigned Channels.
- Train and supervision Sales channels on new products and initiatives.

Experience & Qualifications

- 05 to 07 years' Managerial Experience in Channel Development / Business Development in FMCG sector.
- Should be proactive and dedicated person.
- Preferably a Graduate or Professionally Qualified individual with sound business acumen.
- Very good analytical, communication and interpersonal skills with ability to train people for set directions.
- Ability to work under pressure.

Salary : An attractive remuneration package awaits the right candidate.

Please forward your resume via e-mail or by post within 7 days of this advertisement along with the names and contact numbers of 2 non-related Referees, to the address stated below or to vacancies@malibanbiscuit.com. Please indicate the post applied for on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

Group HR & Admin Manager
MALIBAN BISCUIT MANUFACTORIES (PVT) LTD,
 389, Galle Road, Ratmalana.

Our client is a leading manufacturer of well-known and accepted FMCG Food & Beverage Brands, also exporting to over 50 countries with its manufacturing facilities located in the Gampaha & Kalutara Districts. In order to fulfill their requirement we are on the lookout for a dynamic and results oriented individual in the capacity of;

HEAD OF MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING

This position is at senior management level and will be reporting to the Chief Financial Officer of the Group. The selected candidate should provide leadership needed to establish and maintain the required Management Accounting Systems and Practices. Additionally the candidate would be a qualified Management Accountant with hands-on experience in the industry.

Key Job Functions

- Preparation, validation and reporting of weekly management accounts.
- Timely and accurate production of monthly Management Accounts.
- Review all pre / post costs in order to review margins of each product SKUs and Sales Channel.
- Leading the budget and monthly / quarterly forecast process, consolidating and reporting results to the Group.
- Report on operational efficiencies at daily / weekly / monthly operations review meetings.
- Inventory Management in identifying slow moving, non-moving & other key highlights.
- Supporting product costs of existing product portfolio as well as new product development.
- Assist in continuous improvement projects to develop best in class management accounting delivery and participate in business improvement initiatives.
- Maintain robust and efficient Management Accounting systems, processes and controls.
- Monitoring and analyzing actual results against budget and forecast for individual cost centre's as well as the business sector.

The Person

- Member of CIMA / ACCA / CA.
- Possess a minimum of 10 years' experience of which 5 years' experience in a similar role. **Experience in the FMCG industry is mandatory.**
- Able to illustrate excellent communication and interpersonal skills in dealing with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Previous exposure and having worked on an ERP platform will be a definite advantage.
- Age between 35 to 45 years.
- Should have sound commercial acumen together with the drive and determination to make an immediate impact in a fast paced business.

An attractive and negotiable remuneration package with other fringe benefits will be offered based on qualifications, experience and competence.



Please forward your complete resume with contact details of two non-related referees to mslr@sltnet.lk within 10 days of this advertisement quoting **MSL Ref. No. 7590** in the subject line of your e-mail.

No: 08 Tickell Road, Colombo 08.
 @mslr@sltnet.lk
 www.bposrilanka.com



A leading and well established food manufacturing company with an outstanding reputation for exceeding customer expectations and satisfaction through quality products seeks the services of an outstanding, ambitious, self-driven person to steer, develop & drive, and promote an established brand name across the Sri Lankan market to even greater heights.

GROUP HEAD OF SALES

The incumbent should be an outstanding Sales professional with sound FMCG track record with a positive mind set, to lead the Sales team while managing the Channel strategies. The position requires an innovative individual to develop and effectively implement market-focused sales strategies to ensure continuous growth and development of the business.

Reporting directly to the Group CEO, you will be responsible for:

- Develop Sales /Channel strategies to gain optimum results
- Execute the strategies using internal (sales force) and external resources (distributors, retailers, ets)
- Work closely with Marketing to gain market share, through winning the customers at the "point of sale"
- Drive and motivate the Sales Team to achieve the group of companies set objectives and KPI on a sustainable manner.
- Benchmark current practices, and introduce best practices to ensure excellence in Availability, Visibility, Assortment and Merchandising.
- Continuously evaluate cost parameters and come out with new strategies to gain "maximum output with minimum inputs"
- Work closely with key internal stakeholders to achieve set sales and merchandize objectives.
- Provide strategic direction and inputs to achieve broader company objectives.
- Develop sales personnel and key external stakeholders (Channel Partners / Distributors) to take over higher responsibilities in the future.

The ideal candidate should possess

- 07 to 10 years of experience at a Senior Sales /Channel Manager level in the General Trade, from the FMCG industry.
- Preferably a Graduate or professionally qualified individual with sound business acumen.
- Individual with an exceptional solution focus and positive mind set, to deliver results on a continuous sustainable manner.
- Age between 40-48 years
- Very good analytical, communication and interpersonal skills coupled with very strong skills in engaging and motivating people, to drive them to achieve individual and organizational aspirations.
- Proven people management experience at a senior level in a reputed organization, and the ability to lead, discipline and be accountable for the overall team performance.

An attractive remuneration package awaits the right candidate.

Please forward your resume via e-mail or by post within 7 days of this advertisement along with the names and contact numbers of two non-related referees, to the address stated below or to vacancies@malibanbiscuit.com

Please indicate the post applied for on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

GM- Operations (Maliban Biscuit) & Chief Operations Officer (Milk Products & Agri)
 Maliban Biscuit Manufactories (Pvt) Ltd,
 389, Galle Road, Ratmalana.

BUILD YOUR CAREER WITH CARGILLS BANK



MANAGEMENT TRAINEE

The Management Trainee program is a 02 year on the Job training which will offer the right candidates a comprehensive learning of overall Banking functions. Upon successful completion of the two year Management Trainee program, the candidates will be absorbed into the Executive Grade of the Bank's cadre.

EXPERIENCE & QUALIFICATIONS

- A degree from a recognized university specialized in **Business Administration, Commerce, Physical Science, Agriculture, Statistics, Banking, Finance or Risk and Analytics** with a **minimum of 2nd class upper division** or passed finalist of ICA / CIMA / ACCA / CIM or equivalent.
- Excellent communication skills coupled with strong interpersonal skills.
- Very good presentation and analytical skills.
- Proficiency in ICT.
- Must be an individual with extremely positive attitudes.
- Achievements in sports/ extra-curricular activities and / or events to display Leadership & Managerial capabilities will be a definite advantage.
- **Age below 27 years.**
- Selected candidates should be willing to serve in any part of the country.

Interested candidates are invited to send their CVs to career@cargillsbank.com on or before **21st March 2021**, mentioning the post applied for in the subject line of the email.

Head of Human Resources
 Cargills Bank Limited
 No. 696, Galle Road, Colombo 03.
 Email: career@cargillsbank.com

Fitch Rating AA-(Ika)

www.cargillsbank.com | career@cargillsbank.com
 Cargills Bank Limited is a licensed commercial bank supervised by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka





VACANCIES

SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION (SLSI) Ministry of Technology



Applications are invited from qualified citizens of Sri Lanka for filling the following vacancies of the SLSI.

Senior Deputy Director - Senior Manager Category (HM 1-1)

Senior Deputy Director - (Administration)

Qualifications - External

Bachelor's Degree in Management, Public Administration, Public Management, Commerce, Human Resource Management or Business Administration Special Degree (four years) or General Degree with a Class (three years) which is recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka.

With

Postgraduate Degree qualification (Masters) in Business Administration, Human Resource Management, Management, Public Management or Public Administration which is recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka or Chartered Membership of a recognized professional Chartered Institute, which is relevant to the subject area of the post.

Experience for the above post

Minimum of 13 years relevant experience after first degree at a "Managerial Level" in a Corporation, Statutory Board/Institution or a reputed Private Institution.

Internal (01 or 02 below)

01) Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above

02) A Postgraduate Degree qualification (Masters) in Business Administration, Human Resource Management, Management, Public Management or Public Administration which is recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka or Chartered membership of a recognized professional Chartered Institute which is relevant to the subject area of the post with 13 years of experience in the Manager Category in a related field to the post.

The role of supervision of the Division will be held with the selected candidate. He/She should have an excellent leadership and communication skills to facilitate with staff at all levels.

Salary Scale

LKR 80,295.00 – 15 x 2,270.00 – LKR 114,345.00

Age Should be not less than 35 years and not more than 55 years (Upper limit will not be applicable to internal candidates.)

Senior Deputy Director - Senior Manager Category (HM 1-1)

Senior Deputy Director - (Standards & Services Promotion)

Qualifications - External

Bachelor's Degree in Marketing Management or Management with Marketing Management as a subject and Special Degree (four years) or General Degree (three years) with a class which is recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka

With

A Postgraduate Degree qualification (Masters) in Marketing/ Business Management or Business Administration in Marketing which is recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka or Chartered membership of a recognized professional Chartered Institute which is relevant to the subject area of the post.

Experience for the above post

Minimum of 13 years relevant experience at a "Managerial Level" in a Corporation, Statutory Board/Institution or a reputed private Institution.

Internal (01 or 02 below)

01) Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above.

02) A Postgraduate Degree qualification (Masters) in Marketing/ Business Management or Business Administration in Marketing which is recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka or Chartered Membership of a recognized Professional Chartered Institute, which is relevant to the subject area of the post with 13 years of experience in the Manager Category in a related field to the post.

The role of supervision of the Division will be held with the selected candidate. He/She should have an excellent leadership and communication skills to facilitate with staff at all levels.

Salary Scale

LKR 80,295.00 – 15 x 2,270.00 – LKR 114,345.00

Age Should be not less than 35 years and not more than 55 years (Upper limit will not be applicable to internal candidates.)

Other Benefits

1. Assigned vehicle or transport allowance as per the Public Enterprises Circular No. PED 1/2015 & PED 1/2015 (i)
2. Encashment of unutilized medical leave
3. Life Insurance Cover & Medical Insurance Cover
4. Reimbursement of medical expenses subject to a limit
5. Annual incentive payment as approved by the General Treasury
6. Opportunity to work in a professional environment
7. Professional Allowance
8. Communication allowance

Assistant Director - Manager Category (MM 1-1)

Assistant Director - (Technical)

Qualifications - External

Bachelor's Degree in Science Stream - Special Degree (four years) or General Degree with a class (three years) which is recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka.

With

One year post qualifying experience relevant to the post.

(Science Stream offering one of the following subjects: Physics, Chemistry, Food Science, Textile, Microbiology, Environmental Science, Fisheries, Agriculture, Biology, Biotechnology, Molecular Biology, Mathematics, or Statistics.)

Internal (01 or 02 below)

01. Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above.

02. Completion of minimum of 05 years satisfactory service in Junior Manager Category (JM) in the subject area relevant to the post.

Salary Scale

LKR 53,175.00 – 10 x 1,375.00 – 15 x 1,910 – LKR 95,575.00

Age Should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years (Upper limit will not be applicable to the internal candidates.)

Assistant Director - Manager Category (MM 1-1)

Assistant Director - (Standards & Services Promotion)

Qualifications - External (1 or 2 below)

1. Bachelor's Degree in Marketing Management or Management with Marketing Management as a subject and Special Degree (four years) or General Degree with a class (three years) which is recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka.

With

One year post qualifying experience in the marketing field.

2. Having passed the Intermediate Examination of a recognized professional Chartered Institute, of which the subject area is relevant to the post and a minimum of one year post qualifying experience in the relevant field to the post.

Internal (01 or 02 below)

01. Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above.

02. Completion of minimum of 05 years satisfactory service in Junior Manager Category (JM) in subject area relevant to the post.

Salary Scale

LKR 53,175.00 – 10 x 1,375.00 – 15 x 1,910 – LKR 95,575.00

Age Should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years (Upper limit will not be applicable to the internal candidates.)

Assistant Director - Manager Category (MM 1-1)

Assistant Director - (Engineering)

Qualifications - External

Bachelor's Degree in Engineering (four years) relevant to the post which is recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka.

With

One year post qualifying experience relevant to the post.

Internal (01 or 02 below)

01. Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above.

02. Completion of minimum of 05 years satisfactory service in Junior Manager Category (JM) in subject area relevant to the post.

Salary Scale

LKR 53,175.00 – 10 x 1,375.00 – 15 x 1,910 – LKR 95,575.00

Age Should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years (Upper limit will not be applicable to the internal candidates.)

Assistant Director - Manager Category (MM 1-1)

Assistant Director - (Internal Audit)

Qualifications - External (1 or 2 below)

1. Bachelor's Degree in Accounting/ Commerce/ Financial Management/ Business Administration Special Degree (four years) or General Degree with a class (three years) which is recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka

With

One year post qualifying experience in the accountancy field.

2. Having passed the Intermediate Examination of a recognized professional Chartered Institute, of which the subject area is relevant to the post and a minimum of one year post qualifying experience in the relevant field to the post.

Internal (01 or 02 below)

01. Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above.

02. Completion of minimum of 05 years satisfactory service in Junior Manager Category (JM) in subject area relevant to the post.

Salary Scale

LKR 53,175.00 – 10 x 1,375.00 – 15 x 1,910 – LKR 95,575.00

Age Should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years (Upper limit will not be applicable to the internal candidates.)

Other Benefits

1. Encashment of unutilized medical leave
2. Life Insurance Cover & Medical Insurance Cover
3. Reimbursement of medical expenses subject to a limit
4. Annual incentive payment as approved by the General Treasury
5. Opportunity to work in a professional environment
6. Professional Allowance
7. Communication allowance

Recruitment Procedure

Recruitment will be done after calling applications and on the results of a written competitive examination and a structured interview. The examination will be a one paper including two parts covering following subject areas:

- English Language Proficiency
- Aptitude Test

Applications indicating the name in full, age, educational qualifications and any other relevant particulars together with copies of certificates and names and addresses of two non-related referees should be forwarded under registered cover to reach the Director General, Sri Lanka Standards Institution, No. 17, Victoria Place, Eblitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08 on or before 2021-03-29. Those employed in Public Sector Institutions should forward their applications through the respective Heads of the Institutions. The post applied for should be clearly stated on the top left corner of the envelop.



Director General
Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI)

MBBS DOCTOR PREFERABLY FROM COLOMBO FACULTY WANTED

By a Doctor well-established abroad to open a new medical center in Kahathuduwa area. Salary / Partnership negotiable. 0714814838 (E-mail C.V.) miguelalwis@yahoo.com

Wanted immediately, persons, possessing a complete knowledge of fiber glass boats. High Salary.

WhatsApp : + 94 777305662
E-mail: reyan.mgc@gmail.com

HOTEL VACANCIES

ACCOUNTANT - (HOTEL EXPERIENCE)
ACCOUNTS CLERK
H.R. DEPARTMENT
HOUSE KEEPING - SUPERVISOR
STEWARD, BARMAN, ROOM BOY,
KITCHEN HELPERS, COOK - (Western),
PASTRY COOK, RECEPTIONIST, LAUNDRY ASSISTANT, MAINTENANCE, POOL ATTENDANT.

HOTEL RANDIYA, No. 394/19A, Muditha Mawatha, Anuradhapura.
T.P - 025222868 / 0777228238
email: ourhome@sltnet.lk

VACANCY

Welimada international school
Wanted

A qualified teacher to teach

ICT for O/L class.

Salary is negotiable.

Contact - Chairman
0572244334

VACANCY

Ravago Lanka (Pvt) Ltd was commenced operations as the pioneer in Plastic Raw Material Import and Distribution.

ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT

- Female, Age below 23 Years.
- Candidate with G. C. E. A/L preferably in commerce.
- Ability to work with computerized packages.

Please email Your CV to "ravagolanka@gmail.com" with two Non-related referees.

General Manager,
Ravago Lanka (Pvt) Ltd.
No. 33/1, Horana Road,
Imbulaha, Alubomulla, Panadura.

Two Vacancies for Matron & Sister

Government registered Matron/Sister, recently retired and to assist the Theatre eye surgeon.

Salary negotiable. Apply with full details including two reference within ten days of this advertisement.

General Manager,
Suwanetha Eye Hospital,
208/1, Kolonnawa Road,
Gothatuwa New Town.

Tel: 0777 387889
generalmanagersuwanetha@gmail.com

LADY SALES COORDINATOR

We are a well established leading company importing pet accessories, food & veterinary products in Sri Lanka and immediately looking for energetic, self-motivated and hardworking ladies to join our team.

The candidates should possess the following qualifications and skills:

- Passed GCE (A/L) examination.
- Ladies' aged between 20 and 30 years.
- Salary is negotiable depending on experience, adaptability and commitment to work.
- Sound communication skills in Sinhala and English.
- Previous experience in showroom sales will be an advantage.
- Passionate about customer service.
- Flair in handling customers.

Please forward your CV within 7 days with two non-related referees.

Manager,
No. 86, Nawala Road, Nugegoda.
Email: k9group@gmail.com

Marriage Proposals

in the

Sunday Observer

Is the best way to fulfil your Future Dreams

Multi Cuisine Restaurant
WE ARE NOW HIRING!



Walk-in interview 14th March to 18th March
Start from 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Positions Available Restaurant Manager
Stewards
Baristas

Requirements: Minimum one year experience in the same position within hospitality industry, good team player, outstanding attitude and good appearance.

For Information: Address: 0767333575 No. 61, Fife Road, Colombo 05.

VACANCY IN SEYCHELLES WE'RE HIRING "TEACHER"

A high-profile lawyer in Seychelles looking for a qualified teacher who is energetic, talented and passionate to teach his 10 years old son.

We offer competitive salary ranges and awesome benefits!

Starting Salary 1300 USD Basic (Increment after 6 months of probation) (LKR 254,680/-)

Package also includes:

- Food allowance
- Internet & Utilities
- Accommodation
- Return Airfares to Visit Family After Contract.

If you aspire to passionately take forward this opportunity towards greater success, please forward your CV with recent photographs to: lisepayet4@gmail.com
Inquiry - 077686345

Sri Lanka State Trading (General) Corporation Ltd (STC)
No.100, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 02.

VACANCY
MANAGER (ADMINISTRATION)

We are looking for result oriented & self motivated individual with exceptional integrity & competence to result for the above position.

Job Description

- Responsible for planning, directing and coordinating of the HR activities/ to stores administration & monitoring supportive services in efficient and productive manner
- Responsible for updating and maintaining personal files of overall staff of the institution/ monitoring of transport division/ maintenance of asset register of the institution efficiently and productively.
- Responsible for supervising, monitoring and advising subordinate staff at human resource division/ transport division and services & supply division
- Responsibility to perform duties assigned by the supervisor which are related to human resource division/ transport division & services & supply division.

Qualifications

External Candidates

- A Degree in Human Resources, Management, Public Administration, Bachelor of Commerce which is recognized by the U.G.C. AND
- Minimum three (03) year post qualifying experience in the relevant field to the Post, after obtaining the first degree.

Internal Candidates (1 or 2 below)

- Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above.
- Completion of minimum five (05) years satisfactory service in a post in the Junior Manager (JM) Category, in the subject area relevant to the post.

General Conditions

- **Age:** Age should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not apply to internal candidates.
- **Other:**
 - Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
 - Should be physically and mentally fit to discharge the duties of the post well and to serve in any part of the Island.
 - Should be of excellent moral character.
- **Salary Scale (as of 01.01.2021):**
Rs.53,175/** (1,375 X 16) Rs.75,175/**
The initial salary point for the above post is Rs.53,175/**
Rs.7,800/** Cost of Living Allowance
- **Application Procedure:**
Applicants giving full bio-data together with copies of all certificates, diplomas, professional qualifications, experience with names, addresses & telephone numbers of two (two) referees should be sent to reach to following address on or before 29th March 2021 under the required post indicating the post applied on the top left hand corner of the envelope. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered. Incomplete applications will be rejected without intimation. Applicants from Departments/Statutory Board/Public Corporation / Public Government Corporations should send their applications through the respective Heads of the Organizations. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered. Incomplete applications will be rejected without intimation.

TEL : 001 3422941/2440880
FAX : 001 3447970
E-MAIL : lankagen@stnet.lk
WEB : www.stc.lk

Chairman
Sri Lanka State Trading
(General) Corporation Ltd,
No. 100, Nawam Mawatha,
Colombo 02.

The Housewives' companion Classifieds on Daily News

CBL GROUP

JOIN A TEAM DRIVEN BY EXCELLENCE

The CBL Group is one of the largest FMCG Conglomerates operating largely in the food sector with multiple operations in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Myanmar. The Group has its product presence in 60 countries around the world and is the market leader and a dominant player in every key sector where the CBL Brands have a presence. Portfolio includes biscuits, chocolates, cakes, to textured vegetable protein, coconut products and cereal, manufactured under Munchee, Ritzbury, Tiara, Lanka Soy, Sera and Samaposhha Brands, which are market leaders in their respective categories in Sri Lanka. The CBL Group consists of 11 companies in Sri Lanka and overseas, which functions as independent business units headed by CEOs.

PRODUCTION EXECUTIVE – SUPPLY CHAIN
CBL FOODS INTERNATIONAL (PVT) LTD - RANALA


ROLE PROFILE

- Reports to Production Manager
- Reviews processing schedules and production orders to make decisions concerning inventory requirements, staffing requirements, work procedures, and duty assignments.
- Implements and controls the production schedules, reviews and adjusts as required.
- Improves the productivity levels of the workers on continuous basis by workmen's training and by bringing into use the standards of the performance derived from work measurement studies etc.
- Monitors and evaluates performance of production employees and provides timely feedback to overcome performance gaps.
- Assures timely decisions are taken on use of suitable equipment, maintenance, modifications required in the Supply Chain process.
- Ensures implementation and compliance to company's health & safety regulations and procedures.
- Should be able to work in shift basis including night shifts
- Will be able to obtain the opportunity to work at a State of Art factory and to get the industrial exposure from a market leader of Chocolates, Biscuits, Cake, Rice cracker and many other confectionary categories
- Based on Performance can excel in career

PERSONAL PROFILE

- A Degree in Food Science, Science or Chemical Engineering or any other related degree from a recognized University
- NDT with minimum of 04 years' experience in a manufacturing organization also welcome to apply.
- High interpersonal skills, drive to results with ability to lead a diversified workforce is a prerequisite.
- Experience in working with SAP system would be an added advantage.
- Willing to work on shift basis.

Please apply with details of 2 non related referees to careers.cbllf@cbllk.com or
CBL Foods International (Pvt) Ltd, P O Box 1, Habarakada Road, Ranala.



INVITATION FOR VALIANT YOUTH TO PURSUE A PRESTIGIOUS CAREER

JOIN US AS AN OFFICER CADET IN THE VOLUNTEER FORCE OF THE SRI LANKA ARMY

BASIC QUALIFICATIONS

- Should be an unmarried citizen of Sri Lanka.
- Age should not be less than 18 years and not more than 26 years as at 31st March 2021.
- Height should not be less than 5' 6" (Those who have excelled in School/National/International and All Island level sports will be considered for enlistment even if they do not fulfill the requirement).
- Chest minimum 32".

EDUCATIONAL & OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

- Should have passed six (06) subjects with four (04) Credit passes including English and ordinary passes for Mathematics and Sinhala/Tamil in not more than two sittings at the G.C.E (O/L) Examination or any other international examinations (Pearson, Edexcel, GCSE, GCE and Cambridge) recognized by Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka as an equivalent.
- The candidates who have obtained a Simple pass for English at G.C.E (O/L) will be considered if they possess any of the NVQ Level - 5 or above Diploma in English offered by a UGC recognized university / institute.
- Should have passed two subjects and obtained 30% marks for Common General Test in not more than one sitting at G.C.E (A/L) Examination or any other international examination (Pearson, Edexcel, GCSE, GCE and Cambridge) recognized by Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka as an equivalent.
- Any other higher educational qualifications or achievements in sports will be considered as added qualifications.

PAY, ALLOWANCES & OTHER BENEFITS

- Monthly gross pay of Officers in the respective ranks including allowances is as follows:

Officer Cadet	- Rs. 41,705.00	Captain (Married)	- Rs. 97,268.60
Second Lieutenant	- Rs. 75,398.60	Major (Married)	- Rs. 103,558.60
Lieutenant	- Rs. 84,658.60		

- Commissioned Officers will be entitled to fringe benefits, to cover expenses on transport, uniforms, medical, food and accommodation. They will also receive opportunities of serving in overseas and UN Peacekeeping Missions and to follow Advanced Courses.

ENLISTMENT PROCEDURE

- On successful completion of basic training at the Sri Lanka Military Academy, they will be commissioned in the rank of Second Lieutenant and posted to respective Battalions.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Those who are employed in government departments or private sector should forward their applications along with the recommendation of the Head of the Institution.
- Applications prepared as per the specimen application with copies of documents mentioned below should reach "Recruiting Officer, Headquarters, Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force, Salawa, Kosgama" by registered post on or before 31st March 2021.
- The clause "OFFICER CADET IN THE VOLUNTEER FORCE OF THE SRI LANKA ARMY" should be mentioned on the top left corner of the envelope enclosing the application.

Documents to be submitted:


- Birth Certificate
- Two recently obtained Character Certificates
- Recommendation Letter of the Head of the Department
- National Identity Card
- Certificate of Educational & Professional Qualifications
- Other Relevant Certificates
- Grama Niladhari Certificate
- Certificates of Sports / Extra Curricular Activities

SRI LANKA ARMY VOLUNTEER FORCE
Address : Recruiting Officer, Headquarters, Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force, Salawa, Kosgama.
Inquiries : 036 2255362 | 011 3188558 Please visit : "www.army.lk/slavf" for applications, qualifications and more details.

For classified advertisements and for replies
received in response to advertisements published under Lake House box numbers

Please Contact → **MANAGER FRONT OFFICE** → Hotline: 1949





VACANCIES

Manager Cricket Administration

Responsibilities :

- Carrying out administrative duties, using systems and processes relevant to cricket operations
- Ensuring administrative systems, processes and databases related to cricket operations are efficient and well managed
- Undertaking or commissioning research and collating, mapping and monitoring data
- Supporting colleagues to encourage and develop cricket at local, regional, national or international level
- Support the administration and effective running of the Development and High Performance Programme
- Ensure that reports as necessary are produced on time and are up to date

Skills :

- A strong interest in sports and an awareness of the issues affecting the sports industry
- Good IT and administrative skills and a high level of attention to detail
- A high degree of self-motivation and a drive for change and improvement
- The ability to build and maintain effective relationships and to communicate well with a variety of people
- Good planning, organizing, time management skills and team player
- The ability to work well in a team, in a dynamic and customer-focused environment

Qualifications and Experience :

- 10 years senior level experience in an administration, strategy and planning in a reputed private organization or the military
Or
- 5 years senior level experience in an administration, strategy and planning in a reputed organization with a degree in Business, management, sports science or sports management
- Cricket playing experience in domestic / international level and/ or experience in sports administration will be an added advantage

An attractive and negotiable remuneration package with other fringe benefits will be offered based on qualifications, experience and competence

All applicants should forward their applications to vacancies@sri.lankacricket.lk along with the names of two non-related referees within 7 days from the date of this advertisement.

Human Resources Dept. Sri Lanka Cricket,
No. 35, Maitland Place, Colombo 7 | Tel: 0112 691439



FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

ACADEMIC STAFF VACANCIES ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING

The Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT) is a pioneer in the higher education sector of Sri Lanka and offers undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in a wide range of disciplines (www.sliit.lk). It is committed to providing the best student experience through a dedicated group of academic and non-academic staff. The main campus located in Malabe has excellent academic and recreational facilities.


The Faculty of Engineering at SLIIT is the academic home of more than 100 staff and a growing cohort of undergraduate and postgraduate students. The faculty offers cutting-edge degree programs and encourages a strong research culture. The Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering has over 20 academic staff, a large cohort of undergraduate students and modern laboratories in major areas of electrical and electronic engineering.

We are inviting applications for positions in The Electrical & Electronic Engineering Department at the grades of Professor / Associate Professor / Senior Lecturer (Higher Grade) / Senior Lecturer. A recognized undergraduate honours degree in electrical engineering and a post-graduate degree (a doctoral degree for (Higher Grade) and above, and a 2-year research-based master's degree for Senior Lecturer) are required. The appointees will contribute to research and teaching in the broad areas of electrical engineering and engage in administrative duties and professional service. We are particularly seeking applicants with strong track-records in electrical power engineering and related areas.


SLIIT offers a competitive salary and benefits package commensurate with qualifications and experience.

To apply, please send a detailed CV, a cover letter and contact details of 3 referees by email to careers@sliit.lk clearly indicating the area of expertise and the position grade. The deadline for applications is **24th March 2021**.


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DESCENDANTS OF VIHARAMAHADEVI GENERATION ARE INVITED TO PURSUE A PRESTIGIOUS CAREER



JOIN US AS A LADY OFFICER CADET IN THE VOLUNTEER FORCE OF THE SRI LANKA ARMY

BASIC QUALIFICATIONS

- Should be an unmarried female citizen of Sri Lanka.
- Age should not be less than 18 years and not more than 24 years as at 28th February 2021.
- Height should not be less than 5' 4" (Those who have excelled in School / National / International and All Island level sports will be considered for enlistment even if they do not fulfill the requirement of height).

EDUCATIONAL & OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

- Should have passed six (06) subjects with four (04) Credit passes including English and ordinary passes for Mathematics and Sinhala/Tamil in two sittings at the G.C.E (O/L) Examination or any other international examinations (Pearson, Edexcel, GCSE, GCE and Cambridge) recognized by Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka as an equivalent.
- The candidates who have obtained a simple pass for English at G.C.E (O/L) will be considered if they possess any of the NVQ Level - 5 or above Diploma in English offered by a UGC recognized university / institute.
- Should have passed two subjects and obtained 30% marks for Common General Test in not more than one sitting at G.C.E (A/L) Examination or any other international examination (Pearson, Edexcel, GCSE, GCE and Cambridge) recognized by Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka as an equivalent.
- Any other higher educational qualifications or achievements in sports will be considered as added qualifications.

PAY, ALLOWANCES & OTHER BENEFITS

• Monthly gross pay of Officers in the respective ranks including allowances is as follows;

Lady Officer Cadet	- Rs. 41,705.00	Captain (Married)	- Rs. 97,268.60
Second Lieutenant	- Rs. 75,398.60	Major (Married)	- Rs. 103,558.60
Lieutenant	- Rs. 84,658.60		

• Commissioned Lady Officers will be entitled to fringe benefits, to cover expenses on transport, uniforms, medical, food and accommodation. They will also receive opportunities of serving in overseas and UN Peacekeeping Missions and to follow Advanced Courses.

ENLISTMENT PROCEDURE

- On successful completion of basic training at the Sri Lanka Military Academy, they will be commissioned in the rank of Second Lieutenant and posted to respective Battalions.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Those who are employed in government departments or private sector should forward their applications along with the recommendation of the Head of the Institution.
- Applications prepared as per the specimen application with copies of documents mentioned below should reach "Recruiting Officer, Headquarters, Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force, Salawa, Kosgama" by registered post on or before 31st March 2021.
- The clause "LADY OFFICER CADET IN THE VOLUNTEER FORCE OF THE SRI LANKA ARMY" should be mentioned on the top left corner of the envelope enclosing the application.



- Birth Certificate
- National Identity Card
- Grama Niladhari Certificate
- Two recently obtained Character Certificates
- Certificate of Educational & Professional Qualifications
- Certificates of Sports / Extra Curricular Activities
- Recommendation Letter of the Head of the Department
- Other Relevant Certificates

SRI LANKA ARMY VOLUNTEER FORCE

Address : Recruiting Officer, Headquarters, Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force, Salawa, Kosgama.

Inquiries : 036 2255362 | 011 3188558 Please visit : "www.army.lk/slavf" for applications, qualifications and more details.



NAWALOKA CONSTRUCTION COMPANY (PVT) LTD.

A MEMBER OF NAWALOKA HOLDINGS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are a CIDA grade CS2 Construction Company with over 70 years' experience in the Building, Road & Bridge sectors with ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Integrated Management System Certification. We are looking for young, dynamic & self-motivated personnel for the following vacancies.

- | | |
|---|--|
| MANAGER – PLANT OPERATIONS
B.Sc. Degree in material engineering with minimum of 7 to 10 years of similar experience. | ASSISTANT QUANTITY SURVEYOR
NCT/HND/NDT/NDS in Quantity Surveying with 2 years' experience. |
| ELECTRICAL ENGINEER / MECHANICAL ENGINEER
Minimum of 5 years' experience in building projects with chartered in Electrical/Mechanical Engineering. | ASSISTANT ENGINEER
Minimum of 2 years' post qualifying experience with B.Sc. in Engineering or equivalent or minimum of 5 years' post qualifying experience with NDT/HNDT or equivalent. |
| CIVIL ENGINEER
Minimum of 5 years' post qualifying experience with B.Sc. in Engineering or equivalent or minimum of 20 years' post qualifying experience with NDT/HNDT or equivalent. | TECHNICAL OFFICER
NDT/HNDT qualification or equivalent with minimum of 5 years' post qualifying experience. |
| MEP ENGINEER
BSc (Eng.) with minimum of 5 years' post qualifying experience or NDT with minimum 10 years' experience. | TECHNICAL OFFICER (MECHANICAL/ ELECTRICAL)
NVQ Level 5 qualification in Mechanical/Electrical or equivalent with minimum of 5 years' post qualifying experience with at least 2 years in a similar capacity. |
| DRAUGHTSPERSON (CIVIL/ MEP)
NCEC/Draughtsmanship course in an approved technical institute or equivalent with minimum of 3 years' experience. | STOREKEEPER
BCE Advanced Level & resp. qualification in stock/ inventory management/ material analyzing from a recognized institute with minimum of 3 years' experience. |
| QUANTITY SURVEYOR
B.Sc. in Quantity Surveying, IQSS, with minimum of 2 years' experience or diploma in Quantity Surveying with 5 years' experience. | SURVEYOR
B.Sc. in Surveying or equivalent with minimum of 3 years' post qualifying experience. |
| MECHANICAL ENGINEER – WORKSHOP
B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering or equivalent with minimum of 5 years' experience in workshop management. | FLEET MANAGER
Degree or diploma in Logistics or similar qualification with minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar role preferably in the constructor industry. |
| PLANNING ENGINEER
Bsc. Degree in Civil Engineering with minimum of 2 years' experience. | |

The above positions carry an attractive remuneration packages for the ideal candidate with other benefits depending on the qualifications and experience.

E-mail your curriculum vitae to careers@nawaloka.net together with the names of two non-related referees. Applications should reach us within 7 days of this advertisement.

The Human Resources Manager
 Nawaloka Construction Company (Pvt) Ltd
 12th Floor, Nawaloka Specialist Center,
 No.115, Sir James Peiris Mawatha, Colombo02.
 Tel:011-5188100

Our Client, a leading Group of Companies in the Leisure sector with business interests in Real Estate, Information Technology, Manufacturing and Financial Services sectors is on the lookout for a smart and dynamic individual to join in their journey of growth as;

CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY (Chairman's Office)

- Ideal Candidate Profile**
- Minimum of 5 to 7 years work experience in a similar capacity.
 - Secretarial practice with excellent interpersonal skills.
 - High level of competencies in IT literacy.
 - Sound public relations skills and the skill to multi task.
 - Should have a good educational background with a minimum qualification of G.C.E.A/L.
 - A professional qualification in Secretarial studies will be an advantage.
 - Excellent English language skills together with exceptional administrative skills.
 - Advanced proficiency in managing documents, spreadsheets, databases and filing.
 - Ability to liaise internally and externally on administrative matters.
 - Self-confidence and a positive attitude to work with all levels of staff.
 - Age below 45 years.

- Job Role**
- Managing Chairman's office functions that includes appointments, meetings, taking down minutes, timely distribution and follow up of minutes and managing the document flow.
 - Co-ordinate with business heads / departmental heads and outsiders on relevant matters.
 - Should maintain confidentiality in all matters relating to the company.
 - Ability to attend to correspondence independently and maintain a well-organized filing system.
 - Commitment to work with minimum supervision and have a good knowledge of administrative procedures in practice in companies.

The selected candidate will be rewarded with personal and professional development inclusive of an attractive and negotiable remuneration package.

Please forward your complete resume in PDF format with contact details of two non-related referees to mslr@sitnet.lk within 07 days of this advertisement quoting **MSL Ref. No.7592** in the subject line of your e-mail.

MSL Management Systems (Pvt) Ltd.
 No: 08 Tickell Road, Colombo 08.
mslr@sitnet.lk
www.bposrilanka.com

The Housewives' companion Classifieds on Daily News



INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RESOURCE ADVANCEMENT University of Colombo

VACANCIES

Applications will be entertained by the Director for the below mentioned posts on assignment basis:

- Post of Co-ordinator in Tamil Language
- Post of Co-ordinator in Japanese Language
- Post of Co-ordinator in Korean Language
- Post of Co-ordinator in French Language

- Further Information**
- Educational Qualifications:**
 Applicants should have
 - A Bachelor's Degree for which the relevant language has been offered as a subject.
 OR
 - A recognized Proficiency Level / Diploma at least one year in the relevant Language.
 - Experience:**
 At least five (05) years of academic/administrative experience at senior level in recognized educational institutions. Applicants with experience in conducting lectures/ tutorials in the relevant language will be preferred.
 - Job Description:**
 The selected candidate will be mainly responsible to co-ordinate with the students, the academic staff and the Director on matters relating to the implementation of all internal and external teaching and training programmes relevant to Programme. In addition to that schedule programme work, oversee daily operations, coordinate other activities of the programme and set priorities for managing the programme.
 - Working Hours:**
 According to the schedule of teaching and pre-arranged period for other administrative tasks related to the programme.
 - Contract Duration:**
 Initially for a period of six months
 - Monthly Allowance:** Negotiable
 - Closing Date for Submission of Applications:** 01st April, 2021
 - Form of Application:**
 - Applications must be submitted only through online by login to IHRA website www.ihra.cmb.ac.lk. (Relevant documents should be scanned and uploaded as PDF files with the application)
 - Only short listed candidates will be called for an interview.
 - Applications received after the closing date and incomplete applications will be rejected.
 - Hard copy of the submitted application should be forwarded with the copies of relevant educational, professional and service certificates under Registered Post to reach "The Deputy Registrar, Institute of Human Resource Advancement, 275, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07" on or before 01st April, 2021. The post applied for shall be indicated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

Director
 Institute of Human Resource Advancement
 University of Colombo

Sri Lanka Insurance



in the General Insurance sector in the country is looking for No 01 sales professionals in the field to be a part of their success story.

Sri Lanka Insurance the state insurance giant with 6 decades in operation backed by the most experienced technical knowledge base in the country, front ending the insurance needs of the country's major national projects is on the lookout for a dynamic sales professional to join the winning team.

If you have experience in managing a client portfolio and is a peoples' person with a flare for relationship management, we would like to hear from you.

MANAGER / ASSISTANT MANAGER - CORPORATE BUSINESS

- Job Duties & Responsibilities:**
- Plan, execute and manage duties in order to achieve the sales targets inline with company objectives
 - Build & manage large Portfolios. Groups of clients with a healthy mix of products in General Insurance category
 - Develop and maintain long-term strategic relationships with corporate clients to enhance new business opportunities
 - Develop and innovate solutions for corporate clients in addition to current product portfolio and lead the business in improving those products
 - Educate the corporate clients with respect to new developments at SLIC and obtain customer responses and feedback
 - Expand the business by reaching new markets (corporate)
 - Produce sales results consistently in order to achieve company's top and bottom line objectives
 - Handle administrative aspects of responsibility, including providing accurate and timely reports, expense management and competitor awareness

Qualifications / Pre-requisites / Requirements for the position: (MANAGER - CORPORATE BUSINESS)

- Full/ Partial qualification in CIM/ SLIM or Insurance / Sales related qualification with minimum three (3) years' experience in Executive capacity or
 - Passed G.C.E. O/L with 8 years' experience in Sales, Management, Key Account Management, or relevant experience and presently in Executive capacity or above, preferably in corporate sales
- together with
- Continuous achievement track record in performance
 - A self-driven leader with excellent communication skills which includes Sinhala/Tamil and English and a pleasing personality
 - Proven capability in building effective interpersonal relationships
 - Age preferably below 45 years

Qualifications / Pre-requisites / Requirements for the position: (ASSISTANT MANAGER - CORPORATE BUSINESS)

- Full/ Partial qualification in CIM/ SLIM or Insurance / Sales related qualification with minimum three (3) years' experience in Executive capacity or
 - Passed G.C.E. O/L with 6 years' experience in Sales, Management, Key Account Management, or relevant experience and presently in Executive grade capacity or above, preferably in corporate sales
- together with
- Continuous achievement track record in performance
 - A self-driven leader with excellent communication skills which includes Sinhala/Tamil and English and a pleasing personality
 - Proven capability in building effective interpersonal relationships
 - Age preferably below 45 years

The selected candidate will be initially offered a fixed term contract of three (3) years with an attractive remuneration package

If you believe you possess the above qualifications and experience, please submit the application indicating the preferred branch along with the copies of two non-related referees within 07 days of this advertisement to the address given below, stating the post applied for on the top left corner of the envelope or e-mail to jobs@sri.lanka.insurance.com stating the post applied for on the subject line.

Deputy General Manager – HR & ER
 Sri Lanka Insurance,
 21, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.
 Company Registration Number: PB 299



JOIN US



Consultants / Lecturers

NIBM is the Pioneer higher educational Institute in Sri Lanka catering to the Public, Private Sector and to the school leavers with high - end degree and diploma programmes in the fields of IT, Management, Humanities, and Design.

To cater to the ever-increasing demand for higher education, we have embarked upon a project to set up state-of-the-art campus in Peradeniya, Gatambe, Kandy. We are seeking suitable resource persons who can match our requirements to coach our learners at the new campus

Qualifications:

A special Degree of four years duration with a first class or second class upper in the relevant field from a recognized University with appropriate subject combinations.

OR

A degree of three years duration with a first class or second class upper in the relevant Field from a recognized University with appropriate subject combinations and a minimum of one year postgraduate diploma in the relevant field

Age: Age should not be less than 22 years and not more than 45 years.

Other:

Every applicant,

1. Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka
2. Should be physically and mentally fit to discharge the duties of the post well and to serve in any part of the Island.
3. Should be of excellent moral character.

Fringe benefits:

Medical Insurance Scheme, Vehicle loan facility, Annual Bonus, Performance Incentives, Encashment of Medical Leave etc. Opportunities will be provided for Local Training and regular career development.

Suitably qualified candidates are invited to send Applications to the Email – hrm@nibm.lk giving full particulars of age, education, qualifications, experience etc. to the Director General, National Institute of Business Management, No.120/5, Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 07 on or before **24th March 2021**.

Director General
National Institute of Business Management
No.120/5, Wijerama Mawatha,
Colombo 07.

“ **BEING WILLING TO EXAMINE SOMETHING BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, IS A 21ST-CENTURY SKILL** ”



SCHOOL OF COMPUTING & ENGINEERING (SOCE)

SOCE requires the following Consultants /Lecturers specialized in ;

- Computer Networking & Ethical Hacking with adequate experience to direct the Networking related courses independently and to lead the Ethical Hacking Degree.
- Computer Science with adequate experience to direct computer diploma and to lead HND in Computing and BSc Computing Degree.
- Creative Multimedia with adequate to experience to direct the relevant courses and to lead the degree in the future.

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (SOB)

SOB requires the following Consultants /Lecturers specialized in ;

- **Logistics** and Operations with adequate experience to direct the logistics, operations related courses and to lead the global logistics degree.
- **Marketing** expert with exposure in digital marketing and having a sound IT background to direct the courses related to digital marketing and digital tourism

SCHOOL OF DESIGN (SOD)

SOD requires the following Consultants /Lecturers specialized in ;

- **Fashion Design** with adequate experience to lead the School of Design from Certificate level up to degree
- **Interior Design** with adequate experience to lead the School of Design from Certificate level up to degree

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES (SOH)

SOH requires the following Consultants /Lecturers specialized in ;

- Psychology with adequate experience to lead the School of Humanities from Certificate level up to degree

BUSINESS ANALYTICS CENTRE (BAC)

BAC requires the following Consultants /Lecturers specialized in ;

- Data Science with adequate experience to lead the Business Analytics Centre from Diploma level up to degree

INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CONSORTIUM (PVT) LTD



We value professionalism and honour ethics

We hunt for quality and thirst for talents

We stand together and move together, as a team

We celebrate victories and we've got plenty

We construct the best buildings, roads and more than that, we construct people

We call ourselves ICC

Being a leading Multi disciplinary, CS2 Grade, ISO 9001, 14001 and OHSAS 18001 certified Construction Company, we take pride in stepping into the 5th decade of our quest in shaping the Sri Lankan construction industry with all our construction elegance. Now we seek dynamic, self-motivated true professionals who are driving towards result-oriented work excellence to write the next chapter of our success story. We invite you to try out our best opportunities in newly procured projects that suit your dreams.

If you think you have what it takes to wear the ICC helmet with Pride

COME JOIN US.....!

ENGINEERS - CIVIL

- B.Sc. degree in Civil Engineering or equivalent qualification from a reputed university.
- Previous working experience in the construction industry will be an added advantage.
- Age should be below 30 years.

ENGINEERS - PLANNING

- B.Sc. degree in Civil Engineering or equivalent qualification from a reputed university.
- Minimum of 3 years working experience in a similar capacity.
- Strong problem solving and analytical skills.
- Age should be below 35 years.

SURVEYORS

- B.Sc. degree in Surveying Science or equivalent qualification from a reputed university.
- Experience in road construction projects will be a definite advantage.
- Age below 30 years.

ENGINEERING ASSISTANTS - CIVIL

- NDT, HNDE or NDES in Civil Engineering or equivalent qualification from a reputed institute.
- Previous working experience in the construction industry will be an added advantage.
- Age below 30 years.

TECHNICAL OFFICERS - CIVIL

- NCT in Civil Engineering or equivalent qualification from a recognized institute.
- Minimum of 5 years working experience in the construction industry.
- Ability to work under minimum supervision and should be energetic and self-motivated.
- Age below 45 years.

ENGINEERS - MEP

(MEP SERVICES AT CONSTRUCTION SITES)

- Degree in Electrical Engineering / Mechanical Engineering or equivalent qualification from a reputed university.
- Previous working experience would be an added advantage.
- Age below 30 years.

ENGINEERING ASSISTANTS - MEP

(MEP SERVICES AT CONSTRUCTION SITES)

- NDT, HNDE or NDES in Electrical / Mechanical Engineering or equivalent qualification from a reputed institute.
- Previous working experience would be an added advantage.
- Age below 30 years.

ENGINEERING ASSISTANTS - MECHANICAL / ELECTRICAL

(PLANT AND MACHINERY UNITS AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITES)

- NDT, HNDE or NDES in Electrical / Mechanical Engineering or equivalent qualification from a reputed institute.
- Previous working experience will be an added advantage.
- Age below 30 years.

FOREMAN - MECHANICAL / ELECTRICAL

(PLANT AND MACHINERY UNIT OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITE)

- Qualification from CGTTI or equivalent qualification from a reputed institute.
- Previous experience in a similar capacity in Mechanical field will be an added advantage.
- Age below 30 years.

QUANTITY SURVEYORS

- Diploma or Certificate in Quantity Surveying or equivalent qualification from a recognized institute.
- Minimum of 6 years working experience in the construction industry.
- Age below 40 years.

ASSISTANT QUANTITY SURVEYORS

- Diploma or Certificate in Quantity Surveying or equivalent qualification from a recognized institute.
- Minimum of 2 years working experience in the construction industry.
- Age below 30 years.

DRAUGHTSPERSONS

- National certificate in Engineering Draughtsmanship or equivalent qualification from a recognized institute.
- Minimum of 3 years working experience in structural draughtsmanship.
- Previous working experience in roads projects would be a definite advantage.
- Age below 35 years.
- Experience in developing drawings with Civil 3D and Revit would be a definite advantage.

ADMINISTRATION OFFICERS

- Diploma in HRM or Finance or equivalent qualification from a reputed institute.
- Minimum of 3 years working experience in a similar capacity.
- Degree from a reputed university will be an added advantage.
- Ability to work under pressure with minimum supervision.
- Age below 35 years.

Candidates without prior experience will be considered for the post of Administration Trainees.

STOREKEEPERS

- Should have passed G.C.E. (A/L) examination.
- Should have minimum of 4 years of experience in store keeping.
- Professional qualification from institute of Supply & Material Management will be an added advantage.
- Computer literacy is a must.
- Previous experience working with an ERP system would be an added advantage.
- Age below 35 years.

LAB TECHNICIANS

- Should have passed G.C.E. (A/L) examination in Science stream.
- Minimum of 3 years working experience in a similar capacity.
- Professional or technical qualification related to Civil Engineering will be an added advantage.
- Age below 35 years.

Please indicate the post applied for on the top left hand corner of the envelope or the subject line of the e-mail.



Manager - Human Resources


INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CONSORTIUM (PVT) LTD.

70, S. De S. Jayasinghe Mawatha, Kohuwala, Nugegoda.

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FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & SCIENCES

**PROFESSOR / ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
IN ENGLISH**

The Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT) is a pioneer in the higher education sector of Sri Lanka and offers undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in a wide range of disciplines (www.sliit.lk). It is committed to providing the best student experience through a dedicated group of academic and non-academic staff. The main campus located in Malabe has excellent academic and recreational facilities.

SLIIT expanded its academic programmes to the fields of Education and Humanities with the launch of the Faculty of Humanities and Sciences in 2017. The Faculty of Humanities and Sciences offers a range of undergraduate and post graduate degree programmes in the areas of Education, Science, Biotechnology, Psychology, Nursing, Mathematics, English and Law.

We are inviting applications for the post of Professor / Associate Professor in the English Language Teaching Unit (ELTU). An earned doctoral degree from a recognized institution, a minimum of 10 years (6 years for Associate Professor) experience in research and teaching after the doctoral degree and a strong scholarly record are required.

The successful candidate may be considered for the position of the Head of ELTU based on the overall experience. The tenure of headship is three years and renewable subject to satisfactory performance. The duties include teaching and research in addition to the administrative responsibilities of the department head.

SLIIT offers a competitive salary and benefits package commensurate with qualifications and experience.

To apply, please send a detailed CV, a cover letter and contact details of 3 referees by email to careers@sliit.lk clearly indicating the area of expertise and the position grade. The deadline for applications is **24th March 2021**.



SMWM
Small & Medium Wealth Management Ltd



Vacancy for
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER**

RESPONSIBILITIES

- He/she will be in charge of the overall management of the company, including providing clear leadership and direction. Ensuring solid operating and financial performance, recruiting and developing the talent needed to accomplish high performance standards and overseeing new operational systems and procedures.
- He/she will have primary responsibility for achieving the ambitious growth strategy developed by the stakeholders, and for positioning the SMWM as a leading provider of high quality financial services to the poor.

KEY ATTRIBUTES


- Understand and agree with Small and Medium Wealth Management Mission, Vision, Values and Guiding Principles
- Demonstrated experience leading and building cohesive, high performing teams
- Strong analytical, interpersonal, communication and influencing skills
- Ability to delegate effectively amongst teams and show commitment to the long-term development of the management team through coaching and mentoring
- Comfortable in a fluid environment, self-directed, flexible and creative
- Commitment to the institution's social mission and corporate values
- Fluency in English is a must and fluency in Sinhala is preferred
- Willingness to be based in Colombo with frequent travel throughout Sri Lanka

SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE

- A Bachelor degree; Master's degree or greater in business or finance is desirable
- At least fifteen years of direct experience in financial services, of which 10 years should be in senior management positions in a Retail bank, Finance Company or similar financial services company.
- Hands-on field experience of microfinance or retail finance
- General knowledge of a wide range of microfinance products, including loans and savings
- Advanced knowledge of retail banking or microfinance operations, products and services as well as knowledge of standard banking/finance compliance regulations, banking law, business law, employment and labour law, internal operational policies and procedures
- Good understanding of technology and digitalization of financial services

An attractive remuneration package will be offered to the right candidate.
If you think that you are fit for the above position, please indicate your **expected salary in your Curriculum Vitae** along with contact details of two non-related referees and forward it to

careers@sicl.lk
within 14 days of this advertisement.
Head of Human Resources
Small & Medium Wealth Management Ltd, No.18, Keppetipola Mawatha, Colombo 05.



MINISTRY OF PLANTATION
SRI LANKA TEA BOARD

VACANCIES

Sri Lanka Tea Board, the Apex Body of the Tea industry in Sri Lanka is looking for dynamic and result oriented individuals who possess the following qualifications to be recruited for the posts of Tea Inspector/Instructors.

The Post of Tea Inspector/Instructor Grade III - MA (2-1)

Job Description
Performance of duties entrusted by the Authorized Officer pertaining to implementation of regulations and development activities of producers, dealers of green leafs, manufacturers and factories, disposal of made teas and by-products.

Qualifications & Experience
A two year Diploma in Agriculture not below the National Vocational Qualification level 05 (NVQ 05) obtained from an Institution recognized by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission of Sri Lanka
AND
Having passed G.C.E.(A/L) examination in three (03) passes in Science stream in one sitting and G.C.E.(O/L) examination at least in 05 credits including Mathematics, Sinhala / Tamil and English in one sitting.

Salary Scale
MA 2-1: Rs. 30,310 - 10 x Rs.300 - 7 x Rs. 350 - 4 x Rs.495 - 20 x Rs.660 - Rs.50,940]
The applicable initial salary step is Rs. 30,310/= p.m. and cost of living allowance Rs. 7800/= p.m. will also be paid.

Age
Should be not less than 18 years and more than 45 years. The Upper age limit will not apply to the internal candidates.

Selection
By a Written Competitive Examination and a Structured Interview.
(Subjects for the competitive examination and the marks allocated for each subject as follows)

Subject	Time & Marks	Medium of Examination
Language Proficiency	(100 marks) (01 1/2 hours)	English & Sinhala languages
Aptitude Test	(100 marks) (45 minutes)	Sinhala or Tamil Medium
Subject knowledge relevant to the post (100 marks) (03 hours)		Sinhala or Tamil Medium

Candidates should secure at least 40% of the marks allocated for each subject and an aggregate of at least of 50% of the total marks to pass the competitive examination.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

- Every applicant should be a Sri Lankan citizen.
- Every applicant should be physically and mentally fit to discharge the duties of the post well and to serve in any part of the island.
- Every applicant should have an excellent character.
- The selected external candidates will be appointed on probation for a period of three (03) years from the date of assumption of duties. Internal candidates who are already confirmed will be subjected to a trial period of one year.
- Persons recruited externally will be placed on the initial salary step of the applicable salary scale and internally appointed persons will be placed in salary scale in terms of the provisions of the clause 4 of the chapter VII of the Establishment Code.

BENEFITS

- Medical benefits according to the prevailing rules of the Board.
- Provident Fund: the selected candidates will be required to contribute 10% of his/her salary to the Employees' Provident Fund. The Board will contribute 15%.
- The Board will contribute a further 3% of the Employee's salary to the Employees' Trust Fund.

APPLICATIONS
Applications should be made on prescribed forms obtainable from this office or downloaded from our website <http://www.srilankateaboard.lk> and sent together with a copy of Birth certificate, copies of educational and professional qualifications and experience under registered cover indicating the post applied for on the top left hand corner of the envelope to reach the undermentioned address on or before 31st March 2021.
Applicants presently employed in Govt. Departments / State Corporations / statutory Boards should send in their applications through the Heads of the respective Departments / Institutions. Non conformity with this requirement may cause the rejection of such applications.

**DIRECTOR GENERAL
SRI LANKA TEA BOARD
574, GALLE ROAD,
COLOMBO 03**



EMPLOYEES' TRUST FUND BOARD
(Under the purview of Ministry of Finance)



VACANCY

The Employees' Trust Fund Board formed by Parliament Act No. 46 of 1980 and functions under the Ministry of Finance provides social security for members. It is the second largest superannuation fund in the country. The fund base is over **Rs. 380 Billion** and has 19 Regional Offices island wide. At present the contributing membership of the fund is approximately **2.8 million** and covers **83,000** Employers.

The Board wishes to recruit qualified and dynamic professional who is a citizen of the Sri Lanka to fill the following vacancy.

Deputy General Manager (Administration & Human Resources)- (HM 1-3)

Qualifications and Experience
A Bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management /B.Com/Sociology/B.Sc (Science Stream) /BA /LLB/ B.Sc. (Public Administration/Business Administration) from a university recognized by the U.G.C. and a postgraduate degree qualification (Masters') in the relevant field or Corporate Membership of a recognized relevant professional institution with minimum of 18 years post qualifying experience in Managerial Level out of which 03 years should be in the senior managerial level in a Corporation, Board or a reputed Mercantile Establishment.

Salary Scale - Rs. 86,865/- 15x2,270= Rs. 120,915/-
Salary Point - Rs. 86,865/-
Age : Age should be not less than 35 years and not more than 55 years

Key Job Responsibilities :

- Develop creative practices and programs that identify, source, assess and hire the best talent to meet changing and evolving business needs;
- Formulate HR Policies, best practices, employee hand book.
- Execute the recruitment strategy effectively ensuring the right talent is ready at the right time and influence the entire recruitment process to provide direction on talent needs;
- Drive employee engagement in working with executive leadership to develop effective internal communications strategies, processes, tools, and training to promote morale and productivity;
- Coach and advise on a wide range of core human resource functions including organizational design, HR policies, and best practices;
- Lead the development and execution of Human Resources strategic and annual plans in alignment with the organizational goals, and mission;
- Ensure compliance with local laws and best practices in HR and administration procedures so that they are efficient, accurate, timely, and responsive.
- Oversee all matters relating to facilities and administration, including building lease, supply resource management.

Selection Criteria: Structural Interview
The selected candidate is entitled to the Government approved cost of living allowance and other fringe benefits enjoyed by state organizations of similar status.

The other benefits enjoyed by the employees in above salary category of ETFB currently are:

- Annual Bonus
- Monthly Incentive on performance and attendance
- Medical Bills reimbursement (Routine and Hospitalization)
- Low interest housing and vehicle loans


In addition, a Vehicle and fuel allowance as per Public Enterprises Circulars would be provided.

Applications containing brief Bio-Data with copies of certificates and names and contact details of two non-related referees should be sent under registered cover marking the post on the top left hand corner of the envelope to reach the undersigned on or before **29.03.2021**. Applications from employees in Govt Departments, Corporations, and Boards etc. should be forwarded through the Heads of such institutions, indicating whether the applicant can be released if selected.


**Chairman/CEO
Employees' Trust Fund Board
P.O Box. 807, 'Mehewara Piyasa'
Colombo 5.**

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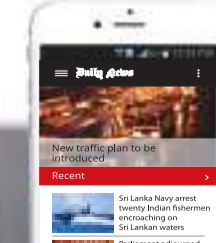
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CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

With a 'make it happen' mentality, the candidate should be essentially responsible for the implementation and development of strategies, policies and procedures with regard to all aspects of information and communications for the Bank under the supervision and direction of the General Manager. Chief Information Officer is expected to conceptualize, define, develop and implement an IT vision, strategies and an action plan to achieve the corporate objectives of the Bank.

This is a Corporate Management position wherein you will play a vital role in managing the functions of the Bank's ICT area and key responsibilities involved in the job among others are:

- Developing strategies, policies and procedures with regard to all aspects of information and communications for the bank.
- Formation of ICT Strategic Objectives and Policy decisions to suit the Bank's overall Corporate objectives.
- Ensuring day-to-day IT support and infrastructure are in place to run the business efficiently, including systems integrity, disaster recovery programs and allocation of equipment.
- Management of all software development and maintenance.
- Conversant with latest software development practices and platforms.
- Providing consultation and support for technological developments.
- Translating Business requirements into timely, cost effective technical solutions while developing and evaluating training programmes.
- Understand "Business based new Trends" in Banking and adaptability.
- Developing and administering the IT departmental budget and the Bank's IT capital budget.
- Negotiating and administering all contracts, agreements and leases.
- Responsible in evaluating and procurement of all banking related Applications.
- Conversant & experienced in various outsourced and managed services.
- Comply with CBSL guidelines and other regulatory requirements.

With real ability, the right approach and leadership skills, the candidate should fit comfortably into the business's sizeable IT infrastructure.

The ideal candidate should possess a Bachelor's degree from a recognized university or full professional qualifications preferably in Information Technology coupled with at least 05 years of executive experience in the field of IT out of which at least 02 years should be in a Senior Management position in a reputed organization (Preferably in a Bank or large financial institution). Preference will be given for those who possess at least two to three years hands on experience with "OMNI" based platform implementation and related development.

A postgraduate qualification in Information Technology and / or membership of a recognized IT body and experience in banking and financial services and managerial experience in the software industry would be advantageous.

Age

- Age should be above 40 years and below 55 years as at the closing date of applications.

In addition to the above, the right candidate should

- Possess strong and up to date systems competencies, to be innovative and an extremely good communicator with demonstrated commitment to achievement with a pro-active customer-focused approach.
- Have adequate hands on experience in modernization of ICT infrastructure and implementation of modern automated banking services and products.
- Have a fair amount of managerial experience in software development.

The above position will initially be on a 04 year contract with an attractive remuneration and benefit package commensurate with qualifications and experience as well as current industry standards.

Please email or post your complete resume with contact details of two non-related referees to mslr@slt.net.lk on or before **29th March 2021** quoting MSL Ref. No. 7591 in the subject line of your e-mail or on the top left corner of the envelope.

MSL Management Systems (Pvt) Ltd.

No: 08 Tickell Road, Colombo 08.
mslr@slt.net.lk
www.bposrilanka.com



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka & Finance PLC, a well-established Finance Company and a subsidiary of Bank of Ceylon is looking for a person to join as its CEO.

If you are a transformational leader with a proven track record of at least 10 years in Senior Management level of a bank or a financial institution with;

A degree from a recognized University and or full professional qualifications in Accounting, Finance, Banking or any related field, we would like to hear from you. Savviness in digital banking and financial services is a definite advantage.

An attractive remuneration package will be negotiable keeping with market conditions.

Applications with detailed Curriculum Vitae and contact details of two non-related referees, should be sent to;

Chairman - Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka & Finance PLC
 via e-mail, ceosearch@mbslbank.com
 on or before 29th March 2021.



Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka & Finance PLC
 Level 18, Bank of Ceylon Merchant Tower,
 No. 28, St. Michael's Road,
 Colombo 03.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

We are a leading Construction Company with ISO 9001 - 2008, ISO 14001-2004 & OHSAS 18001 - 2007 with CIDA - CS2 Grading, requires the services of the following personnel to be engaged in our Road Projects at -
Kuliypitiya, Mahiyanganaya, Kekirawa and Jaffna

• Site Engineers

B.Sc. Engineering (Civil) or equivalent with over 5 years experience in road construction works

• Quantity Surveyors

B.Sc. degree in quantity surveying or equivalent with 5 years experience of which at least 03 years in road works

• Technical Officers

NDT / NCT (Civil) with over 5 years experience in road construction works .

• Site Supervisors

With minimum 5 years experience in road construction works

Remuneration package for all above posts will be amongst the best in the construction sector.

Please forward your detailed CV, together with names of two Non-related referees indicating the post applied for on the top left hand corner of the envelope within 07 days of this advertisement to;

Human Resources Manager



NEM CONSTRUCTION (PVT) LTD

629, Baseline Road, Colombo - 09.

Fax - 0112 685132

Email - hr.div@nemconstruction.com



AMERICAN EMBASSY, COLOMBO

Digital Production Coordinator - [Female/Male]

We encourage both women and men to apply for this position. The United States Embassy seeks a diverse workforce with equal opportunity for all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or sexual orientation.

The incumbent is responsible for the production of all visual and multimedia elements of Mission public engagement, including the design, creation, and packaging of visual and multimedia content for digital marketing, advertising or mass communications purposes, including extensive experience as an advanced end user of industry standard desktop and mobile software applications, internet and related communications technologies, and integration of visual content into web content management systems. [Note: candidates considered for this position must provide a portfolio of original work demonstrating visual and multimedia design competence.]

The work schedule for this position is: Full Time - 40 hours per week.

The monthly gross salary for this position will be Rs. 163,449/-

Qualifications Required:

- 1. Education** - An associate degree or two years of full-time university studies in design, advertising, mass communications, visual arts, computer science, or film is required.
- 2. Prior Work Experience** - This position requires a total of at least three (03) years of progressively responsible experience in the design, creation, and packaging of visual and multimedia content for digital marketing, advertising or mass communications purposes, including extensive experience as an advanced end user of industry standard desktop and mobile software applications, internet and related communications technologies, and integration of visual content into web content management systems. [Note: candidates considered for this position must provide a portfolio of original work demonstrating visual and multimedia design competence.]
- 3. Language Proficiency** - Level IV (Fluency) reading, writing, and speaking English is required. *(This will be tested)*
 Level IV (Fluency) reading, writing, and speaking Sinhala or Tamil is required.
- 4. Job Knowledge** - Must have strong creative skills and detailed knowledge of audio and video production, graphic design, and other visual content creation. Must understand how online digital properties and communities function. Must have detailed knowledge of the attitudes of target audience groups, and their preferences for specific content, format, and delivery of visual communication. Knowledge of trends in regional and international communications patterns and how they affect the Sri Lankan communications landscape is required. General knowledge of digital promotion techniques, audience analysis and analytics, and customer service standards is required. Must have general knowledge of project management, including defining project objectives, outcomes, and assessment methods.

Detailed knowledge of legal regulations and procedural guidelines affecting use of visual and multimedia content as well as copyright and other restrictions on use of materials is required.

5. Skills & Abilities -

- Analytic skills
- Communication / Interpersonal skills
- Management skills
- Technical skills
- Availability: Must be available to travel throughout Sri Lanka.

Required Documents:

To apply for this position applicants **must electronically submit copies of the documents listed below** along with the electronic application, to be considered for employment. Failure to do so may result in a determination that the applicant is not eligible and qualified.

- Relevant Educational Certificates
- Relevant Service/Work Experience Certificates
- Proof of citizenship (National Identity Card/Passport and/or Work Permit)

How to Apply:

Please visit our website <https://lk.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/> to submit your applications through Electronic Recruitment Application system [ERA]. Before you continue with the application process, please carefully read the instructions available on our website.

PAPER OR E-MAILED APPLICATIONS ARE NOT ACCEPTED

Your application should reach us on or before **March 25, 2021**.
 Please note, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



University of Sri Jayewardenepura

VACANCIES

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura invites applications from prospective candidates for vacancies as indicated below.

FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

● DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY

POST OF SENIOR LECTURER (GRADE I)/SENIOR LECTURER (GRADE II) /LECTURER (PROBATIONARY)

Qualifications for Senior Lecturer (Grade I) - MBBS with First or Second Class Honors and PGIM Board Certification in Surgical Field or Ph.D. in Anatomy or Anatomy related Fields and 11 Years Experience.

Qualifications for Senior Lecturer (Grade II) - MBBS with First or Second Class Honors and PGIM Board Certification in Surgical Field or Ph.D. in Anatomy or Anatomy related Fields and 06 Years Experience.

Qualifications for Lecturer (Probationary) - MBBS with First or Second Class Honors.

● DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY

POST OF SENIOR LECTURER (GRADE I)/SENIOR LECTURER (GRADE II) /LECTURER (PROBATIONARY)

Qualifications for Senior Lecturer (Grade I) - MBBS with First or Second Class (Honors) and MD Board Certification in the Field of Subfertility and 11 years experience. (Out of above 11 years experience, minimum 03 years Experience should be in the field of Subfertility as a board Certified Consultant)

Qualifications for Senior Lecturer (Grade II) - MBBS with First or Second Class (Honors) and MD Board Certification in the Field of Subfertility and 06 years experience. (Out of above 06 years experience, minimum 03 years Experience should be in the field of Subfertility as a board Certified Consultant)

Qualifications for Lecturer (Probationary) - MBBS with First or Second Class (Honors)

FACULTY OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

● DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

1) POST OF SENIOR LECTURER (GRADE I)/ SENIOR LECTURER (GRADE II)/ LECTURER (PROBATIONARY) IN MICROBIOLOGY

Qualifications for Senior Lecturer (Grade I/Grade II) - MBBS with First or Second Class (Honours) and Board Certification in MD (Medical Microbiology)

Qualifications for Lecturer (Probationary) - MBBS with First or Second Class (Honours)

2) POST OF SENIOR LECTURER (GRADE I)/ SENIOR LECTURER (GRADE II)/ LECTURER (PROBATIONARY) IN PATHOLOGY

Qualifications for Senior Lecturer (Grade I/Grade II) - MBBS with First or Second Class (Honours) and Board Certification in MD (Pathology)

Qualifications for Lecturer (Probationary) - MBBS with First or Second Class (Honours)

3) POST OF SENIOR LECTURER (GRADE I)/ SENIOR LECTURER (GRADE II)/ LECTURER (PROBATIONARY) IN MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

Qualifications for Senior Lecturer (Grade I/Grade II) - BSc. Special Degree (Honours) in Medical Laboratory Sciences with First or Second Class and PhD/MPhil in a relevant field.

Qualifications for Lecturer (Probationary) - BSc. Special Degree (Honours) in Medical Laboratory Sciences with First or Second Class

● DEPARTMENT OF BASIC SCIENCES

POST OF SENIOR LECTURER (GRADE I)/SENIOR LECTURER (GRADE II)/ LECTURER (PROBATIONARY) IN ANATOMY/ PHYSIOLOGY

Qualifications for Senior Lecturer (Grade I/Grade II) - MBBS with First or Second class (Honours) or BSc. in Human Biology (Special) with First or Second Class (Honours) and PhD/MPhil or MD with Board Certification in a relevant field

Qualifications for Lecturer (Probationary) - MBBS with First or Second Class (Honours)

● DEPARTMENT OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

POST OF SENIOR LECTURER (GRADE I)/SENIOR LECTURER (GRADE II)/ LECTURER (PROBATIONARY)

Qualifications for Senior Lecturer (Grade I) - BSc. Nursing with First or Second Class (Honours) and MPhil or PhD in Nursing and 12 Years of experience in Hospital or University

Qualifications for Senior Lecturer (Grade II) - BSc. Nursing with First or Second Class (Honours) and MPhil or PhD in Nursing with 06 Years of experience in Hospital or University

Qualifications for Lecturer (Probationary) - BSc. Nursing with First or Second Class (Honours)

Preference will be given to Candidates with MSc. in Mental Health and work experience more than 06 years in a Mental Health Institute.

● DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

POST OF SENIOR LECTURER (GRADE I)/SENIOR LECTURER (GRADE II)/ LECTURER (PROBATIONARY)

Qualifications for Senior Lecturer (Grade I/Grade II) - B.Pharm (Honours) Degree with a First or Second Class or BSc. Special Degree (Honours) in Pharmacy with a First or Second Class (Honours) with PhD/MPhil in a relevant field

Qualifications for Lecturer (Probationary) - BSc. Special Degree in Pharmacy and B.Pharm (Honours) Degree with a First or Second Class

Preference will be given to Candidates with PhD/Postgraduate Qualification in Pharmacy Practice and relevant experience in above field.

FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

● GENETICS AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY UNIT

POST OF SENIOR LECTURER (GRADE I)/ SENIOR LECTURER (GRADE II)/ LECTURER (PROBATIONARY)

Preference will be given to candidates with BSc. (Honors) Degree in Biology, Genetics, Molecular Biology, Botany or Zoology with Ph.D. from a relevant discipline.

● DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

POST OF SENIOR LECTURER (GRADE I)/ SENIOR LECTURER (GRADE II)/ LECTURER (PROBATIONARY)

Preference will be given to candidates with BSc. (Special) Degree in Mathematics and postgraduate qualification related to Number Theory and Combinatorics.

FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES AND COMMERCE

● DEPARTMENT OF ESTATE MANAGEMENT AND VALUATION

POST OF SENIOR LECTURER (GRADE I)/ SENIOR LECTURER (GRADE II)/ LECTURER (PROBATIONARY)

Areas of Speciality : Real Estate Management/ Valuation/ Construction Management

Qualifications for Senior Lecturer (Grade I/II) - First or Second Class upper B.Sc. special Degree in Estate Management & Valuation or B.Sc. Special/Honours Degree in any other related field

And Postgraduate degree in the areas of Real Estate Management, Valuation, Construction Management. Preference will be given for holders of Doctor of Philosophy in related areas.

Qualifications for Lecturer (Probationary) - BSc. (Special) Degree in Estate Management & Valuation or any other related BSc. Special/Honours Degree with a First or Second Class Upper Division.

GROSS SALARY:

A) Senior Lecturer Grade I - U-AC 3(I) Rs.91310 - 7x2170 - 106500 p.m. (01.01.2020) Approximate Gross Salary Rs.255,250/-

B) Senior Lecturer Grade II - U-AC 3(II) Rs.79360 - 11x1630 - 97290 p.m. (01.01.2020) Approximate Gross Salary Rs.222,865/-

C) Lecturer (Probationary) - U-AC 3 (IV) Rs.54600 - 10x1335 - 67950 p.m. (01.01.2020) Approximate Gross Salary Rs.136,110/-

The other allowances determined by the University Grants Commission will be paid in addition to the above salary.

Benefits: Senior Lecturer Grade I/ Senior Lecturer Grade II/ Lecturer (Probationary)

- Selected candidates will contribute 10% from their monthly salary to the Universities' Provident Fund while the University will make a contribution of 15% of their salary of which 8% will be credited to Universities Pension Fund and 7% to the Universities Provident Fund. In addition they will become contributors to the Employees' Trust Fund which the University will contribute an amount equivalent to 3% of the Salary.

- Gratuity payment in accordance with the provisions of the payment of Gratuity Act 12 of 1983.

- Senior Lecturer Grade II and above are eligible for one year of Sabbatical Leave with full pay or two years without pay on completion of seven years of service. Further those proceeding abroad during the Sabbatical Leave Period are eligible to receive full air passage for self and spouse.

APPLICATIONS & PARTICULARS

Application forms and further particulars including qualifications could be downloaded from the University website www.sjp.ac.lk.

Duly completed applications (downloaded from the Web Site) should be forwarded under registered cover indicating the post applied for on the top left hand corner of the envelope to reach the Deputy Registrar/ Academic Establishments Division, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Gangodawila, Nugegododa on or before 06.04.2021

Applicants from University System / Government Departments / Corporations/ Statutory Boards should channel their applications through the Heads of their respective Institutions.

The University reserves the right to shortlist the candidates. Applications which do not conform to the requirements, incomplete applications, applications not in the relevant format (not downloaded from the Web Site) and applications received after the closing date will be rejected without intimation.

Registrar,
University of Sri Jayewardenepura,
Gangodawila, Nugegododa.



State Ministry of Samurdhi, Household Economy
Micro Finance, Self Employment and Business Development



Sri Lanka Social Security Board

Applications are invited from citizens who are fulfilling the basic qualifications for the undermentioned permanent posts lying vacant at the Sri Lanka Social Security Board.

1. Social Security Officer (Information Technology) - 01

Qualifications for External Applicants (1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 of the below qualifications)

01. Possess a Degree in Information Technology obtained from a University recognized by the University Grants Commission

or

02. Passed an Intermediate Examination of a reputed Chartered Professional Institution relevant to the subject field to the post

or

03. Possess a Competency Certificate not below NVQ level seven (07) issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institution recognized by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission

or

04. Possess a competency certificate not below NVQ Level six (06) issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institution recognized by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission

and

Should possess a minimum of five (05) years experience working in the Public Sector, State Corporation, Board or a Statutory Institution after obtaining qualifications

or

05. Possess a competency certificate not below NVQ level Five (05) issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institution recognized by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission

and

Should possess a minimum of ten (10) years experience working in the public sector, state corporation, board or a statutory institution after obtaining qualifications.

Qualification for Internal Applicants

01. Should fulfill the qualifications as mentioned above for the external applicants

or

02. Should have completed 05 years of satisfactory service in a post in the relevant field as a Management Assistant - non-technical (MA 2) service category in Trade II.

Age Limit: Should not be below 22 years and should not be above 45 years. The maximum age limit does not apply to internal applicants.

Salary Scale: As per Management Services Circular 02/2016 dated 25.04.2016, the salary scale entitled to your post is JM 1-1 (2016) - Rs. 42,600 - 10 x 775 - 18 - 1135 - 70580

The salary step at recruitment is Rs. 42,600.00

Other Allowances - Entitled to Government approved allowances.

2. Computer Network Assistant - 01

Qualifications for External Applicants

Should possess a competency certificate not below (NVQ) level five (05) issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institution recognized by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for Computer Networking.

Qualifications for Internal Applicants

Should fulfill the qualifications mentioned above for external applicants.

Age Limit: Should not be less than 18 years and not above 45 years. The maximum age limit does not apply to internal applicants.

Salary Scale: As per Management Services Circular 02/2016 dated 25.04.2016, the salary scale entitled to your post is MA 2-1 (2016) - Rs. 30,310 - 10x300 - 7x350 - 4-495 - 20x660 - 50,940

The salary step at recruitment is Rs. 30,310.00

Other allowances - Entitled to Government approved allowances.

3. Book-Keeper - 01

Qualifications for External Applicants

Should possess a competency certificate not below (NVQ) level five (V) issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institution recognized by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for Book-keeping or Accounting.

Qualifications for Internal Applicants

Should fulfill the qualifications as mentioned above for the external applicants.

Age Limit: Should not be less than 18 years and should not be above 45 years. The maximum age limit does not apply to internal applicants.

Salary Scale : As per the Management Services Circular 02/2016 dated 25.04.2016, the salary scale entitled to your post is MA 2-1 (2016) - Rs. 30,310 - 10x300 7x350 - 4x495 - 20x660 - 50,940

The salary scale at recruitment is Rs. 30,310

Other Allowances - Entitled to Government approved allowances.

General Conditions:

Every Applicant,

- Should be a Sri Lankan citizen
- Should be physically and mentally sound to discharge details entrusted to this post satisfactorily
- Should possess an excellent moral character
- Should be able to fulfill competency in official languages
- Preference will be given to applicants able to work in three languages Sinhala, Tamil with English or the ability to work in English with Sinhala / Tamil and to applicants with computer literacy.
- All copies of certificates relevant to qualifications should be certified as true copies by a Justice of the Peace and submitted with the application
- Applicants who fulfill qualifications to the maximum will be given preference and will be called for an interview

For applicants applying for the post 01 above.

The application of those who have been recruited for Government Graduate Trainees for year 2020 training will not be taken into consideration and an Affidavit for not receiving training should be submitted with the application.

This post is permanent. Should contribute to Employees Provident Fund and the Employees Trust Fund. Will be made permanent after a probationary period of three years. Recruitment will be made to this post based on the results of a written test or an interview. The Board of Directors retains the right of the final decision to fill this post completely or not.

Your applications should be sent to the "Chairman, Sri Lanka Social Security Board, No. 18, Rajagiriya Road, Rajagiriya" by registered post or could be hand-delivered to the Administration Section of the Head Office to be received before 30.03.2021. Applicants already working in the Public Sector or in statutory institutions should channel their applications through the Head of the Institution. The name of the post applying for should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. Further details could be obtained from our website: www.ssb.gov.lk

**Senior Lecturer, Saman Handaragama
Chairman**

Sri Lanka Social Security Board

"Samaja Arakshana Piyasa"

No. 18, Rajagiriya Road,

Rajagiriya.

08.03.2021



SLIIT
Discover Your Future

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

**SENIOR LECTURER / LECTURER
QUANTITY SURVEYING**

The Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT) is a pioneer in the higher education sector of Sri Lanka and offers undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in a wide range of disciplines (www.sliit.lk). It is committed to providing the best student experience through a dedicated group of academic and non-academic staff. The main campus located in Malabe has excellent academic and recreational facilities.

The Faculty of Engineering at SLIIT is the academic home of more than 90 staff and a growing cohort of undergraduate and postgraduate students. The faculty offers cutting-edge degree programs and encourages a strong research culture. The Department of Quantity Surveying offers a franchised B.Sc. (Honours) degree with Liverpool John Moores University in the UK. The department has a strong cohort of students and highly qualified permanent and visiting staff.

We are inviting applications for positions at the grades of Senior Lecturer (Higher Grade) / Senior Lecturer / Lecturer (tenure-track). A recognized undergraduate honours degree in quantity surveying is required for all positions and candidates for senior lecturer positions must have research-based post-graduate degrees (doctoral degree for higher grade) recognized by SLIIT. The appointees will contribute to research and teaching in quantity surveying and engage in administrative duties and professional service. Applicants with expertise in all areas of quantity surveying are encouraged to apply.

A successful candidate appointed at the Senior Lecturer (Higher Grade) or Senior Lecturer grade may be considered for the position of the Head of the Department of Quantity Surveying based on his/her overall experience. The tenure of headship is three years and renewable subject to satisfactory performance. The duties of the Head include teaching and research in addition to the administrative responsibilities of the department.

SLIIT offers a competitive salary and benefits package commensurate with qualifications and experience.

To apply, please send a detailed CV, a cover letter and contact details of 3 referees by email to careers@sliit.lk clearly indicating the area of expertise and the position grade. The deadline for applications is **24th March 2021**.



SLIIT
Discover Your Future

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

TECHNICAL STAFF VACANCIES

The Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT) is a pioneer in the higher education sector of Sri Lanka and offers undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in a wide range of disciplines (www.sliit.lk). It is committed to providing the best student experience through a dedicated group of academic and non-academic staff. The main campus located in Malabe has excellent academic and recreational facilities.

The Faculty of Engineering at SLIIT is the academic home of more than 100 staff and a growing cohort of undergraduate and postgraduate students. The faculty offers cutting-edge degree programs and encourages a strong research culture. The engineering laboratories are an integral part of the experiential learning environment of our undergraduate and graduate students and support the research activities of staff and students.

We are inviting applications from individuals with strong laboratory experience for Technical Staff positions in the Departments of Civil Engineering, Electrical & Electronic Engineering and Mechanical Engineering.

The required qualifications are:

- A bachelor's degree or an NVQ 6 level qualification in a relevant engineering/science-based discipline from a recognized institution. Candidates with NVQ 5 level qualifications and substantial laboratory experience may be considered.
- Excellent hands-on experience in engineering laboratory equipment, tools, computers and software, and equipment maintenance.
- Five to ten years of experience in a laboratory at an academic or industrial organization.
- Good communication skills in English and experience in working with students.
- Demonstrated organizational, multi-tasking and interpersonal skills.

SLIIT offers a competitive salary and benefits package commensurate with qualifications and experience.

To apply, please send a detailed CV, a cover letter and contact details of 2 referees by email to careers@sliit.lk. The deadline for applications is **24th March 2021**.



MARKETING MANAGER

LANKA CANNERIES (PVT) LTD. the market leader in food products under the brand name of MD, with a turnover in excess of Rs. 2 billion is in search of a dynamic, results oriented Marketing Manager with the following requirements for immediate employment.

This challenging role requires credibility, integrity, self-motivation and creative thinking.

The ideal candidate should possess a University Degree in Marketing or Business Management with CIM or SLIM full qualification and experience in a similar capacity in Brand Management preferably in the FMCG sector.

- Co-ordination of marketing activities of the company, including displays and promotional activities. Develop and execute marketing campaigns & media buys.
- Implementation of marketing strategies to increase market penetration, enabling growth and profitability.
- Developing an in-depth understanding of the market and its requirements which will result in further growth and profitability.
- Assessing, developing and where necessary changing fundamental strategies, approaches and practices so that the business can develop and grow.
- Strengthening brand awareness through innovative ideas and strategies. Initiate new brand and product development projects to satisfy the consumer needs and ensure product superiority.
- Work strategically to provide first class service to our customers, distributors & supermarkets by developing existing relationships to their full potential and focusing on developing new ones.
- Managing, coaching and developing members of the staff through dynamic leadership and effective delegation.
- Be able to work independently on specific Brand Categories and be able to execute campaigns.
- Knowledge on Research in industry trends and competitive landscape.
- Strong strategic thinking and analytical skills and exceptional verbal & written communication skills and interpersonal skills.
- Experience using social media platforms such as Google Ads, Youtube, Facebook, web and best practices in social media and digital advertising.

You should have a strong record of leading and inspiring with a confident, entrepreneurial and energetic approach. Excellent all round commercial skills with the ability to formulate, propose and implement complex business plans are additional attributes looked for.

The remuneration package offered to the selected candidate will be in keeping with the importance of this position and will match industry standards.

Apply with complete curriculum vitae, contact telephone numbers and names and addresses of two non-related referees within 10 days of this advertisement to:

The Managing Director
LANKA CANNERIES (PVT) LTD.
45/75 Narahenpita Road, Colombo 5.
Tel: 0112-586622. Fax: 0112-368480.
E-mail: careers@lankacanneries.com



**SWRD BANDARANAIKE NATIONAL MEMORIAL FOUNDATION
THE OWNER AND MANAGEMENT ARM OF THE BMICH INVITE
APPLICATIONS FOR THE BELOW POSITION**

HEAD OF FINANCE

Reporting to Chief Executive Officer, as a member of the organization's Senior Management team this is a pivotal position which requires strategic thinking capabilities, and ability to work closely with all departments in the organization.

Job Profile:

The successful candidate will be in charge of an exciting leadership role related to all financial aspects of the organization and will formulate all strategic plans related to financial well-being and growth across the organization.

Key Responsibilities:

- Provide strategic direction to be consistent with the business objectives of the organization.
- Ensure integrity, accuracy and completeness of the financial accounting, management information and reporting system by providing leadership to the finance team.
- Overlook the budget process of the company by aligning the entire cross functional activities to a common objective.
- Take up ownership for the organization's strategic planning and budgeting process.
- Monitor and drive financial progress of the business through timely and relevant financial reporting and management information.
- Oversee all financial control and related processes across all functions and business units on a continuous basis.
- Review accounting, risk, legal, statutory audits, tax optimization and treasury departments in order to meet the organization objectives.
- Present monthly and annual financial reports and plans to the CEO and the Board of Directors in order to make effective strategic financial decisions.
- Manage the finance team in order to bring out optimum work performance for the betterment of the organization.
- Liaise with a variety of external and internal stakeholders including the Leadership team and the Board of Directors.

The Person:

- Member of CA, CIMA, CMA or ACCA.
- MBA from a recognized university will be an added qualification.
- Have a sound knowledge on ERP systems.
- 10-15 years of relevant senior management experience in the field of Finance with more than 5 years of corporate level exposure.
- Age band between 42 - 55 years (will be strictly adhering to the age band)
- An energetic team player with positive mind set and high degree of leadership qualities, interpersonal skills coupled with integrity, commitment, passion and speed.
- The remuneration plan is competitive and includes a vehicle allowance and fuel allowance.

How to apply for above position:

- Your CV will be handled confidentially and with care.
- Only those possessing the minimum advertised qualifications, relevant experience and age band will be shortlisted for preliminary interviews.
- The selection decision of the interview panel will be final and selections will purely be on merit.
- Please forward your CV along with contact details on or before 31st March 2021 to careers@bmich.com or by post to the below address.

Director/CEO,
BMICH,
Buddhaloka Mawatha,
Colombo 7.



BMICH International Congress, Conventions, Conferences, Exhibitions & Events
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VACANCIES

Technical Officer (Central & VRV Air Conditioning Systems)
Candidate should possess minimum 03 years experience in the field. NVQ 5 certificate is an additional qualification.

Technicians (Central Air Conditioning System)
Candidate should possess minimum 02 years experience in repairing, maintaining and servicing of Central Air Conditioning Systems. NVQ 3 certificate or above will be an additional qualification.

Technicians (VRV Air Conditioning System)
Candidate should possess minimum 02 years experience in repairing, maintaining and servicing of VRV Air Conditioners. NVQ 3 certificate or above will be an additional qualification.

Electrician
Candidate should possess minimum 02 years experience in Single Phase / Three Phase wiring and Control Panel connections for central air conditioning systems. NVQ 4 certificate or above will be an additional qualification.

Salary and other perks are negotiable.
Walk-in interview on weekdays between 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

CIVIMECH (PVT) LIMITED
118, Datugemunu Street, Kobuwala, Dehiwala 10350
Tel : 0707 443727
E-mail : jobs@civimech.com
Authorized Dealer for **DAIKIN**

TEA SMALLHOLDER FACTORIES PLC

(Managing Agents - John Keells Teas (Pvt) Limited)

MANAGER-EXTENSION

Tea Smallholder Factories PLC wishes to recruit an energetic individual having at least five years managerial experience as a Manager Extension in the Low Country Bought Leaf Processing Business.

Must have a proven track record, a thorough knowledge on the low country agricultural process through the latest extension concepts. Ability to liaise with smallholder growers in a highly competitive environment and effectively communicate and present extension services.

Experience on TSHDA & TRI will be an added advantage.

Salary negotiable.

Applications should be forwarded within 7 days to: nishika.tsfl@keells.com

The Chief Executive Officer
Tea Smallholder Factories PLC
No. 4, Leyden Bastian Road.

John Keells Group in an equal opportunity employer and we invite applications from all suitably qualified individuals, to join our team

We are looking for full time and part time Doctors with SLMC license for a State-of-the-Art medical clinic situated in the heart of Colombo.

Email: your CV's to: cmbjobinquiries@gmail.com

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in the **Sunday Observer**

WESTERN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL ENGINEERING ORGANIZATION

Applications are hereby invited from candidates, aged not more than 60 years, for the Post of Foreman Mechanical / Auto Electrician, for Recruitment / Deployment for proposed Unit for the repairs to vehicles of the Western Provincial Council, on casual basis.

Duly completed applications marked the post applied for on the top left-hand corner of the envelope, enclosing applications with complete bio-data (CV) of the applicant and relevant qualifications and experiences, indicated in the application and enclosing copies of the qualifications and experience, should either be sent by Registered Post or hand delivered, to the following address to be received or before 29.03.2021.

Foreman - 01 Post

Salary : Rs. 3,000.00 per day plus additional overtime allowances are entitled.

Qualifications : NDT/HNDE/TTI (Katunayaka) or followed a course of Diploma in Mechanics through a recognized Institution and five (05) years experience or NCT (Mechanical) and 10 years experience.

Mechanic / Auto Electrician (03 Posts)

Salary : Rs.2,500.00 per day plus, additional overtime allowances are entitled.

Qualifications : NVQ 3 Qualification on the relevant field and five (05) years experience or (ten) 10 years experience in the relevant field.

Apprentice / Trainee (Mechanic / Auto Electrician)

Applicants who have completed Vocational Training from the National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority (NAITA), Orugodawatta Motor Vehicle Engineering Institute or any other recognized Institution too could apply and a daily allowance will also be paid.

Deputy Chief Secretary (Engineering)
Engineering Organization (W.P.),
5th Floor, No. 204, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla.
Telephone : 0112-092506, 0718-108452

VACANCIES

We are a fast-growing engineering company with a Handling industrial type machinery, Weighbridge Systems, Construction Machinery, Material Testing Equipment, Road marking paint manufacturing, road marking applications & Industrial calibrations. We require highly dynamic individuals for the below posts,

Chemical Engineer Manufacturing of Thermoplastic Paint Factory (Male)

- BSc. (Hon.) in Chemistry from recognized university/ or certificate of institute of chemistry.
- Academic & Professional qualifications would be an advantage.
- Minimum five (05) years working experience in similar capacity or paint manufacturing industries.
- Experience of chemical testing laboratory would be an advantage.
- Age below 35 years.
- Long hour working ability with labour handling / report making would be an advantage

Sales Executive / Assistant Sales Engineer (Male)

- NDT/ HNDE or any other qualification (Technical Diploma) equivalent in the field of Engineering.
- Oral and written communication in English.
- Minimum three (03) years' work experience in construction Industries.
- Preference will be given to those who have experience in Concrete batching plants, Asphalt plants, Crusher plants & related machinery in sales & service field.
- Age below 35 years.
- Valid riding/driving license is essential & should work at field.
 - Saturday is a working day.
 - Salary is negotiable.

•Preference will be given to candidates who are living close to Malabe, Athurugiriya & Battaramulla areas.

Please forward your application with up-to-date CV along with the names & contact details of two non-related referees within two weeks of this advertisement to, E-mail: levlin@levlingroup.lk / maresh@levlingroup.lk

HR & Administration Department,
LEVLIN HOLDINGS (PVT) LTD,
No: 597/2, Athurugiriya Road, Malabe.
Tel: 011-7392991-4

POST OF PRINCIPAL

Applications are invited from Graduate Male Teachers with 10 years experience, and with administrative skills for a leading Christian Boys' School in Colombo.

Age below 60 years.
A good knowledge of Sinhala and English is essential.

- Salary and other Terms negotiable
- Official Residence provided

Forward your CV under Registered Post, with copies of Educational and Professional qualifications, contact Phone Number & recent testimonials from two non-related referees to the undersigned.

The Secretary
Sri Lanka Baptist Sangamaya
46, Kynsey Road, Colombo 8.
slbs821@gmail.com

POST OF PRINCIPAL

We are a reputed International School located in Galle

We are on the lookout for a highly dynamic and dedicated person for the above post with the following qualifications and experience.

1. **Age** : Male or Female between 40 - 60 year years of age.
2. **Educational Qualifications** : A Master's Degree in Education is preferred OR at least a Bachelor's Degree in Education or equivalent from a recognized university.
3. **English Language Proficiency**: A minimum of **Credit pass** in General Certificate of Education, Ordinary Level (GCE-O/L) Examination or higher qualification in English Language, and a high command of proficiency in verbal and written communication are compulsory.
4. **Experience** : A minimum of 10 years of teaching experience, including 5 years in an administrative capacity as Principal or similar position in a reputed national or international educational institute in Sri Lanka or overseas.

He/She should have exceptional administrative, business and financial acumen, interpersonal and communication skills and a thorough knowledge of current educational philosophy, teaching and learning methodology and ICT based delivery systems. Further, he/she should ideally be a visionary with 360 degree managerial skills to lead a motivated team of faculty and administrative staff.

Salary and benefits would be commensurate with the desired qualifications, previous exposure and industry experience. Applicants who are passionate about education and are willing to take up the challenge to build and sustain a fine academic institution to achieve the vision of the school, which is to be a leader in school education, only must apply.

Applicants fulfilling the above mentioned eligibility criteria should forward an updated resume and a recent photograph to reach avanthib@thefinance.lk within 7 days of this advertisement. We reserve the right to contact only those who have been shortlisted.

Telford Education Services Limited
No. 55, Laurie's Road,
Colombo 04.



SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL (SLMC)

VAGANCY

Recruitment of Legal Stenographer

Applications are invited from experienced Stenographer competent in both Sinhala and English.

Terms and conditions of service and remunerations are negotiable.

Experience in litigation stenography and short hand in both languages will be an added qualification.

Apply within 10 days from this advertisement with CVs. For further inquiries, contact the Registrar of the SLMC.

Dr. Ananda Hapugoda
The Registrar,
Sri Lanka Medical Council,
31, Norris Canal Rd,
Colombo 10.
T.P. 011 2 691 848
E-mail: admin@mc.lk

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

For a leading Textile showroom

Required more than a year of experience.

01. **Chief Cashier**
over 1 years of experience in a recognized company.
Salary Rs.45,000 - Rs.50,000
02. **Cashier (Men)**
Salary Rs.45,000 - Rs.50,000
03. **Cashier (Women)**
Salary Rs.30,000 - Rs.35,000
04. **Sales (Men)**
Salary Rs.35,000 - Rs.40,000
05. **Sales (Women)**
Salary Rs.30,000 and above

Accommodation can be provided for male employees.

Village officer / Grama Niladhari Certificates, Police Certificates, Educational Certificates, and all other certificates are required.

Interviews will be held on 17th, 18th & 19th of March
Time : 10 a.m. - 2 pm

"Super Style", No. 12, Holy Cross Road, Gampaha. (Near Seylan Bank)

sisiracomasar@gmail.com

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UNFPA Vacancy Notice

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) strives to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled. In Sri Lanka, we deliver this mandate by advocating for reproductive rights and gender equality and promoting evidence-based decision-making in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. Here is your chance to join our team!

Applications are invited from Sri Lankan Nationals for the following vacant position:

PROGRAMME ASSISTANT – Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, Population Data and Ageing, SC4 / SB2 – Peg 5

This is an extension to the application deadline. The candidates, who have already applied to UNFPA Job Opening ID 35556, do not need to re-apply.

- Type: Service Contract (SC)
- Revised Deadline: Monday, 22 March 2021, mid-night Sri Lanka time

Please review the complete Job Descriptions, view application instructions, and submit the application using the following link:

srilanka.unfpa.org/vacancies

Applications must be submitted through the web link given above. Applications received through other means will not be considered or contacted.

Only applications meeting all requirements as per vacancy announcements will be considered. We thank all applicants, however only the shortlisted ones will be contacted



Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) (Private) Limited

'Make Happy Journeys'

VACANCIES FOR SECRETARIES (ON CONTRACT)


We are looking for highly motivated individuals with right attitudes to fill the vacancies of Secretaries .

If you are interested and possess the relevant qualifications & experience mentioned in our website <http://www.airport.lk>Corporate>careers> Please send in your resume prepared accordingly to the specimen application given in the same website with copies of the relevant certificates to the following address on or before **March 25 , 2021** by only registered post.

Please note that the applications without copies of the relevant certificates and forwarded in other modes and not in accordance with the application given in our Website will be rejected.

Please note that only short listed candidates will be notified.

**CHAIRMAN
AIRPORT & AVIATION SERVICES (SRI LANKA)(PRIVATE) LIMITED
BANDARANAIKE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
KATUNAYAKE**



Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) (Private) Limited

'Make Happy Journeys'

We are looking for highly motivated individuals with right attitudes to fill the following vacancies

POST OF INTERNAL AUDITOR GRADE II

1 Qualifications & Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Should possess membership of ICASL/CIMA/ACCA b. Should possess a minimum of two (02) years post qualifying experience in Auditing/Accounting at Executive Level in a reputed organization c. Preference will be given to those who possess a Degree in Accountancy/Finance/Business Administration/ Management/ Commerce from a university recognized by UGC in addition to the above professional qualification
2 Age	: Below 40 years on the closing date of applications
3 Salary	: The remuneration package offered will be attractive. In addition, the selected candidates will receive attractive fringe benefits.
4 Method of selection	: Selection will be made after an interview

General

The selected candidates will have to perform duties at any Airport in any part of the Island as and when necessary.

If you are interested and possess the relevant qualifications and experience, please send in your resume prepared according to the specimen application given in our Website www.airport.lk>CORPORATE>CAREERS with copies of the relevant certificates to the following address on or before **March 25, 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**



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Hayleys Group

Hayleys Group is amongst Sri Lanka's largest, and most respected diversified conglomerates with a turnover in excess of USD 1 Billion. To explore the World of Hayleys, visit us at: www.hayleys.com.

Hayleys Fabric PLC

One of the pioneers in fabric manufacture, situated in Neboda – Horana, is a BOI approved company, listed in the Colombo Stock exchange, is a subsidiary of Hayleys PLC.

Head of Operations – Dye House

The Dye house has a range of machinery for Cotton and Polyester dyeing with long tube and drum type dye vessels from reputable European brands. The entire operation is system driven with automated dispensing systems. The current product mix ranges from cotton, cotton blends, polyester and poly blends with fabric weights ranging from light to heavy with a total gross output of approximately 33 Tons per day.

Remuneration, designation and other perquisites will depend on the candidate profile and is negotiable.

Candidate Profile:

We seek an experienced professional ready to commit to performance targets with excellent managerial capabilities in directing a team. Ability to take quick decisions, experienced judgments, identify potential failures at process level are necessary. The characteristics of a 'Completer/Finisher' with very good communication and training skills are also requirements.

- Degree/Diploma or equivalent qualification from a recognized institution in Textile or Chemistry.
- Minimum 5 years' experience as a dye house manager, preferably work experience in an automated dye house.
- Knowledge in Knitting, Finishing and recipe formulation will be a distinct advantage.
- Should have a sound knowledge about the dyes and chemicals.
- Should be an independent, well-motivated individual with the ability to work long hours with a team.
- Experience in using SAP would be an added advantage.

Key Responsibilities:

- To manage a large work force with a team of executives.
- Process control, dye cycle time improvements.
- Ensure 100% performance to plan.
- Maintain Wastage and re-work within set targets.
- Maintain 96% plus Right First Time.
- Ensuring adherence and compliance to the set procedures and providing recommendations for continuous improvement.

Head of Dye laboratory

The Dye lab is fully equipped with state of the art machinery for recipe formulation with mini bulk dye machines and other ancillary machines to ensure repeatability at bulk. The entire operation in the lab and in the dye house is system driven with automated dispensing systems and has a fully experienced team. The current product mix ranges from cotton, cotton blends, polyester and poly blends with fabric weights ranging from light to heavy with a total gross output of approximately 33 Tons per day.

Remuneration, designation and other perquisites will depend on the candidate profile and is negotiable.

Candidate Profile:

We seek a strong and experienced professional ready to commit to performance targets with excellent managerial capabilities in directing a team. Experience in working in a dye lab in a large fabric mill will definitely be an advantage. Ability to take quick decisions, experienced judgments, identify potential failures, develop stable recipes with cost effective combinations are essential. The characteristics of a 'completer/Finisher' with very good communication and training skills are also requirements.

- A graduate in Chemistry or equivalent qualification from a recognized textile institution.
- Very good managerial, communication skills with a passion for achieving KPIs.
- Minimum 5 years' experience as a leader in a dye laboratory with excellent ability to colour match.
- Should have dyeing and finishing process knowledge with a sound knowledge on dyes, chemicals and compatibility.
- Experience in using SAP would be an added advantage.

Key Responsibilities:

- To manage and lead a team of technical people.
- Develop cost effective recipes to meet all quality parameters.
- To achieve KPIs for lab to bulk success rate.
- Meet KPI for first time lab dip submission rates.
- Manage all accreditations for top global brands.

If you think you have what it takes to be successful in this challenging role, please apply via email to careers@hayleysfabric.com indicating the **position applied for on the subject line of the email**. The closing date for applications will be **22nd March 2021**.

To find out more about our career opportunities, log on to:

-  [hayleys-fabric-plc](https://www.linkedin.com/company/hayleys-fabric-plc)
-  [thehayleysgroup](https://www.instagram.com/thehayleysgroup)
-  [hayleysfabriclk](https://www.facebook.com/hayleysfabriclk)
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Magazine Issued with **Sunday Observer**

Hot Line **011 2 429 369
011 2 429 368**

E-mail adzso@gmail.com

STATE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, COAST CONSERVATION, WASTE DISPOSAL AND COMMUNITY CLEANLINESS

SUPPORT TO COLOMBO URBAN REGENERATION PROJECT
AIIB FUNDED

VACANCIES

Applications are hereby invited from suitably qualified Citizens of Sri Lanka, for vacancies existing in the below-mentioned posts. The applicants should possess the following qualifications and experience.

A. ADDITIONAL PROJECT DIRECTOR (SOCIAL) – (PS 2), POST - 01**Qualification & Experience: (1 or 2 or 3 or 4 below)**

1. A Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field, which is recognized by the University Grants Commission

OR

A Qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field

OR

An Associate membership / A similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field

WITH

At least 15 years post qualifying experience at Managerial Level out of which 07 years should be in the senior Managerial Level

2. A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field, which is recognized by the University Grant Commission.

OR

A Qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field

AND

Corporate / Chartered membership or a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field

OR

A postgraduate Degree in the relevant field with at least 13 years post qualifying experience in Managerial Level out of which 06 years should be in the senior Managerial Level.

3. A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field, which is recognized by the University Grants Commission.

OR

A Qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field

AND

A postgraduate Degree in the relevant field

AND

Corporate/Chartered membership or a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field

WITH

At Least 11 years post qualifying experience in Managerial Level out of which 05 years should be in the senior Managerial Level

4. Grade I officer of a government All Island Services or a similar status in the relevant field

WITH

At least 06 years of experience in a Grade I post.

B. ASSISTANT SOCIOLOGIST – (PS 6), POST - 03**Qualification & Experience: (1 or 2 or 3 below)**

1. A Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field, which is recognized by the University Grants Commission

OR

A Qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field

OR

An Associate membership / A similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field

OR

Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 7, issued by a Technical/ Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field

AND

At least 4 years of experience in the required area of specialization.

2. Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the national vocational Qualification Level 6, issued by a Technical/ Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field.

AND

At least 09 years of experience in the required area of specialization.

3. Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the national vocational Qualification Level 5, issued by a Technical/ Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field.

AND

At least 14 years of experience in the required area of specialization

C. INTERNAL AUDITOR – (PS 4)**Qualification & Experience: (1 or 2 below)**

1. A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field, which is recognized by the University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka.

OR

A Qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field

OR

An Associate membership / A similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field

WITH

At least 07 years post qualifying experience in the relevant field

2. An officer of the Government All Island Services Class III/ II or above or similar status in the relevant field.

WITH

At least 09 years of experience in class III/II Post

D. LEGAL OFFICER - (PS4-A) - POST 01**Qualification & Experience: (1 or 2 below)**

1. A Successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field which is recognized by the University Grants Commission

OR

A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field

OR

An Associate membership / A similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field

WITH

At least 09 years post qualifying experience in the relevant field.

2. An officer of the Government All Island Services Class III/II or above or similar status in the relevant field.

WITH

At least 09 years of experience in class III/II post

E. ASSISTANT PROJECT DIRECTOR (ARCHITECT) – (PS-4) - POST 01**Qualification & Experience: (01 or 02 below)**

1. A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field, which is recognized by the University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka.

OR

A Qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field

OR

An Associate membership/ A similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field

WITH

At least 07 years post qualifying experience in the relevant field

2. An officer of the Government All Island Services Class III/ II or above or similar status in the relevant field.

WITH

At least 09 years of experience in class III/II Post

F. DATA PROCESSING OFFICER – (PS-6) - POST 01**Qualification & Experience: (1 or 2 or 3 below)**

1. A Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field, which is recognized by the University Grants Commission

OR

A Qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field

OR

An Associate membership / A similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field

OR

Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 7, issued by a Technical/ Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field

AND

At least 4 years of experience in the required area of specialization.

2. Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the national vocational Qualification Level 5, issued by a Technical/ Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field.

AND

At least 09 years of experience in the required area of specialization.

3. Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the national vocational Qualification Level 5, issued by a Technical/ Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field.

AND

At least 14 years of experience in the required area of specialization

General condition :- Experience in foreign funded project will be an added advantage

Nature of Appointment :- Contract Basis, initially for one year.

Salary :- Subject to provision in the Management Service Circular 01/2019 dated 05.03.2019.

Please apply within 10 days with complete curriculum vitae giving educational, professional qualification and experience with two contacts of non-related referees to reach the e-mail address (dbrmuda@gmail.com) and indicate the post applied for on the top of the application.

Copies of the certificates to prove the qualification and experience should be sent as a scanned document with the CV and all incomplete applications will be rejected.

Director General
Urban Development Authority
07th Floor
Sethsiripaya
Battaramulla.

TEA SMALLHOLDER FACTORIES PLC
(Managing Agents - John Keells Teas (Pvt) Limited)

TEA FACTORY SUPERINTENDENT

Tea Smallholder Factories PLC wishes to recruit an energetic individual having at least five years managerial experience in the Bought Leaf Processing business in Low Country, to manage one of its units. Must have a proven track record, a thorough knowledge on present tea manufacturing processes and be conversant with the cultivation practices in the low country. Ability to liaise with small holder growers in a highly competitive environment and effectively taking part in extension services is a pre-requisite.

Salary negotiable.

Applications should be forwarded within 7 days to: nishika.tsfl@keells.com

The Chief Executive Officer
Tea Smallholder Factories PLC
No. 4, Leyden Bastian Road.



John Keells Group is an equal opportunity employer and we invite applications from all suitably qualified individuals, to join our team

STATE MINISTRY OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT,
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, RESEARCH &
INNOVATIONSNATIONAL ENGINEERING
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
CENTRE OF SRI LANKA

VACANCIES

NERD Centre is the premier engineering research and development institution in the country, coming under the purview of the State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education and Research & Innovations engaged in a variety of intellectually challenging Engineering Research & Development projects and industrial services on national importance and priority.

Applications are invited from qualified, energetic, proactive and innovative Sri Lankan professionals to fill vacancies for the posts mentioned below. You are kindly informed to browse through the Centre's Website: www.nerdc.lk to obtain details of the relevant qualifications and experience and other related details for applying the posts mentioned below.

S/No.	Title of the Post	Salary Category
1.	Research Engineer	AR 1
2.	Accountant	MM 1-1
3.	Assistant Director (Administration)	MM 1-1
4.	Architect	MM 1-1
5.	Superintendent (Workshop)	JM 1-2
6.	Book Keeper	MA 2-2
7.	Technical Assistant	MA 2-2

How to Apply:

- All other related information and details could be downloaded from the official website of the National Engineering Research & Development Centre of Sri Lanka (NERDC): www.nerdc.lk
- Closing date for the applications: 31 March 2021

Director General,
National Engineering Research & Development Centre of Sri Lanka,
Industrial Estate,
Ekala, Ja-ela.
Tel: 011-2236284, 2236384, 2236307
Web: www.nerdc.lk

Singhalese
Sports Club VACANCY

Manager Member Relations

With over 100 years of providing the best facilities to Sri Lankans, the Singhalese Sports Club (SSC) is Sri Lanka's premier Cricket Club with a firm commitment to empowering sports. The SSC is now on the lookout for an energetic individual to join our team of top performers.

The ideal candidate would be a dynamic and self-motivated individual. The successful candidate will report to the General Manager and will be accountable to the Executive Committee of the Club. The candidate should have a pleasing personality and possess the ability to interact cordially and professionally.

Duties & Responsibilities

- Ensure that all members are extended service levels beyond expectation.
- Handling all questions, information requests, and complaints regarding membership.
- Processing membership applications, renewals, and resignations.
- Maintaining and updating membership records.
- Handling all member communication activities.
- Collecting data, tracking membership statistics, and preparing reports.
- Developing and implementing strategies to increase revenue from members.
- Preparing membership marketing material.
- Organizing events and activities for existing and prospective members.
- To ensure that the club website, social media are upto date.

Experience

- At least 20 years experience in the hospitality and related industry. Knowledge of training staff in customer service.

Candidates meeting above criteria should send their completed Curriculum Vitae including the details of two non-related referees to **The General Manager, Singhalese Sports Club, #35, Maitland Place, Colombo 07.** within seven [07] days of this advertisement.

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www.adz.lkHotline: 0112 429 369 | Email: adzsv@gmail.comPLACE YOUR AD ON **ADZ MAGAZINE & GET FREE AD** ON WEBSITE

We are a well established Company engaged in Renewable Energy Projects in Sri Lanka and overseas. We invite applications from suitable candidates for the below positions existing in our Head Office in Colombo.

The Person:

- Sourcing and Purchasing of Materials/ Equipment from local as well as overseas suppliers.
- Negotiate with Vendors and maintain a good relationship
- Follow up on timely deliveries of items and facilitate logistic arrangements.
- Preparation of internal documents and filing them in a logical order
- Maintaining vendor information.
- Handling of stocks, inventories and issuance.

Procurement Executive

The Person:

- Full Qualification in Procurement / Supply Chain Management.
- 02 - 04 years experience in imports and custom clearance.
- Basic Knowledge on Electrical / Mechanical Components would be an advantage
- Should be a very good negotiator.
- Should be fluent in English in both oral and written.
- Should have valid Driving license and willing to travel to outstations.
- Should be with very positive attitude.
- Well groomed and pleasing personality.

Junior Procurement Executive

The Person:

- Part Qualification in Procurement/ Supply Chain Management.
- 02 - 02 years experience in imports and custom clearance.
- Basic Knowledge on Electrical/ Mechanical Components would be an advantage
- Should be a very good negotiator.
- Should be fluent in English in both oral and written.
- Should have valid driving license and willing to travel to outstations.
- Should be with very positive attitude.
- Well groomed and pleasing personality.

An attractive remuneration package awaits for the right candidate.

Forward your resume to careers@wkggroup.lk with names of two non-related referees indicating the post applied in the subject line.

V A C A N C I E S

If you are looking for the foundation to build your career, an opportunity awaits for you at St. Anthony's Hardware (Pvt) Ltd. Our company is well established in the Hardware and Light Machinery business for the last 7 decades and is the agent for many internationally acclaimed leading brands. We are looking for a dynamic and self motivated individual to take up responsibilities as;

Electrical Supervisor (Solar)

- Should have completed academic qualifications with 3 years full time course from NAITA/ German Tech or equivalent from a reputed Technical institute
- Minimum 5 years experience in electrical field in the industrial sector.
- Working experience with solar panel/ handling armoured cable will be an added advantage.
- Age below 40 years.

Skilled Electrician (Solar)

- Should have completed academic qualifications with not less than 2 years full time course or equivalent from a reputed Technical institute
- Minimum 5 years experience in electrical field in the industrial sector.
- Ability to work with minimum supervision.
- Age below 40 years.

Riding license will be an added advantage for the both vacancies.
Attractive remuneration package awaits for the right candidate with other fringe benefits.
 Please apply with your complete CV and the contact details of two non related referees to;

St. Anthony's Hardware (Pvt) Ltd.
 No: 524, Sri Sangaraja Mawatha, Colombo 10.
 Fax: 011-2446554 E-mail: vacancy@stanthonys.lk

CONSULTANT IN AGRICULTURE

We are a company engaged in multidisciplinary activities and wish to expand operations into agriculture development projects. We seek expert advice on economically viable &. environmentally sustainable projects implementation, maintenance, and adaptation.

Candidate's profile:

- Should be knowledgeable in latest technology used in agriculture
- Sound knowledge on agricultural economics
- Thoroughly conversant with global market trends and opportunities
- Practical knowledge in Crop identification
- Hands on experience in conducting feasibility studies and preparation of project proposals

We invite Consultants who wish to transform the traditional agricultural practices to modern & eco-friendly farming. Attitude to achieve results and commitment to make a difference are important attributes. Consultants with proven track records in the industry are invited to apply. It is recommended to support your application with the proof of successful projects.

Services of the selected Consultant will be obtained on a project basis. Applications are to be sent to careers@mctlk.com on or before 23rd March 2021.

Professional Rates for Classified Advertisements

300/- **500/-** **650/-**

- ISLAND WIDE -

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 MELMI STORE - NO.03, ERIYAMPALA MIDDURA, MATARA.

ANURADHAPURA
 THABUTTEGAMA 025 2 276 431
 MUTHUKUMAR PAPER COMER - No 86, Thabuttegama

ANURADHAPURA
 ANURADHAPURA 025 2 221 411
 MANA RAM BOOK SHOP - Anuradhapura

ANURADHAPURA
 ANURADHAPURA 025 2 222 806
 SRI SARA BOOK SHOP - 43, KAMPALA, ANURADHAPURA

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 ANURADHAPURA 025 2 222 575
 RAMAYANA BOOK SHOP - 52/04, MANDIRIPOLA, ANURADHAPURA

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 NO 35, CHURCH ROAD, RATHNAPURA.

RATHNAPURA
 RATHNAPURA 045 2 223 883
 LAKE HOUSE ADVERTISING CENTER - NO 88, MAIN STREET, RATHNAPURA.

HAMBANTOTA
 MIDDENIYA 047 2 27 245
 SOMASRI STORES - HUMBANTOTA, MIDDENIYA.

TANGALLE
 TANGALLE 047 2 240 402
 BRYN TRADERS - NO 158, MAIN ROAD, TANGALLE.

HAMBANTOTA
 HAMBANTOTA 077 0 051 975
 MELMI STORE - NO 32, MAHAJANA PEKA, HAMBANTOTA.

AMBALANTOTA
 AMBALANTOTA 047 2 223 152
 SUDHATHA TRADE CENTER - NO 12, MAIN STREET, AMBALANTOTA.

TISSAMAHARAMA
 TISSAMAHARAMA 047 2 239 088
 T.D. WIPAKKARIE & COMPANY (PVT) LTD - MAIN STREET, TISSAMAHARAMA.

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 A.L.M. UMUSULU POST OFFICE BUILDING, KATHTHANKUDY.

BATTICALA
 BATTICALA 065 2 226 034
 PRIMA STORES, A.K. BETHANESINGHAM NO. 01, MARKET ROAD, BATTICALA.

POLONNARUWA
 POLONNARUWA 077 9 627 542
 PRINCE OF WALES BOOK SHOP - HOSPITAL JUNCTION, POLONNARUWA.

KADURUWELA
 KADURUWELA 076 4 201 263
 GALLE CITY STORES - KADURUWELA, POLONNARUWA.

KANDY
 HIDAGALA 081 3 813 666
 ANURA STORES - SOLLUWA ROAD, HIDAGALA.

KANDY
 KANDY 081 2 222 780
 WINDY TRADERS (PVT) LTD - NO.229/A, PASKERUWA ROAD, KANDY.

GAAMPOLA
 GAAMPOLA 081 2 354 994
 DAMASA CENTER - NO.14, STATION ROAD, GAAMPOLA.

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 NAWALAPITIYA 077 3 039 996
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 DEMODARA 055 2 225 616
 ADVERTISING AGENCY - NEAR MUTHAYANGAMA CLOCK TOWER, JAMULLA.

ADZ HOTLINE - 011 2 429 369

CLASSIFIEDS HOTLINE 011 2 445 445

MAG
 SAVING LIVES builds futures

Vacancy – Senior Mechanics
 (Position based in Northern/Eastern Province)
 (Fixed Term 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 2 vacancies for post of Senior Mechanic.

Qualifications and Experience

- Minimum certificate level qualification in Light and Heavy vehicle/Construction. Equipment repairs and maintenance from a recognized Institution.
- Experience in mechanical, electrical, hydraulic repairs and maintenance.
- 4-5 years' experience in a similar position.

Other Requirements

- Ability to work in field on a roster with 21-24 days work cycle in a month.
- Flexible to work long hours when required.
- Performs maintenance tasks in Light vehicles and Heavy Equipment with advanced mechanical repairs such as engine, transmission, power train, hydraulic/undercarriage systems and their components.
- Ensure to diagnose of mechanical, electrical, computerized problems in heavy equipment and carry out repairs promptly in line with safety protocols and procedures.
- Monitor performance fabrication and electric welding required.
- Management of 5 - 8 mechanics.
- Provide required mechanical/electrical/other training required for other team members relevant methods, materials, tools, and techniques used in commercial and heavy equipment/vehicles repairs and maintenance.

Areas of experience

- Painting and body work.
- mechanical designing and fabrication.
- Repairs and maintenance on electrical systems.
- computerized induction/ignition systems.
- Mobile air conditioning systems.
- Maintenance of Records & prepare Reports.
- Air and hydraulic systems.
- Overhead and mobile crane operation.
- Tie-down, rigging, and lifting operation.
- Two-way and wireless communication.
- Procurement of tools and measuring devices.
- Support workplace safety through following safety protocols.

Salary will be based upon the MAG Salary Scale on a fixed term contract.

Please submit a CV to: Human Resources Coordinator: recruitment.lk@maginternational.org (include position applied in the subject line) or postal applications to Human Resources Officer, MAG Central Operating Base, 242 Mannar Road, Nelukkulam, Vavuniya. Deadline: 4:00pm Friday 19th March 2021.

www.maginternational.org
 MAG is an equal opportunity employer. Women are highly encouraged to apply the above post.

FARM CHEMIE (Private) Limited

We are a leading Importer, Manufacture & supplier of premium quality Veterinary Pharmaceuticals, Feed Additives, Feed Raw Materials and Poultry Equipment from world renowned Manufacturers, to the Livestock Industry of Sri Lanka and to export market, and are looking energetic, ambitious & self-motivated candidates to be a part of the energetic Farmchemie team.

PRODUCTION EXECUTIVE

Requirements:

- Qualified in Bachelor in Pharmacy (B. Pharm)/Bsc in Chemistry/Bsc in Food Science & Technology/I Chem/Degree in Animal Science/Animal Nutrition or any other similar qualification
- Exposure in the field of Pharmaceutical Manufacturing or Industrial Chemistry will be an added advantage
- Male age between 28 years to 35 years
- Flexible & Multi-tasking
- Fluent in English
- Computer literacy: MS word, Excel & Power point
- Working Days : Monday to Saturday

Chosen applicants will be given an attractive remuneration package above industry norm

Interested individuals may forward the CV along with the names and addresses of two non-related referees and their contact numbers, within 7 days of this advertisement to hr@farmchemie.com

The Manager – Human Resource
FARM CHEMIE (PVT) LTD.
 No. 78, Industrial Zone, Katuwana, Homagama, Sri Lanka.
 Tel : 011 2 893922 / Fax : 011 2 893680
 E-mail : hr@farmchemie.com / Web : www.farmchemie.com

RWI
 THE RICH WORLD INTERNATIONAL

OPPORTUNITY TO GROW WITH US
 We are an established trading company specialized in Imports and Distribution of Household Appliances. We are seeking self-motivated and experienced individuals with a passion for achieving goals.

SERVICE CENTRE MANAGER

We are looking for a keen, detail oriented Service Centre Manager to manage our Service Centre Department (Repair Division) and handle customer service, developing lasting customer relationships and managing the service centre staff members. He needs to maintain a strong working knowledge of all Home Appliance industry standards and practices as well as the company's products & services.

Candidate Profile

- Age below 35 years
- Minimum 05 (Five) years solid experience in similar capacity
- Any qualification related to the relevant field
- Strong industry knowledge
- Strong leadership, communication, sales and customer service skills
- Possess good interpersonal skills, flexibility, adaptability and be a good team leader
- Should be prepared to work long hours if the situation demands
- Computer literacy, on time preparation of reports and good organizational skills
- Strong creative thinking and problem solving skills
- Ability to work under pressure and handle stress
- Fluency in all three languages (Sinhala, Tamil & English) will be an added advantage

TECHNICIAN

Candidate Profile

- Age below 30 years
- Minimum 02 (Two) years experience in similar capacity
- Any qualification related to the relevant field
- Ability to repair electronic/electric appliances like Subwoofer, DVD, Multimedia & Radio
- Possess good interpersonal skills, flexibility, adaptability and be a good team player
- Should be prepared to work long hours if the situation demands
- Ability to work under pressure and handle stress
- Fluency in all three languages (Sinhala, Tamil & English) will be an added advantage

The successful candidates will be rewarded with an excellent remuneration package on par with industry standards and other benefits commensurate with your experience. Forward your complete resume by e-mail with the full names and telephone numbers of two non-related referees (Please mention the post in the subject line when you apply through e-mail)

The Manager - Human Resources,
Rich World International
 No: 175 - 3/3, "Eastern Tower", 2nd Cross Street, Colombo 11.
 Tel : +94 11 2335420, Mobile: +94 765311266
 E-mail : hr@richworld.lk

www.richsonic.lk

Singhalese Sports Club
 VACANCY

Food & Beverage Manager

With over 100 years of providing the best facilities to Sri Lankans, the Singhalese Sports Club (SSC) is Sri Lanka's premier Cricket Club with a firm commitment to empowering sports. The SSC is now on the lookout for an energetic individual to join our team of top performers.

The ideal candidate would be a dynamic and self-motivated individual. The successful candidate will report to the General Manager and will be accountable to the Executive Committee of the Club. The candidate should have a pleasing personality and possess the ability to interact cordially and professionally.

The ideal candidate should effectively and efficiently manage the F & B Department including all food & beverage outlets including banquets and F & B Entertainment to ensure quality of products and services and to maximise profitability and productivity while maintaining an acceptable food and beverage cost ratio.

Duties & Responsibilities

- To be responsible for the overall management, supervision, planning, training, coordinating and communicating with staff within the department.
- Monitor service and Food & Beverage standards in all outlets & Banquets.
- Spot check F&B consumption records for regular inventory check.
- Review revenue & expense reports with internal auditors.
- Meet members & their guests to maintain effective relations.
- Setting monthly targets for all F&B outlets.
- Comply with all health & safety regulations.

Experience

- Over 10 years' experience in a Star Class hotel, in the above position.
- A Diploma in Food & Beverage Management will be an added advantage.

Candidates meeting above criteria should send their completed Curriculum Vitae including the details of two non-related referees to **The General Manager, Singhalese Sports Club, #35, Maitland Place, Colombo 07.** within seven (07) days of this advertisement.



STATE MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
NUTRITION &
INDIGENOUS MEDICINE



STATE PHARMACEUTICALS
MANUFACTURING CORPORATION OF
SRI LANKA (SPMC)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of CCTV Surveillance system for SPMC

The State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation of Sri Lanka (SPMC) invites competent Bidder to submit proposals for assignment to "Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of CCTV Surveillance system for SPMC".

Accordingly, The Chairman, Procurement Committee of SPMC invites eligible bidders to indicate their interests to provide the services described herein. Interested Individual bidders must provide information indicating that are qualified to perform the services described in the given Terms of Reference (TOR). Detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) could be found on the website: (www.spmclanka.lk) from 16.03.2021 to 05.04.2021.

Interested Individual bidders should send their proposals and detailed documents submitted by registered post addressed to the Chairman, Procurement Committee, State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation, No. 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha, Kandawala Estate, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka or hand delivery to the SPMC, on or before 06.04.2021 at 1400 hrs. In sealed envelope clearly marked on top left hand corner "Expression of Interest for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of CCTV Surveillance system for SPMC".

The Chairman,
Procurement Committee

State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation
No. 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha, Kandawala Estate,
Ratmalana, Sri Lanka.

TEL : (00) 94-11-2635353 / (00) 94-11-2637574 / (00) 94-11-2623298
E-mail : spmclanka@sltnet.lk
Website : www.spmclanka.lk
Fax : (00) 94-11-2634771,2626621

AMENDMENT TO INVITATION FOR BIDS

FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF
MAIN ENTRANCE DOOR WITH DECORATIVE
GRANITE WALL PANELS OF BLOCK 03 OF
DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX
AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO: DHQC/ENTRANCE DOOR 3/2020

- This refers to the Invitation for Bids, published on 28th February 2021 in Sunday Observer in respect of the above mentioned Contract.
- Following amendments are made to the above referred Invitation For Bids.
 - The Bid opening/closing time has been extended up to 1000 hrs on 07th April 2021.
 - Bids shall valid up to 23rd June 2021.
 - Bid Security Shall be valid up to 21st July 2021.
- All other terms and conditions of the previous Invitation For Bids remain unchanged.
- 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 until 06th April 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days.
- A complete set of Bidding, Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla until 06th April 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Five Thousand (LKR 5,000.00). The method of payment will be by Cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of Ministry of Defence.

The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.

Tel : 0094-011-4209885
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
Email : pmudhqc@gmail.com

AMENDMENT TO INVITATION FOR BIDS

FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF
MAIN ENTRANCE DOOR WITH DECORATIVE
GRANITE WALL PANELS OF BLOCK 04 OF
DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX
AT AKUREGODA

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- A complete set of Bidding, Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla until 06th April 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Five Thousand (LKR 5,000.00). The method of payment will be by Cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of Ministry of Defence.

The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.

Tel : 0094-011-4209885
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
Email : pmudhqc@gmail.com



Ministry of Industries
Mantai Salt Limited



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST.

For Rehabilitation, Development and Re commencement of Operations of Kurinchathivu (Elephant Pass Northern) Saltern on Public Private Partnership ("PPP") Basis

Mantai Salt Limited, (scheduled to be renamed as the National Salt Limited) is one of the Government owned salt manufacturing companies in Sri Lanka. This Company currently operates two Salterns namely Mannar Saltern and Elephant Pass Southern Saltern. The Kurinchathivu Saltern located at the Northern part of the Elephant Pass had not been in operation for the last 30 years due to the conflict situation in the country that prevailed in the past.

The Cabinet of Ministers has granted its approval by the Cabinet Decision No: 20/0208/224/003/TBR dated 27.02.2020 to commence the operations of the Kurinchathivu Saltern Project as a Public Private Partnership (PPP) with a potential local private investor. Hence, the Cabinet Appointed Negotiation Committee (CANC) appointed for the project decided to call Expression Of Interest (EOI) from interested local private investors for the investment in the Saltern for the rehabilitation, development, manufacturing of raw salt and value added product and sale in collaboration with Mantai Salt Limited on a Public Private Partnership basis. Mantai Salt Limited will contribute a suitable land (approximately 750 acres) and facilitate obtaining clearance and approvals from the relevant Government agencies while providing any other technical assistance as and when required.

The Expression of Interest (EOI) shall include comprehensive details on the following:

- General information of the company.
- Legal status.
- Amount of capital assets or net worth.
- Technical and Financial Capabilities
- Copies of audited financial statements for last three years.
- Experience in Saltern or any other related operations during the last 5 years.
- Parties should be ready to furnish any additional information regarding the company's present operation and technologies currently used.

A detail EOI submission document could be obtained from the Restructuring Division of the Ministry of Industries, P.O. Box 570, No. 73/1, Galle Road, Colombo -03 by submitting a letter of request to Secretary, Ministry of Industries, along with a non-refundable payment of LKR 3000.00 made to the Finance Division of the above Ministry, during 0900hrs to 1500hrs on weekdays from 15/03/2021 till 05/04/2021 respectively.

Duly completed Expression of Interest document containing required information in duplicate enclosed in two envelopes separately and marked as 'ORIGINAL' and 'DUPLICATE' and then, put the same into a suitable single envelope sealed and marked 'Expression of Interest for the Project of Re commencement the operations of Kurinchathivu Saltern' on the top left hand of the envelope, should either be forwarded under registered post to the Chairman, Cabinet Appointed Negotiation Committee, Ministry of Industries, P.O.Box 570, No: 73/1, Galle Road, Colombo -03 or be deposited by hand in the Tender Box available at the Finance Division of the above Ministry at same address to receive not later than 14.30 hrs on 05/ 04/ 2021.

Due to the prevailing pandemic situation in case of failure to deliver hard copies on time, soft copies emailed to nslsalternproject@gmail.com will be considered as the official submission. Hard copies must be delivered on the following day during office hours from 0900 hrs to 14.30 hrs.

Acceptance of Expressions of Interest will be closed at 14.30 hrs on 05/04/2021 and that will be opened immediately after closing on the same day at the Auditorium of the Ministry of Industries, P.O.Box 570, 73/1, Galle Road, Colombo -03. Prospective Investor or Authorized representatives, not more than two of the prospective investor/s, will be allowed to be present at the time of the opening of EOIs.

For further information, please contact the Director, Restructuring Division, Ministry of Industries, P.O.Box 570, No:73/1, Galle Road, Colombo -03. Telephone: 011-2391365, email: nslsalternproject@gmail.com

Chairman
Cabinet Appointed Negotiation Committee for Project of Re commencement the operations of Kurinchathivu Saltern
Ministry of Industries
P.O Box 570, No: 73/1, Galle Road, Colombo -03

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Ministry of Defence

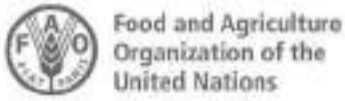
Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Supply of Commercial Grade Ceramicware, Fittings & Accessories for Block 02 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda

Contract (Bid) Number: DHQC/CER FITTING 2/2020

- The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee of the Ministry of Defence invites competitive sealed Bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Supply of Commercial Grade Ceramicware, Fittings & Accessories for Block 02 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 15th March 2021 and 05th April 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 sanitaryware, fittings and accessories.
 - Bidder shall possess business registration in Sri Lanka for the last ten consecutive years and shall be continuously engaged in the business of either manufacturing and/or trading of Sanitaryware and Bathroom Fittings, for the same duration.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address: The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla from 15th March 2021 and 05th April 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Eight Thousand (Rs. 8,000.00). The method of payment shall be by cash or bank draft in favour of Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project.
- A pre bid meeting will be held at 1100 hrs on 23rd March 2021 at Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda, Pelawatta, 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 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 in person at Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of Sri Lankan Rupees Three Hundred Twenty One Thousand (LKR. 321,000.00) 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 02nd August 2021 (119 Days after the date of closing of bids).
- 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
Email : pmudhqc@gmail.com



Rehabilitation of Degraded Agricultural Lands (RDAL) in Kandy, Badulla and Nuwara Eliya in Central Highlands

Call for Applications

National Level Award for Innovative Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices in Sri Lanka

RDAL is a project implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, and Natural Resources Management Centre of the Department of Agriculture. As part of the project, a national initiative has been organized to promote knowledge and experience sharing on Sustainable Land Management (SLM) best practices for sustainable agriculture in Sri Lanka.

Innovative SLM Practices (10 SLM Technologies and 05 SLM Approaches) will be selected by an independent expert committee. The following key criteria will be considered during the selection process.

Innovation: creation, development and implementation of new ideas

Effectiveness: ability of producing a desired result

Efficiency: ability of producing a desired result with a low-cost and optimum use of resources

Relevancy: the practice must provide solution for issues related to land degradation

Sustainability: ability to exist continuously with efficient use of resources

Participatory: multi stakeholder participation during development and implementation process of the practice

Concept note of the event with more information about the competition and applications can be found in the following link

<https://sricat.net/index.php/en/9-news-and-events/news/220-national-slm-award>

Please submit your proposal according to the formats in the concept note by post or email to the following address on or before 31 March 2021.

The Manager
RDAL Project
FAO Field Office
Natural Resource Management Centre
No 52, Sarasavi Mawatha, Peradeniya
Tel: 0812 085120/ 074 1747392
Email: info@sricat.net

SALE OF MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

QUOTATIONS ARE CALLED FOR THE SALE OF THE FOLLOWING MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING 01ST APRIL 2021 TO 30TH JUNE 2021

Tender No. MSI/2021/03

Item		Refundable Deposit
1. Over Issue Newspapers & Blank Papers	(Per Kg)	Rs. 400,000/-
2. Stripping of Newsprint & Butt Ends Less Than 2" (Unused Newsprint)	(Per Kg)	Rs. 50,000/-
3. Used Offset Plates (Aluminum Sheets)	- do -	Rs. 25,000/-
4. Empty Reel Cores	- do -	Rs. 1,000/-
5. Cardboard (Mixed)	- do -	Rs. 10,000/-
6. Discarded Documents (File Cover, Computer-stationery, Tabloids, Periodicals)	- do -	Rs. 10,000/-
7. Burned Engine Oil	(Per Ltr)	Rs. 1,000/-
8. Waste Papers & Unusable Papers	(Per Kg)	Rs. 50,000/-
9. Empty Plastic Cans (20 Ltr)	(Per Can)	Rs. 1,000/-
10. Wooden Pallets	(Per Pallet)	Rs. 1,000/-
11. Scrap Iron	(Per Kg)	Rs. 1,000/-
12. Strapping Waste	(Per Kg)	Rs. 1,000/-
13. Empty Strapping Reel Cores	(Per Kg)	Rs. 1,000/-

Tender applications could be obtained from the Procurement Department on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 250/- along with the refundable deposit. Quotations indicating "Sale of Miscellaneous Items" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope should be submitted to the undermentioned address before 3.00 p.m. on 23rd March 2021 and will be opened immediately.

The successful tenderer should pay 8% VAT on the quoted price and shall arrange loading of goods.

However, The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited reserves the right to reject any or all offers without assigning any reason whatsoever.



Head of Procurement
The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited
No. 35, D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha,
Colombo 10.
Tel: 2429422, 2429429, Ext: 451, 452



UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Digital Infrastructure Enhancement of the University of Colombo

Multi Gym Machine

External Painting – Faculty of Graduate Studies

The Chairman of the Department Procurement Committee (Major / Minor), University of Colombo, Colombo 03 invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the above procurements.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bid Number / Item Description	Bid Closing Date & Time	Place of the Purchase of Bid Documents / T.P. Numbers	Non-Refundable Fee (Rs.)	Value of the Bid Security (Rs.)	Source of Funding	Cost Estimate (Rs.)
SAB/SUP/NCB/2021/002 Digital Infrastructure Enhancement of the University of Colombo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lot No. : 01 – Upgrade the Core Network Lot No. : 02 – Supply & Installation of Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) Lot No. : 03 – Supply & Delivery of Network Switches 24P Lot No. : 04 – Supply & Installation of New Server Lot No. : 05 – Supply & Installation of SAN, Network Switches and upgrade an existing Server 	08 th April 2021 2.30 p.m	Supply Division University of Colombo Senior Assistant Bursar T.P. 0112-055948 / 0112-503394	5,000.00	250,000.00	Treasury Funds / UNESCO Blended learning fund	25,000,000.00
SAB/SUP/NCB/2021/004 Supply, Delivery, Installation & Commissioning of Multi Gym Machine for the Department of Physical Education of University of Colombo	08 th April 2021 2.30 p.m	Supply Division University of Colombo Senior Assistant Bursar T.P. 0112-055948 / 0112-503394	3,500.00	60,000.00	Sports Development Fund	6,000,000.00
MD/MR/B/03/2021 External Painting – Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS), University of Colombo	08 th April 2021 2.30 p.m	Faculty of Graduate Studies University of Colombo Senior Assistant Registrar T.P. 0112-505845	2,500.00	57,000.00	Generated Funds	5,709,368.16

01. A complete set of bidding documents in English language could be purchased by interested bidders upon submission of a written request with a payment of 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 days) one day prior to the bid closing date. The method of payment will be only by bank deposit to the University of Colombo "Main Collection Account" to any branch of the People's Bank using the reference number 505170600013.

02. The bids shall be deposited in the 'Tender Box' available in the Registrar's Office of the University of Colombo or sent under 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.

03. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents from place mentioned in 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.



INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS

**SUPPLY OF A MINI VAN ON MONTHLY RENTAL BASIS TO SRILANKAN CATERING LTD
FLIGHT KITCHEN AT MATTALA RAJAPAKSHA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
SLC/PRO/SER/2021/008**

Srilankan Catering Limited hereby invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Supply of a Mini Van on monthly rental basis to Srilankan Catering Ltd Flight Kitchen at Mattala Rajapaksha International Airport.

Prospective bidders could obtain the **bidding document** and more details from the web link of <http://www.srilankancatering.com/procurement-notice> after 16th of March 2021. Sealed bids should be delivered to Chief Executive Officer, Srilankan Catering Limited before the deadline as per give in the bidding document.

Prospective bidders could obtain further details from, Thilina Siriwardana
E-mail - thilina.siriwardana@srilankancatering.com or (+94) 19 733 4241 with reference to the bid documents.

Chief Executive Officer
SRILANKAN CATERING LIMITED
Airline Centre
Bandaranaike International Airport
Katunayake, Sri Lanka.

STATE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, COAST CONSERVATION, WASTE DISPOSAL AND COMMUNITY CLEANLINESS



URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

TENDER NOTICE

Tender for Allocation of Shops at Mullaitivu Bus Stand, Mankulam Road, Kovilkudiyiruppu on the Basis of Lease for a Period of 10 Years

- Offers are invited by the Chairman, Revenue Tender Board (Minor), Urban Development Authority to allocate the Fifteen (15) Shops at Mullaitivu Bus Stand, Mankulam Road, Kovilkudiyiruppu on lease basis for Ten (10) years period.
- Interested parties can make their offers on one of the following options:

2.1. Option 1

- Interested parties should make their offers above the base values indicated for each respective shop unit in the table below. Selection of the allottee shall be made considering the highest value offered above the base value.

- A Particular Tenderer cannot submit more than one bid for a Shop. If any tenderer wishes to submit bids for more than one shop which should be submitted using separate tender documents.

Shop No.	Floor Area (Sq. M)	Base Value (Key Money) (Rs.)	Monthly Lease Value (Rs.)	Bid Bond (Rs.)
01	28.50	639,000.00	2,300.00	18,500.00
02	28.50	568,000.00	2,000.00	16,000.00
03	28.50	497,000.00	1,800.00	14,500.00
04	28.50	568,000.00	2,000.00	16,000.00
05	28.50	497,000.00	1,800.00	14,500.00
06	28.50	426,000.00	1,500.00	12,000.00
07	28.50	426,000.00	1,500.00	12,000.00
08	28.50	568,000.00	2,000.00	16,000.00
09	28.50	497,000.00	1,800.00	14,500.00
10	28.50	497,000.00	1,800.00	14,500.00
11	28.50	568,000.00	2,000.00	16,000.00
12	28.50	639,000.00	2,300.00	18,500.00
13	28.50	568,000.00	2,000.00	16,000.00
14	28.50	497,000.00	1,800.00	14,500.00
15	28.50	426,000.00	1,500.00	12,000.00

2.2 Option 2

- If any party wishes to bid for all the 15 shops as a single bid, the base value is **Rs. 8,600,000.00** and **Rs. 31,000.00** will be considered as the monthly rental. The bid bond for the option 2 is **Rs. 246,400.00**. Interested parties should make their offers above the said base value of **Rs. 8,600,000/-**.
- Revenue Tender Board (Minor) has the Authority to select the bidder under option 1 or 2 considering the most advantageous to the UDA.
- In addition to the base value offered and monthly rental, 8% VAT thereon should be paid. The value offered for the base price paid by the successful bidder is non-refundable.
- Interested parties may purchase the tender document from the Real Estate Mgt. & Dev. Division, Urban Development Authority, 8th Floor, Sethsiripaya - Stage I, Battaramulla or from Northern Provincial office of the UDA at No. 134, Station Road, Jaffna from 9.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. on working days from **15.03.2021 to 31.03.2021**, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Two Thousand + 8% VAT thereon (LKR 2,000/- + 8% VAT). Further, Tender documents could be inspected free of charge within the said period.
- A Bid Bond referred in above table relevant for the Shop for which a bid to be submitted under the option 2.1 or the bid bond mentioned in Paragraph 2.2 above under the option 2, is to be paid in cash to the Finance Division, Urban Development Authority or to the Northern Provincial Office, UDA at No. 134, Station Road, Jaffna & the original of the receipt shall be submitted along with each Tender document.
- Tenders will be closed at 2.00 p.m. on **02.04.2021** and will be opened immediately after the closing time at the Northern Provincial Office of the UDA at No. 134, Station Road, Jaffna. Tenderer or his/her authorized representative could be present at the time of opening.
- Interested parties should make their offers with the official tender forms issued by the UDA and the price offers made in other documents will be rejected.
- The submission procedure is indicated in the Tender document.
- Further details could be obtained from the Director, (Real Estate Development), Urban Development Authority, 8th Floor, Sethsiripaya, Stage- I, Battaramulla Telephone: 011-2875921 and 011-2875916-20 Extension 2960-2967 or Northern Provincial Office of the UDA over the Telephone 021-2219519 & 021-2223269 during office hours 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

Revenue Tender Board (Minor)
Urban Development Authority



INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Ministry of Defence

DESIGN, SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF MICROWAVE RADIO COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS FOR STRATEGIC DEFENCE COMMUNICATION NETWORK (SDCN) PROJECT

IFB No: MOD/SDCN/01/2021

- Chairman, Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC), on behalf of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for design, supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of microwave radio communication systems for Ministry of Defence as specified in the Bidding Documents.

The work consists of design, supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of microwave radio communication systems including Network Management Systems (NMS) for the SDCN project of Ministry of Defence, No:15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka.

- Bidding will be conducted through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedure under Conditions of Contract for Plant and Design-Build of FIDIC Conditions of Contract. However, agreed conditions shall govern Sri Lankan Procurement Guideline.

- To be considered for evaluation and qualify for contract award, bidder shall not have been blacklisted and is required to bid for all items and total quantity of each item and relevant services as specified in the bidding documents. Partial bids shall be treated as non-responsive and shall be rejected.

- The design, supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of microwave radio communication systems should be completed within the implementation period of nine (09) months from the effective date of the contract.

- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder should not have been blacklisted. Local Bidders shall have Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) Grading EMI in the speciality of Electrical and Mechanical Services under subspecialist area on Telecommunication and Security Systems, and foreign bidders shall possess proven track record of ten (10) years or more experience in the field of Telecommunications Engineering. Documentary evidence to support foreign bidders' experience and track record shall be established with the Bid.

- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Project Director, Project Management Unit, Strategic Defence Communication Networks Project, Headquarters, Centre for Defence Research and Development, Mahenawaththa, Moragahahena Road, Pitipana, Homagama (Tel: (+94)112421357/ Fax: (+94)112437923/ e-mail: dg@crd.lk from 8.30am to 4.30pm on working days commencing from **15.03.2021 - 27.04.2021**.

- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language is available and interested Bidders may purchase Bidding Documents on submission of a written application to Ministry of Defence, No:15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Hundred Thousand (LKR 100,000.00) in cash effective from **15.03.2021 to 27.04.2021**. Bidding documents may be inspected free of charge at the Ministry of Defence at the same address (Tel: (+94)112390719/ Fax:(+94)112390720).

- A Pre-Bid meeting will be held on **29.03.2021** at 1400 hrs at Project Management Unit, Strategic Defence Communication Network Project, CDRD, Mahenawaththa, Moragahahena Road, Pitipana, Homagama, Sri Lanka.

- Bids must be delivered at or before 1100 Hrs on 27/04/2021 to Chief Financial Officer 1, Ministry of Defence, No: 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka. Late Bids and Bids sent electronically will not be accepted and will be rejected. Bid opening will be at 1100 hrs on **27.04.2021**.

- All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of a Bank Guarantee in the format given with the Bidding Document in the amount of Sri Lankan Rupees Eight Million Four Hundred Thousand (LKR 8,400,000.00) or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency obtained from a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. Bid Security issued by a bank operating overseas is acceptable provided the Bid Security or Bank Guarantee is confirmed by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand bond and shall be valid up to **21/09/2021**.

- Bids shall be valid up to **24/08/2021** from the date of deadline for submission of Bids.

- Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' authorized representatives (Bidder's name, ID or Passport copy should be submitted 3 days before) who choose to attend in person at the office of Chief Financial Officer 1, Ministry of Defence, No: 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka immediately after the deadline for submission of Bids.

- Ministry of Defence will not be responsible for any costs or any expenses incurred by the Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.

**Chairman
Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee,
Ministry of Defence, 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03, Sri Lanka.**

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INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

PURCHASE OF FINISHED SIZE 15MM THICK 100MM HEIGHT TEAK WOOD SKIRTING BOARDS (3M LONG) BLOCK NO. 04 DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO: DHQC/PROC/2021/TIMBER/15

The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Purchase of Finished Size 15mm thick 100mm Height Teak Wood Skirting Board (3m Long) Block No. 04 for Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda as described below and estimated to cost LKR 10,755,000.00(excluding VAT).

The goods consist of Purchase of Finished Size 15mm thick 100mm Height Teak Wood Skirting Boards (3m Long) Block No. 04 for Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda.

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have a valid business registration in Sri Lanka. Documentary evidence, supporting the Bidder's experience and track record shall be established with the Bid.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from, 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 15th March 2021 until 06th April 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1600hrs during working days.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla from 15th March 2021 until 06th April 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1600hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Five Hundred Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR 3,500.00). The method of payment will be in Cash/Bank draft in favour of Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project.
- Bids valid from 07th April 2021 to 05th July 2021 both days inclusive(90 days).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of One Hundred Seven Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Rupees (LKR 107,550.00) shall be issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand bond and shall be valid up to date of Bid Opening from 07th April 2021 to 04th August 2021 with both days inclusive (120 days).
- The Pre bid meeting will be held at 1100 hrs on 24th March 2021 at Project Management Unit of Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed in the below address at or before 1000 hrs on 07th 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.
- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 when relevant, before purchasing the Bidding Documents from Defence Headquarters Complex Project.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the Bid opening.

The address(es) referred to above item (08) is;

The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.

Tel : 0094-011-2787047
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
E-mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

PURCHASE OF RIVER SAND FOR DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO: DHQC/PROC/2021/YARD/12

The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Purchase of River Sand for Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda as described below and estimated to cost LKR 13 Million (excluding VAT).

The goods consist of Purchase of River Sand for Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda.

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have a valid business registration in Sri Lanka. Documentary evidence, supporting the Bidder's experience and track record shall be established with the Bid.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from, 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 15th March 2021 until 06th April 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs during working days.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla from 15th March 2021 until 06th April 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Five Hundred Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR 3,500.00). The method of payment will be in Cash/Bank draft in favour of Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project.
- Bids shall be valid from 07th April 2021 to 05th July 2021 both days inclusive (90 days).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid-Security of One Hundred Thirty Thousand Rupees (LKR 130,000.00) shall be issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid-Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand bond and shall be valid up to date of Bid Opening from 07th April 2021 to 04th August 2021 with both days inclusive (120 days).
- The pre bid meeting will be held at 1100 hrs on 25th March 2021 Project Management Unit of Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed in the below address on or before 1000 hrs on 07th 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.
- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 when relevant, before purchasing the Bidding Document from Defence Headquarters Complex Project.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the Bid opening.

The address(es) referred to above item (08) is;

The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.

Tel : 0094-011-2787047
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
E-mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com

Sri Lanka Insurance

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CALL FOR BIDS TO SELECT SUPPLIERS FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

	Name of Bid and Bid No.	Non-Refundable Fee (Rs.)	Bid Security Requirement (Rs.)	Eligibility Requirements	Pre Bid Meeting Date and Time	Bid Closing Date and Time	Collecting of Bidding Documents
1	SLIC/ICT/007/2021 - IT CONSUMABLE LEXMARK BRAND	12,500/-	600,000/-	1. Bidder should be a Authorized Distributor or Local Agents of stated brand. 2. Bidders should have been in business for more than 03 years, with corporate clientele.	18.03.2021 @ 2.30 pm Via Zoom facility to parties collected bid documents.	06.04.2021 @1.00 pm	15.03.2021 to 05.04.2021 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm
2	SLIC/ICT/008/2021 - IT CONSUMABLE BROTHER BRAND	5,030/-	200,000/-	1. Bidder should be a Authorized Distributor or Local Agents of stated brand. 2. Bidders should have been in business for more than 03 years, with corporate clientele.	18.03.2021 @ 3.00 pm Via Zoom facility to parties collected bid documents.	30.03.2021 @1.00 pm	15.03.2021 to 29.03.2021 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm
3	SLIC/ICT/009/2021 - IT CONSUMABLE CANON BRAND	4,940/-	200,000/-	1. Bidder should be a Authorized Distributor or Local Agents of stated brand. 2. Bidders should have been in business for more than 03 years, with corporate clientele.	18.03.2021 @ 3.30 pm Via Zoom facility to parties collected bid documents.	30.03.2021 @1.00 pm	15.03.2021 to 29.03.2021 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm

	Name of Bid and Bid No.	Non-Refundable Fee (Rs.)	Bid Security Requirement (Rs.)	Eligibility Requirements	Pre Bid Meeting Date and Time	Bid Closing Date and Time	Collecting of Bidding Documents
4	SLIC/ICT/010/2021 - HIGH PERFORMANCE FIRE WALL CLUSTER	5,750/-	200,000/-	1. Bidder should have a reputed client tail with their references	19.03.2021 @ 2.30 pm Via Zoom facility to parties collected bid documents.	30.03.2021 @1.00 pm	15.03.2021 to 29.03.2021 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm
5	SLIC/ICT/011/2021 - 203 NOS. OF DESK TOP COMPUTERS	9,350/-	400,000/-	1. Bidder should have a reputed client tail with their references 2. Bidder should be OEM of Computer Hardware or Authorized business partner/System Integrator of OEM	19.03.2021 @ 3.00 pm Via Zoom facility to parties collected bid documents.	06.04.2021 @1.00 pm	15.03.2021 to 05.04.2021 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm
6	SLIC/ICT/012/2021 - 221 NOS OF LAPTOP COMPUTERS	8,450/-	350,000/-	1. Bidder should have a reputed client tail with their references. 2. Bidder should be OEM of Computer Hardware or Authorized business partner/System Integrator of OEM	19.03.2021 @ 3.30 pm Via Zoom facility to parties collected bid documents.	06.04.2021 @1.00 pm	15.03.2021 to 05.04.2021 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm

- Bidding documents will be issued from the Procurement Department of Sri Lanka Insurance Head Office on production of a request letter on a business letterhead together with the certified copy of Business Registration and a None Refundable fee as above.
- Bidding documents can be inspected free of charge at the Procurement Department of Sri Lanka Insurance Head Office during normal working hours.
- The successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have a valid business registration in Sri Lanka..
- Selected suppliers should provide the Guarantee/Bond as stated below.
 - An Advance Guarantee equivalent at the time of releasing an Advance payment for maximum of 30% of the total contract value with validity over 91 days
 - A Performance Bond to the value of 05% /10% (which ever applicable) of the total contract sum, with validity over the stipulated contract period should be provided within two weeks from the confirmed order
 - All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond of above value shall be issued by a commercial bank with a validity period mentioned above.
- Late bids will be returned unopened.
- Proof of documents requested under eligibility requirement to be submitted along with Bid.
- Beneficiary of the bid security should be Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd.

AGM Procurement & Property Management
Procurement Department
Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd
08th Floor
No.21, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.
Contact Details : 011- 235 7948/ 011-235 7964
Web: www.srilankainsurance.com
E mail: deshapriyag@srilankainsurance.com
Company Registration Number - PB 289



INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Ministry of Defence
Sri Lanka Army

Procurement of Boot Highleg Black 100,000 Pairs**Contract Identification No : MOD/SLA/02/2021**

- The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC), on behalf of The Sri Lanka Army invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for purchasing of **100,000 Pairs - Boot Highleg Black** for the Sri Lanka Army.
- Bidding process will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
- Bids will be invited from the local and international manufacturers who possess at least 05 years' experience in similar shoe manufacturing industry. Local bidders, who does not manufacture or produce the goods, shall submit the manufacturer's authorization using the form included in section IV. (Such manufacturer shall have at least 05 years' experience in similar shoe manufacturing industry and the bidder shall have at least 03 years period of business registration). Foreign manufacturer shall quote through duly appointed local agent. Bidder shall have performed at least 3 similar **Boot Highleg Black** Contracts during the last five years. Bidder shall have LKR 500 million or equivalent value of average annual turnover within last three years.

- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from **Master General Ordnance Branch, Army Headquarters, Sri Jayawardhanapura Colombo, Sri Lanka** T.P 011-2432135, Email: mgobranchemail@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents (free of charge) at the address given below :

Procurement Branch,
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03.

T.P 011 - 2390719
Fax 011-2390720

From 0900 hours to 1500 hours every working day

- Bidder should not have been blacklisted.
- Bidder shall consider the requirements under the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 and few important extractions of the act is as follows;
 - "Any person who act as an agent or sub - agent , representative or nominee on behalf of any bidder, shall register himself and such public contract in accordance with the 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 on behalf of any bidder, he shall first produce a certificate of his appointment as sub - agent, representative or nominee to the Registrar before the registers himself and the Public Contract under this section"

- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate along with the bids, according to the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987, to the Ministry of Defence, if relevant.

- A margin of preference for eligible locally produced goods offered shall be applied, additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.

- A complete set of Bidding Document in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address below;

Chief Financial Officer (1)
Procurement Branch,
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03.

Email: procurement@defence.lk

And,
Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of LKR 45,000.00 (LKR Forty Five Thousand only) in cash to the Ministry of Defence.

- In addition to the above, bidder shall pay LKR 92,900.00 of non-refundable fee (LKR Ninety Two Thousand Nine Hundred) in cash, as sample testing charges.

- Bids shall be valid up to 04.07.2021

- Delivery period shall be 90 days (maximum) from the date of signing the contract agreement.

- Bids must be delivered to the address below marked with reference number MOD/SLA/02/2021:

Chief Financial Officer's Office,
Ground Floor,
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo-3.

On or before 05.04.2021 at 1000 hrs.

Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing of bids in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who wish to attend.

- Pre bid meeting shall be held on 22.03.2021 at 1300 hrs at the address below:

Army Ceylinco Building
No: 167/30,
Awissawella Road,
Orugodawatta.

- All Bids must be accompanied by Bid Guarantee (Bid Guarantee shall be unconditional, on demand bank Guarantee issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka, approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka) of LKR Three Million and Nine Hundred Thousand (LKR 3,900,000.00). The bid guarantee shall be valid up to 01.08.2021.

- Contact Details:

Master General Ordnance Branch
Sri Lanka Army
T.P 0094-11-2432135
Facsimile 0094-011-2432135
Email: mgobranchemail@gmail.com

Chief Financial Officer's Office,
Ministry of Defence,
T.P 0094-11-2390719
Facsimile 0094-11-2390720

- Bidders are advised to inform in writing to the Chief Financial Officer, Ministry of Defence, 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.

Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee,
No. 15/5
Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03.

14.03.2021

TENDER NOTICE

Linea Aqua (Pvt) Ltd,
Thanahenpitiya Estate, Giridara, Kapugoda.

Linea Aqua (Pvt) Ltd., is a leading apparel manufacturing company in Sri Lanka with the joint venture of MAS holdings (SL) and Speedo International (UK).

Sealed tenders are invited for disposing of below items immediately. The completed tender documents should be sent to "The Chairman, Tender Committee, at the above address by registered post or placed in the box provided at the same address at or before 5.30 p.m. on 23rd March 2021.

Lot No.	Category	Item description	Qty
Lot No. 01	Industrial Sewing Machines	Single Needle, Zig Zag, Bar Tack, Blanket Stitch, Side Cutter, Pattern Serwer.	80 machines
Lot No. 02	Sewing Machine Stands		150

The individuals who are interested can visit the above items at company premises with the prior approval obtained by calling Ms. Shakila Perera on **0772 378757**

Tenders will be opened immediately after closing the tender and the decision of the Tender Committee shall be final. Lot No. 1 and 2 are independent tender options.

The selected applicant should bare all the applicable taxes such as VAT, Custom duty in addition to the quoted values.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Ministry of Defence
Sri Lanka Army

Procurement of Helmet Ballistic 10,000 Nos.**Contract Identification No : MOD/SLA/09/2021**

- The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee, on behalf of The Sri Lanka Army invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for purchasing of **Helmet Ballistic - 10,000 Nos.** for the Sri Lanka Army.
- Bidding process will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from **Master General Ordnance Branch, Army Headquarters, Sri Jayawardhanapura Colombo, Sri Lanka** T.P 011-2432135, Email: mgobranchemail@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents (free of charge) at the address given below :

Procurement Branch
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03.

T.P 011 - 2390719
Fax 011-2390720

From 0900 hours to 1500 hours every working day

- Bidder should not have been blacklisted.
- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate along with the bids, according to the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987, if relevant.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language can be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address below;

Chief Financial Officer (1)
Procurement Branch,
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03.

Email: procurement@defence.lk

And,
Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of LKR 40,000.00 (LKR Forty Thousand) in cash to the Ministry of Defence,

- Bids shall be valid up to 06.07.2021.

- Delivery period shall be 90 days from the exact date of opening of LC.

- In addition to the above, bidder shall forward 09 numbers of Helmet Ballistic for field testing on the bid opening date.

- Bids must be delivered to the address below marked with reference number : MOD/SLA/09/2021:

Chief Financial Officer's Office,
Ground Floor,
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo-3.

On or before 07.04.2021 at 1400 hrs.

Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing of bids in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who wish to attend.

- Pre bid meeting shall be held on 22.03.2021 at 1500 hrs at the address below:

Army Ceylinco Building
No: 167/30,
Awissawella Road,
Orugodawatta.

- Contact Details:
Master General Ordnance Branch
Sri Lanka Army

T.P 011-2432135
Facsimile 011-2432135
Email: mgobranchemail@gmail.com

Chief Financial Officer,
Ministry of Defence,
T.P 011-2390719
Facsimile 011-2390720

- All Bids must be accompanied by Bid Guarantee (Bid Guarantee shall be unconditional, on demand bank Guarantee issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka, approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka) of Sri Lanka Rupees Two Million and Six Hundred Thousand (LKR 2,600,000.00) as per Section 20 of ITB. The bid guarantee shall be valid up to 03.08.2021.

- Bidders are advised to inform in writing to the Chief Financial Officer, Ministry of Defence, 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.

Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee,
No. 15/5
Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03.

14.03.2021

AMENDMENT TO INVITATION FOR BIDS**SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM FOR CARDIAC AND CRITICAL CARE COMPLEX AT LADY RIDGEWAY HOSPITAL, COLOMBO-08.****CONTRACT NO: SB/179/G/53/2020**

- This refers to the Invitation for Bids, published on 21st February 2021 in Sunday Observer in respect of the above mentioned Contract.

- Following amendments are made to the above referred Invitation for Bids.

- The **Bid opening/closing time** has been extended up to **1400 hrs on 29th March 2021.**

- Bids shall be valid up to 26th July 2021.**

- Bid Security shall be valid up to 21st August 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 between 0900 hrs and 1500 hrs until 28th 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

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Ministry of Defence
Sri Lanka Army

Procurement of Towel Bath Olive Green - 278,250 Nos.**Contract Identification No : MOD/SLA/08/2021**

- The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC), on behalf of The Sri Lanka Army invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for purchasing of **Towel Bath Olive Green 278,250 Nos.** for the Sri Lanka Army.

- Bidding process will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.

- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from **Master General Ordnance Branch, Army Headquarters, Sri Jayawardhanapura Colombo, Sri Lanka** T.P 011-2432135, Email: mgobranchemail@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents (free of charge) at the address given below :

Procurement Branch,
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03.

T.P 011 - 2390719
Fax 011-2390720

From 0900 hours to 1500 hours every working day

- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate along with the bids according to the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987, if relevant.

- Bidders should not have been blacklisted.

- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language can be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address below;

Chief Financial Officer (1)
Procurement Branch,
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03.

Email: procurement@defence.lk

And,
Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of LKR 35,000.00 (LKR Thirty Five Thousand Only) in cash to the Ministry of Defence,

- In addition to the above, bidder shall pay LKR 87,600.00 of non-refundable fee in cash, as sample testing charges.

- Bids shall be valid up to 06.07.2021.

- Delivery period shall be maximum 90 days from the date signing of the contract agreement.

- In addition to the above, bidder shall forward 15 Nos. of Towel Bath Olive Green for testing on the bid opening date.

- Bids must be delivered to the address below marked with reference number MOD/SLA/08/2021:

Chief Financial Officer's Office,
Ground Floor,
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo-3.

On or before 07.04.2021 at 1100 hrs.

Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing of bids in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who wish to attend.

- Pre bid meeting shall be held on 22.03.2021 at 1030 hrs at the address below:

Army Ceylinco Building
No: 167/30,
Awissawella Road,
Orugodawatta.

- All Bids must be accompanied by Bid Guarantee (Bid Guarantee shall be unconditional, on demand bank Guarantee issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka, approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka) of Sri Lanka Rupees Two Million and Four Hundred Sixty Thousand (LKR 2,460,000.00) as per Section 20 of ITB. The bid guarantee shall be valid up to 03.08.2021.

- Contact Details:

Master General Ordnance Branch
Sri Lanka Army
T.P 0094-11-2432135
Facsimile 011-2432135
Email: mgobranchemail@gmail.com

Chief Financial Officer,
Ministry of Defence,
T.P 0094-11-2439381
Facsimile 0094-11-2390720

- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the Chief Financial Officer, Ministry of Defence, 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.

Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee,
No. 15/5
Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03.

14.03.2021

NOTICE



Walpita Godelage Roshan Hasantha
NIC No.: 721510689 V

This is to inform our Valued Clients, Public & Private Institutions, Banks, General Public and Government of Sri Lanka that the above mentioned person is no longer employed with us. Hence, we shall not take any responsibility of any business transactions, agreements or financial transactions entered in to with him on our behalf.

The Management
SCAN ENGINEERING (PVT) LTD.

Suite 705, Hilton Colombo Residence, 200, Union Place, Colombo -02
 E-mail: info@scanengineering.lk, Tel.: 011 5747535 / 6 ; Fax.: 011 555674



BID INVITATION

The Lanka Hospitals Corporation PLC wishes to invite price Quotations/Proposals from bidders who are interested to provide following requirements.

Bid Invitation No.	Item Description	Non-Refundable Fee (Rs.)	Eligibility Criteria	Pre-bid Meeting Date	Bid Documents Issuing Date	Closing Date and Time of Bidding
LH/21/000056/MM/P059	Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory Angiography System.	20,000.00	PCA 3 Certificate	N/A	From 16 th March 2021 to 06 th April 2021	07 th April 2021 at 11.00am
LH/20/000229/DP/P063	Service Provider for Lanka Hospitals Call Center	3,500.00	Availability of any third party license and technical capability with relevant equipment	22 nd March 2021 at 9.30am	From 17 th March 2021 to 30 th March 2021	31 st March 2021 at 11.00am
LH/20/001636/GK/P052 (Closing date extension)	Construction Work of Lift Core for Service Building					Tender published on 28 th February 2021 in Sunday Observer newspaper will be extended up to 29 th March 2021 at 11.00 am. Bidding documents can be collected from 15 th March 2021 onwards with submission of CIDA registration C7 or C6.

General Information:

- A complete set of bidding documents in English Language can be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written request (for each) to Manager Procurement, Procurement Department, No.598, Administration Building, The Lanka Hospitals Corporation PLC, Narahenpita, Colombo 05 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee per set in cash to the Finance Dept., on weekdays from above mentioned issuing date from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.
- Duly perfected bids marked "The Tender No. & Title of the Tender" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope, sealed bids may either be deposited in the tender box located in Procurement Department, 04th Floor, No. 598, Administration Building, The Lanka Hospitals Corporation PLC, Narahenpita, Colombo 05 or sent by registered post to the same address.
- Bids will be opened soon after deadline in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend.
- Incomplete & late bids will be rejected & The Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject bids received or part thereof.
- If the bidder acts as an agent, sub-agent, representative, or nominee for and on behalf of any tenderer a Copy of PCA 3 certificate issued by the Company Registrar should be submitted along with the request letter to obtain bidding documents and should get the contract registered after each bid is awarded if the bid value exceeds 5Mn Rupees.

For further details, please contact Tel:011-5438582,8587

The Chairman - Procurement Committee,
The Lanka Hospitals Corporation PLCPQ (180)
 No. 578, Elvitigala Mawatha,
 Narahenpita, Colombo 05.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Ministry of Defence
Sri Lanka Army

Procurement of Material Bedsheet White 60" - 552,000 Mtrs

Contract Identification No : MOD/SLA/06/2021

- The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC), on behalf of The Sri Lanka Army invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for purchasing of **Material Bed Sheet White 60" - 552,000 Mtrs** for the Sri Lanka Army.
- Bidding process will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from **Master General Ordnance Branch, Army Headquarters, Sri Jayawardhanapura Colombo, Sri Lanka** T.P 011-2432135, Email: mgobranchemail@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents (free of charge) at the address given below :

Procurement Branch
 Ministry of Defence,
 No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
 Colombo 03.

T.P 011 - 2390719
 Fax 011-2390720

From 0900 hours to 1500 hours every working day

- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate along with the bids according to the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987, if relevant.
- Bidder should not have been blacklisted.
- A complete set of Bidding Document in English Language can be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address below;

Chief Financial Officer (1)
 Procurement Branch,
 Ministry of Defence,
 No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
 Colombo 03.

Email: procurement@defence.lk
 And,

Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of LKR 55,000.00 (LKR Fifty Five Thousand Only) in cash to the Ministry of Defence,

- In addition to the above, bidder shall pay LKR 92,300.00 of non-refundable fee (LKR Ninety Two Thousand Three Hundred) in cash, as sample testing charges.
- Bids shall be valid up to 05.07.2021.
- Delivery period shall be maximum 90 days from the date signing of the contract agreement.
- In addition to the above, bidder shall forward 20 Mtrs of Material Bedsheet White 60" for testing on the bid opening date.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below marked with reference number MOD/SLA/06/2021:

Chief Financial Officer's Office,
 Ground Floor,
 Ministry of Defence,
 No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
 Colombo-3.

On or before 06.04.2021 at 1100 hrs.

Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing of bids in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who wish to attend.

- Pre bid meeting shall be held on 22.03.2021 at 0900 hrs at the address below:
 Army Ceylinco Building,
 No: 167/30,
 Awissawella Road,
 Orugodawatta.
- All Bids must be accompanied by Bid Guarantee (Bid Guarantee shall be unconditional, on demand bank Guarantee issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka, approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka) of Sri Lanka Rupees Four Million and Five Hundred Thousand (LKR 4,500,000.00) as per Section 20 of ITB. The bid guarantee shall be valid up to 02.08.2021.
- Contact Details:
 Master General Ordnance Branch
 Sri Lanka Army
 T.P 0094-11-2432135
 Facsimile 011-2432135
 Email: mgobranchemail@gmail.com
 Chief Financial Officer,
 Ministry of Defence,
 T.P 0094-11-2439381
 Facsimile 0094-11-2390720

- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the Chief Financial Officer, Ministry of Defence, 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.

Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee,
 No. 15/5
Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03.

14.03.2021

People's Leasing & Finance PLC
 (Subsidiary of People's Bank)

SALE OF VEHICLES & MACHINERIES

VEHICLE NO	MAKE & MODEL	YEAR	CARD	VEHICLE NO	MAKE & MODEL	YEAR	CARD
BUSES				CARS			
WP-NB-726X	LEYLAND VIKING, seat 49	2014	MABIMA	WP-GL-727X	ALFA ROMEO 156	2001	MARADANA
NC NC-767X	MITSUBISHI ROSA, seat 32(Damage)	2009	GALEWELA	WP-KT-540X	FORD FOCUS	2011	MATARA
TIPPERS				MOTOR BIKE			
NP LI-795X	TATA 1615(Damage)	2011	GALEWELA	301-690X	FORD FORD LASER	1999	MARADANA
WP JH-379X	TATA LPK 1615(Damage)	2004	MABIMA	NW-KN-792X	HONDA CIVIC	2007	MARADANA
CAB				LORRIES			
WP-PD-688X	MICRO ACTYON SPORTS 200XDI	2012	GALEWELA	048-426X	FREIGHT ROVER TUSKER, BOWSER	1996	MATARA
NW BIR-745X	YAMAHA RAY-ZR(Damage)	2020	GALEWELA	WP PK-739X	MAHINDRA MAXIMO MA1FA(Damage)	2014	MAKOLA
VANS				VANS			
WP-PB-733X	MICRO MPV JUNIOR	2008	MARADANA	CP LI-037X	TATA (Damage)	2011	MABIMA
WP-PA-549X	NISSAN CARAVAN	2001	MARADANA	WP-PB-733X	MICRO MPV JUNIOR	2008	MARADANA
SP-PE-876X	NISSAN KR-VWE25	2006	MATARA	WP-PA-549X	NISSAN CARAVAN	2001	MARADANA
CP-GE-283X	NISSAN VANETTE	1995	GALEWELA	SP-PE-876X	NISSAN KR-VWE25	2006	MATARA
NC PC-829X	TOYOTA KDH200(Damage)	2006	MAKOLA	CP-GE-283X	NISSAN VANETTE	1995	GALEWELA
				WP-KW-091X	TOYOTA DBA-NZT260	2012	GALEWELA
				SP KA-639X	TOYOTA VIOS MRD53(Damage)	2003	MAKOLA

- Vehicle and the documents will be delivered as they are
- Available information of the vehicle will be displayed in the windscreen of each vehicle.
- Visit www.plc.lk to see the pictures of vehicles.
- The full payment or any alternate arrangements should be made within 3 days from the date of advance payment to get the vehicle released.
- No refund of advance payment will be entertained in any circumstances.

Time & Period of inspection

13 th ,14 th ,15 th & 16 th March 2021 9.00 a.m - 4.00 p.m
 (All Below mentioned Yards)
Tender will be closed on 16 th March 2021 by 4.00 p.m

Venues of inspection

- Maradana - In front of Colombo Municipal Council Work Shop, (Former Gamini Hall), Darley Road, Maradana.
- Matara Sales Unit - No.364, Nupe, Matara (T.P 077-5235888)
- Mabima - No. 225/D, Nayagala Road, Heiyanthuduwa, Mabima.
- Makola - No.496, Makola North, Makola
- Malabe Sales Unit - No.608, Athurugiriya Road, Malabe (T.P 076-1064773)
- Galewela - People's Leasing Vehicle Yard & Sale Center, Ketalagolla, Beligamuwa, Galewela. (T.P066-2287355)
- Monaragala - People's Leasing Co. PLC, Monaragala (T.P 055-2277485)

Offers to be addressed to
 Chief Executive Officer
PEOPLE'S LEASING & FINANCE PLC
 No. 1161, Maradana Road, Colombo 08.

*** Offers will be informed to successful bidders after 07 days of opening the tender box.**

Offers could be place to Tender Boxes at our Vehicle Yards & Head Office or sent under registered cover or hand delivered marked "Sale of Vehicles" (Registration No. of the vehicle offered) on the left hand corner of the cover and should reach to the above address on or before **16 th March 2021 before 4.00p.m.** Chief Executive Officer of the People's Leasing & Finance PLC, reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the offers without any reason being given for such rejections. Tender forms can be obtained from our Head office at Borella, Branches or at our vehicle yards, after paying non refundable **Rs.750/-** for each.

Tender Section
People's Leasing & Finance PLC.
 Tel: 011 2631631 Fax: 011 2631593
 Vehicle yards - Maradana Tel: 011 2688026 Makola Tel: 011 2964300 Mabima Tel: 011 2401031
 Galewela Tel: 066-2287355 Monaragala Tel: 055-2277485

COLOMBO DOCKYARD PLC
TENDER NOTICE

Sealed offers are invited in respect for sales of below mention Materials in our yard premises.

Main Materials

- > Steel Profiles, Sheet Rods, Clamps & Fasteners
- > Pipes, Fittings & Valves (Steel, Plastic & Alloy)
- > Plates, Wires, Tubing & Fittings (Copper & Brass)
- > Steel, Plastic & Alloy Pipes Fitting & Valves
- > Electrical Wires, Lights, Fittings, Accessories & Instruments
- > Welding Electrodes
- > Bearings
- > SS Bars, Studs
- > Oils, Brake Lining and many more

From 15th – 19th March
08.30 am – 04.00 pm

Other Details

- > Inspection at Kelani River Yard Site (KRY) - Mattakkuliya (<https://goo.gl/maps/DpTAmqPpidSr1Ckw9>)
- > Address - No. 172, Sri Wickrama Mawatha, Mattakkuliya, Colombo 15
- > Period for inspection and Bidding - From 15th March – 19th March
- > Time - 08.30 am - 04.00 pm
- > Entrance - Rs. 1,000.00 (Non Refundable)
- > Bidding Charges - Rs. 20,000.00 (Refundable)

Tender Forms : Can be obtained after pay above bidding charges (refundable) in cash could be made to the Accountant at Kelani River Yard Site, No. 172, Sri Wickrama Mawatha, Mattakkuliya, Colombo 15 from **15.03.2021 to 19.03.2021** (between **08.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.**)

All offers are to be dropped in to the Tender Box is made available at the above address indicating our references of **SMCD/T/06/2021** on the top left hand corner of the envelope, on or before **04.00 p.m. on 19.03.2021.**

Offers received after the closing time and by post shall not be accepted.

For further information, please contact:
General Manager (Supply Chain Management)
Colombo Dockyard PLC
Port of Colombo,
Colombo 15.
Tp : 011 242 9000 / 011 242 9059 ** Terms and conditions Apply.

NAWALOKA CONSTRUCTION COMPANY (PVT) LTD.
A MEMBER OF NAWALOKA HOLDINGS

WANTED VEHICLES FOR HIRING

Requirements

- Motor cars manufactured after 2018
- Model: Sedan
- Hiring for 1 to 2 years
- To use of Project Managers in Construction projects

Contact : Mr. Priyanga - 0741502364

Nawaloka Construction Company (Private) Ltd.
No.115, Sir James Peiris Mawatha, Colombo 02.

INVITATION FOR QUOTATIONS

Mantai Salt Limited.
Government owned Company

TECHNICAL CONSULTANCY SERVICE FOR CIVIL CONSTRUCTION WORK ELEPHANTPASS SALTERN

The Chairman Procurement Committee on behalf of the Mantai Salt Limited invites the quotations from registered institutions to the Technical consultancy service of civil construction work at Elephantpass Saltern.

Work type: Construction of ordinary building to accommodate a 5MT/H Table Salt plant along with long vehicle ramp and plinth / platform structure.

Scope of work;

1. Inspection and feasibility phase.
2. Schematic design as per the requirement by the plant supplier
3. Design and development phase
4. Construction document phase
5. Bidding or negotiation phase (Evaluation)
6. Construction phase
7. Maintenance phase.

Please send your self-prepared quotation with details of minimum 3 years past performance and the existing professional staff capacity. Further quote your service charges in percentage of the total building cost from scope No. 01 to 07 and send the quotation in sealed envelope to reach the below mentioned address on or before 30/03/2021 at 2.30 p.m. Please mention at the top left hand corner of the envelop "Quotation for Construction Consultancy at Elephantpass Saltern".

Chairman, Procurement Committee, Mantai Salt Limited, No. 561/3, Elvitigala Mawatha Colombo-05. 011 2368974

University of Colombo

INVITATION FOR BIDS

House or Building on Rent/Lease for a Hostel

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the University of Colombo invites sealed bids to obtain a suitable house/building on Rent/lease basis within the Colombo City limits close to the University of Colombo for immediate occupation around fifty (50) male Bikkhu students at the University.

Bidding documents and details can be obtained from Students & Staff Affairs Branch during the period from **15.03.2021 to 21.04.2021** on working days from 9.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. by paying a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1000/- in cash to the University Main Collection Account by using reference number **505170600013** at any People's Bank Branch.

On the top left-hand corner of the envelope which contains bid documents should be marked as "Lease of House/Building for Student Hostel" and duly filled bids should be sent by registered post addressed to the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, University of Colombo, No. 94, Cumaratunga Munidasa Mawatha, Colombo 03 or to be deposited in the Tender Box available in the Registrar's Office of the University at or before **2.30 p.m. on 22.04.2021.** Bids received after the closing time will be rejected.

Chairman Department Procurement Committee University of Colombo, No. 94, Cumaratunga Munidasa Mawatha, Colombo 3.

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Supplying, Installation, Training and Maintaining, Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP System): Human Resource Management Software System for the University of Colombo (UOC/NAE/ERP/NCB/2021)

1. Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (Major), University of Colombo, Colombo 03 invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Supplying, Installation, Training and Maintaining of Human Resource Management Software: Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP System) for The University of Colombo as described below.
2. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
3. Bidder should have at least five years of experience in the relevant field in Sri Lanka.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Senior Assistant Registrar/ Non-Academic Establishments (Contact No. **011-2553866/ 011-2553644**) of the University of Colombo and inspect the bidding documents from the Non-Academic Establishments Branch of the University from **9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. from 15.03.2021 to 07.04.2021** free of charge and through the (www.cmb.ac.lk/http://cmb.ac.lk/category/procurements)
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Senior Assistant Registrar/Non Academic Establishment, University of Colombo and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rupees **5000/-** Non-refundable fee can be paid to the University Bank Account No. 505170600013 at People's Bank Thimbirigasyaya Branch. The documents may be purchased until **2.30 p.m. from 15.03.2021 to 07.04.2021.**
6. Bids must be delivered in duplicate to the address below, on or before **2.30 p.m. on 08.04.2021.** Please indicate the "Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP System): Human Resource Management Software System" on top of the left corner of the envelop.
7. All bids must be accompanied by an unconditional on demand Bid Security of **Rs. 210,000/(Two hundred and ten thousand rupees only)** from any commercial bank registered under the Central Bank of Sri Lanka as specified in BDS ITB 20.2.
8. A pre-bid meeting will be held on **25.03.2021 at 10.00 am in the Board Room 1 of the College House, University of Colombo, 94, Cumaratunga Munidasa Mawatha, Colombo 03.**
9. Late bids will be rejected. The bids shall be deposited in the 'Tender Box' available in the Registrar's Office of the University, or sent under registered cover to be received before the deadline at the address given below. The bids will be opened in the Board Room 02 of the College House, University of Colombo at **2.30 pm on 08.04.2021**, in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend the bid opening.

The Chairman Department Procurement Committee (Major) University of Colombo, No. 94, Cumaratunga Munidasa Mawatha, Colombo 3.

AMENDMENT TO INVITATION FOR BIDS

FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF MAIN ENTRANCE DOOR WITH DECORATIVE GRANITE WALL PANELS OF BLOCK 02 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO: DHQC/ENTRANCE DOOR 2/2020

1. This refers to the Invitation for Bids, published on **28th February 2021** in **Sunday Observer** in respect of the above mentioned Contract.
2. Following amendments are made to the above referred Invitation For Bids.
 - The **Bid opening/closing time** has been extended up to **1000 hrs on 07th April 2021.**
 - **Bids shall valid up to 23rd June 2021.**
 - **Bid Security Shall be valid up to 21st July 2021.**
3. All other terms and conditions of the previous Invitation For Bids remain unchanged.
4. 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 until **06th April 2021** from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days.
5. A complete set of Bidding, Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla until **06th April 2021** from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Five Thousand (LKR 5,000.00). The method of payment will be by Cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of Ministry of Defence.

The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
Tel : 0094-011-4209885
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
Email : pmudhq@gmail.com

PEOPLE'S MICRO-COMMERCE LTD
(Sister company of People's Bank)

SALE OF VEHICLES & MACHINERIES

MOTOR BIKES

VEHICLE NO	MAKE & MODEL	YEAR	VMD	VEHICLE NO	MAKE & MODEL	YEAR	VMD
UP-BH-660X	BAJAJ CT300	2019	MONARAGALA	NC-BIR-667X	KTM DUKE 125	2019	GALEWELA
EP-BHL-640X	BAJAJ CT300	2018	MONARAGALA	SP-BDZ-912X	MAHINDRA ROCKSTAR	2016	MARADANA
NW-BGLU-485X	BAJAJ PLATINA	2018	GALEWELA	SG-BEB-657X	MAHINDRA ROCKSTAR	2016	MARADANA
NC-BGO-020X	BAJAJ PLATINA	2017	GALEWELA	EP-BGT-005X	SUZUKI LETS	2018	MONARAGALA
SP-BIA-033X	BAJAJ PLATINA	2019	MARADANA	UP-BGT-496X	TVS APACHE RTR 200	2017	MONARAGALA
WP-BGI-837X	BAJAJ PULSER 135LS	2017	MARADANA	SP-BGW-893X	TVS WINGO	2018	MARADANA
NC-BHR-855X	BAJAJ PULSER 150	2019	GALEWELA	CP-BGT-591X	TVS-METRO	2018	GALEWELA
SG-AAE-960X	BAJAJ RE	2012	MONARAGALA	NW-BIC-082X	TVS-NTORQ	2018	GALEWELA
SP-ARU-446X	BAJAJ RE	2015	MONARAGALA	WP-BHE-825X	TVS-NTORQ	2018	MARADANA
NW-9IQ-991X	DIO SCV 110	2020	GALEWELA	NC-BIH-955X	TVS-NTORQ	2019	MARADANA
CP-BIP-788X	DIO SCV 110	2020	GALEWELA	NW-BIH-961X	YAMAHA FAY-ZR	2019	GALEWELA
EP-BIG-857X	DIO SCV 110	2019	GALEWELA	SP-BGQ-862X	YAMAHA FAY-ZR	2018	MARADANA
NC-BU-067X	DIO SCV 110	2019	GALEWELA	SP-BGK-916X	YAMAHA FAY-ZR	2018	MARADANA
NW-BIH-845X	DIO SCV 110	2019	MARADANA	SG-BGQ-874X	YAMAHA FAY-ZR	2017	MARADANA
SP-BGV-365X	HERO SMART 110	2017	MARADANA	UP-BFM-916X	YAMAHA FAY-ZR	2017	MONARAGALA
WP-BGR-828X	HERO SMART 110	2017	MARADANA	UP-BFV-299X	YAMAHA FAY-ZR	2017	MONARAGALA
CP-BGO-942X	HERO SMART 110	2017	MARADANA	NC-BHR-128X	YAMAHA FAY-ZR	2019	GALEWELA
WP-BGO-027X	HERO MAESTRO EDGE	2018	MARADANA	UP-BGF-826X	YAMAHA FAY-ZR	2017	MONARAGALA
WP-BGP-145X	HERO MAESTRO EDGE	2018	MARADANA	UP-BHS-885X	YAMAHA FAY-ZR	2018	MONARAGALA
WP-BGH-213X	HERO MAESTRO EDGE	2018	MARADANA	SP-BGQ-861X	YAMAHA YC 125	2018	MARADANA
WP-BFV-891X	HERO MAESTRO EDGE	2017	MARADANA	UP-BIH-396X	YAMAHA YZF R 15	2019	MONARAGALA
SG-BFY-729X	HERO MAESTRO EDGE	2017	MARADANA	SG-BFF-523X	TVS METRO	2017	MONARAGALA
SG-BGF-518X	HERO MAESTRO EDGE	2017	MARADANA	UP-BFG-680X	TVS METRO	2017	MONARAGALA
WP-BGQ-993X	HERO PLEASURE	2018	MARADANA	UP-BGL-994X	TVS METRO	2017	MONARAGALA
UP-BHU-788X	HONDA CB SHINE	2018	MARADANA	UP-BFX-021X	BAJAJ PULSER 135LS	2017	MONARAGALA
CP-BIH-356X	HONDA GRAZIA	2019	GALEWELA	EP-BGW-657X	YAMAHA SALUTO	2017	MONARAGALA
UP-BFL-890X	HONDA NAVI	2017	MONARAGALA	WP-BEJ-592X	MAHINDRA ROCKSTAR	2016	MARADANA
NW-BGG-117X	HONDA NAVI	2017	GALEWELA	EP-BPW-134X	HERO HF - DELUXE	2017	GALEWELA
SG-BGX-115X	HONDA TWISTER	2018	MARADANA				

- Vehicle and the documents will be delivered as they are
- Available information of the vehicle will be displayed in the windscreen of each vehicle.
- Visit www.pml.lk to see the pictures of vehicles.
- The full payment or any alternate arrangements should be made within 3 days from the date of advance
- Payment to get the vehicle released.
- No refund of advance payment will be entertained in any circumstances.

Time & Period of inspection
13th, 14th, 15th & 16th March 2021 9.00a.m - 4.00p.m (All Below mentioned Yards)
Tender will be closed on 16th March 2021 by 4.00 p.m

Venues of inspection

- Maradana - In front of Colombo Municipal Council Work Shop, (Former Gamin Hall), Derley Road, Maradana.
- Galewela - People's Leasing Vehicle Yard & Sale Center, Kotalagolla, Belgamulla, Galewela. (T.P.065-2287355)
- Monaragala - People's Leasing Co. PLC, Monaragala (T.P.055-2277485)

Offers to be addressed to:
Chief Executive Officer
PEOPLE'S LEASING & FINANCE PLC
No. 1181, Maradana Road, Colombo 08.

* Offers will be informed to successful bidders after 07 days of opening the tender box.

Offers could be placed to Tender Boxes at our Vehicle Yards & Head Office or sent under registered cover or hand delivered marked "Sale of Vehicles" (Registration No. of the vehicle offered) on the left hand corner of the cover and should reach to the above address on or before Tender will be closed on **16th March 2021 by 4.00 p.m.** Chief Executive Officer of the People's Leasing & Finance PLC, reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the offers without any reason being given for such rejections. Tender forms can be obtained from our Head office at Borella, Branches or at our vehicle yards, after paying non-refundable Rs.750/- for each.

Tender Section
People's Micro-commerce LTD.
Tel: 0112 850990 Fax: 011 281 7653
Vehicle yards - Maradana Tel: 011 2688026 Galewela Tel: 066-2287355 Monaragala Tel: 055-2277485

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 DISTILLERIES COMPANY OF SRI LANKA PLC

FOR SALE

Company owned and maintained 'one owner' vehicles for sale. Written offers and inquiries, regarding inspection, should be directed to the **Transport Manager, Distilleries Company of Sri Lanka PLC, No. 110, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10**, during working hours, on weekdays.

Vehicle No.	Make
31-3445	Daihatsu (Jeep) Not in Running Condition
KG-5442	Honda Civic 2008
NA-7902	TATA LPO 1623 45 Seat A/C Bus
NA-7915	TATA LPO 1512 42 Seat Bus

Contact: **Roshanth Perera**
 Transport Manager

Telephone: **2687801 / 2695295-7**
5507000

Eastern University, Sri Lanka
Invitation for Bids (IFB)
National Competitive Bids (NCB)
Supply, Installation and Commissioning for Surveillance System, Eastern University, Sri Lanka

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka will receive sealed bids from interested eligible and qualified bidders for the works mentioned in the table given below and receiving will be closed at 2.00 pm on 05.04.2021. Bidding documents shall be obtained from Senior Assistant Registrar (General Service Division) up to 01.04.2021 on payment of a non-refundable tender fee as mentioned in table for each work. This fee shall be credited to the Account No: 22710014000024 in the Peoples Bank drawn in favor of "Bursar, Eastern University, Sri Lanka".

S. No.	Name of Work	Required ICTAD/CIDA Valid Grade and the Specialty	Bid Validity Period	Bid Security (Rs)	Bid Security valid upto	Non refundable tender fee (Rs.)
1.0	Supply, Install and Commissioning for Surveillance System, Eastern University, Sri Lanka.	EM 4 or above	77 days	90,000.00	03.08.2021	4,000.00

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Method (NCB)
- Bidders shall be registered with VAT in the Department of inland Revenue.
- Bid must be accompanied by bid security as mentioned above
- Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security which shall be;
 - in the format included in the Bidding document
 - in favour of **Vice Chancellor, Eastern University, Sri Lanka**
 - amount and validity period as mentioned above in each work
 - issued by any commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka or Construction Guarantee Fund
- Sealed Bids shall be delivered to the address given below. The bids received after the closing time and date will be rejected.

Bids to be delivered to:
The Chairman
Department Procurement Committee
Eastern University, Sri Lanka
Vantharumoolai, Chenkalady
- Bids will be opened immediately after the closing time at the above address.
- Bidders or their authorized representatives are requested to be present at the opening of Bids.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Senior Assistant Registrar (General Service Division) / Assistant Network Manager (CIC) of Eastern University, Sri Lanka at Chenkalady during any working days during office hours from 9.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs. The Senior Assistant Registrar (General Service Division) may be contacted on Telephone 065 2241518 and Assistant Network Manager 0771100224.

The Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee,
Eastern University, Sri Lanka.
Vantharumoolai,
Chenkalady.
 14.03.2021

INVITATION FOR BIDS

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

BID FOR DESIGN, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM (ICTS) FOR BLOCK 04 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO: DHQC/ICTS/04/2021

- The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC) of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for Design, Supply and Installation of Information Communication Technology System (ICTS) For Block 04 of Proposed Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla and as described below and estimated to cost LKR 490 Million.
 The work consists of supply, installation, configuration and maintenance of all the works in Local Area Network Switches System (LANS), Network Operating Center (NOC), CCTV IP Surveillance System (CCTV/IPSS), Door Access Control System (DACS), IP Television System (IPTVS) and Master Clock System (MCS) of Block 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda, Sri Lanka.
- The Construction period is 270 Days.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted. Bidders shall have **Construction Industry Development Authority Grading EM1 in the Specialty of Electrical and Mechanical Services (EMI) Under sub specialist area on Telecommunication and Information Technology Systems, Security Systems and Pipe Music Systems (ELV).**
- Other minimum Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award shall be:

Qualifications	Minimum Qualification Requirements
(i) Average annual volume of construction work performed in any 5 years during last 10 years (2010 to 2020)	Minimum average annual/Turnover requirement is LKR 490 Million. (Certified audited financial reports of 2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013, 2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020, shall be provided with the Bid)
(ii) Experience in Design, Supply and Installation within last ten years. (2011 to 2020)	At least 3 nr. Information Communication Technology Systems successfully completed within last 10 years. Minimum value of one (1) Number of such system shall not be less than LKR 75 million. Information Communication Technology Systems. Evidence should be provided.
(iii) The minimum amount of liquid assets and /or credit facilities (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract	Not less than LKR 160 million. Evidence should be provided.

- Interested bidders may obtain further information from **The Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** or email to **pmudhqc@gmail.com** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the above address from 15/03/2021 until 16/04/2021 from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs during a working day.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents (except Section I and II of Volume 1A) 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** from 15/03/ 2021 until 16/04/ 2021 from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs during a working day upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **LKR 40,000.00 (Sri Lankan Rupees Forty Thousand)**. The method of payment will be by Cash or Bank draft drawn in favor of **Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC), Chief Finance Officer (I), Chief Accountant's Office (Ground Floor), Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03.**
- A pre bid meeting will be held at **10.00 hrs. on 23/03/2021** and a site visit will be held on **same day** after the pre bid meeting at the Project Management Unit of Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the Bid box placed at the address below at or before **10.00 hrs. 19/04/ 2021**, late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to **15/08/2021** (119 Days after the date of opening of Bids, including bid opening date).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid Security", of **Sri Lankan Rupees Four Million Nine Hundred Thousand (LKR 4,900,000.00)** obtained from a bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, in the form of an unconditional and on demand bond and shall be valid up to 12/09/ 2021 (147 Days from the date of opening of the Bids, including bid opening date). Beneficiary of the Bid Security shall be Secretary, Ministry of Defence.
- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 (when relevant), along with the submission of the Bids, to the Ministry of Defence.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the **Chief Financial Officer**, Ministry of Defence, the Name and the NIC/Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the tender opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address referred to above 9 is:

The Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC)
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03, Sri Lanka.
 Tel : 0094-077-3766601
 Fax: 0094-011-2390720

VEHICLES FOR SALE

THALAWATHUGODA VEHICLE YARD

VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR
CA1-581X	SUZUKI	DAA-MH44S WAGON R	2016	12-SRI 46XX	MINIBUS	LANCER	1980
CAN-801X	SUZUKI	DAA-MH44S WAGON R	2014	CA6-95XX	MICRO	PANDA L.C.1.0	2015
CA6-321X	TOYOTA	DAA-NHF10 AQUA	2014	CA0-86XX	SUZUKI	WAGON R STINGRAY	2015
CBD-811X	SUZUKI	DAA-MH55S WAGON R	2017	GT-38XX	HYUNDAI	SANTRO	2002
HR-321X	KIA	KIA SPORTAGE	2009	KA-200X	TOYOTA	WGS 1.5EA	2003
				14-SRI 99XX	NISSAN	SUNNY	1984

OTHER VEHICLES

VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR
PI-67XX	NISSAN	PRIMA STAR DCI 115 SE SWB	2007	MB-52XX	MICRO	TOURER	2012
PI-92XX	SUBARU	EBD-S321B	2015	PD-06XX	NISSAN	NAVARA DCI OUTLAW	2006
250-01XX	TOYOTA	HIACE	1993	PD-94XX	NISSAN	KR-YWE25 CARAVAN	2006

ANURADHAPURA VEHICLE YARD

VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR
15-SRI 88XX	NISSAN	SUNNY	1985	KY-88XX	TOYOTA	DAA-NHF10 AQUA	2012
CAN-391X	MICRO	PANDA L.C.1.0	2015	CAW-60XX	SUZUKI	DMNI STR	2016
CBD-791X	SUZUKI	DAA-MK42S SPACIA	2016	CAI-76XX	TOYOTA	DAA-NHF10 AQUA	2013

OTHER VEHICLES

VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR
PI-66XX	TOYOTA	CBF-TRH200K HIACE	2013	PK-17XX	NISSAN	HBD DR17V CLIPPER	2018

HORANA VEHICLE YARD

VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR
KY-89XX	TOYOTA	PRIUS DAA-ZVW30	2012	KF-82XX	FAT	LINEA	2011
17-94XX	HYUNDAI	STELLAR	1988				

KULIYAPITIYA VEHICLE YARD

VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR
CA1-75XX	SUZUKI	DAA-MH55S WAGON R	2017	65-52XX	MERCEDES BENZ	E220CDDI	1998
CAC-57XX	HONDA	DAA-CP5	2014				

KADAWATHA VEHICLE YARD

VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR
CBH-291X	MAZDA	DBA-H330S CAROL	2017	CA0-00XX	TOYOTA	DAA-NHF10 AQUA	2014
PE-87XX	MICRO	MPV JUNIOR II	2013	CAV-591X	SUZUKI	DAA-MH55S WAGON R	2017
KG-221X	TOYOTA	LAND CRUISER	2003	KD-831X	MAZDA	DBA BK5P	2007
65-881X	NISSAN	AYENIR	1996	KD-011X	MICRO	TREND	2009
CBG-061X	SUZUKI	DAA-MH55S WAGON R	2018	KV-061X	MICRO	MX7 II	2012
KW-581X	TOYOTA	DAA-ZVW30 PRIUS	2012	PH-861X	TOYOTA	EBD-S321M PDXIS	2013

OTHER VEHICLES

VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR
251-681X	TOYOTA	LH119	1994	NF-731X	HINO	LIESSE	2010

NITTAMBUWA VEHICLE YARD

VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR
CA0-041X	SUZUKI	ALTO LXI 800	2016	CAX-481X	SUZUKI	DAA-MK42S SPACIA	2016

OTHER VEHICLES

VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	VEHICLE NO	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR
58-221X	NISSAN	VWME24	1991				

15th, 16th, 17th, 18th & 19th March 2021 between 08.30 am and 04.30 pm at the below address. Tenders will Close at 04.30 pm on 19th March 2021.

Tender forms could be obtained from the above CDB Branch. 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.

VEHICLE INSPECTION

Thalawathugoda Vehicle Yard: No. 175, School Lane, Thalawathugoda.
 Horana Vehicle Yard: No. 166, Agurawathota Road, Horana.
 Nittambuwa Vehicle Yard: No. 595, Jayasuriya Mawatha, Nittambuwa.
 Anuradhapura Vehicle Yard: Aba 05, Rothmale, Shrawasthipura.
 Kadawatha Vehicle Yard: No. 655, Jayasuriya Mawatha, Nittambuwa.
 Kuliypitiya Vehicle Yard: No. 259, Madampe Road, Kuliypitiya.

CONTACT: Dilsha / Pasan: 011 2744977

CITIZENS DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS FINANCE PLC
 No. 175, School Lane, Thalawathugoda. Tel: 0112744977

* The Company reserves the right to withdraw any vehicle from the sale without prior notice.



REGISTRATION OF SECURITY, CLEANING SERVICES AND MANPOWER SUPPLIERS - 2021

We Camso, the road free company focuses to serve our customers' Off-the-road business. We are present in 27 countries around the world, with more than 7,500 dedicated employees. We operate advance R&D centers, as well as manufacturing plants in USA, Canada, Europe and Asia. Camso is now part of the Michelin Group. By joining forces together, we become the world leader in the Off-The-Roadmarket. Our distribution network spans over more than 100 countries, including 20 where we have our own footprint. We are partner with all the major original equipment manufacturers

We operate as Camso Loadstar in Sri Lanka with over 5500 employees. Camso is the world leading specialist in the design, manufacturing, and distribution of the off-road tires, wheels, rubber tracks, undercarriage systems to serve the material handling, construction, agriculture, powersports and defense industries

Applications are invited from reputed service providers, who wish to register themselves with Camso Loadstar Pvt Ltd for the fulfillment of under mentioned requirements separately for our factories located at Ekala, Kotugoda, Kuruwita, Dematagoda & Midigama

- Should registered organization under The Department of Labour
- Five(05) years experience about the field of security, cleaning and manpower services to the organization with minimum 500 employees.
- Qualified with trained human resource, equipment and financial resources
- Security service provider should be able to cover at least 2 million insurance coverage against theft, misappropriation and other damages etc.

Suppliers can forward their credentials before 30th March 2021 to the following address or e-mail and specify as "Registration of security and cleaning services and manpower suppliers 2021" top left corner on envelope to obtain eligibility to quote. Dis-qualified applications will be rejected without prior note.

Senior Manager Procurement
CAMSO LOADSTAR (PVT) LTD
No.218, Regents Court, Wunungoda Road, Ekala
Tel : 011 - 4837657
web : www.camso.com
Email : Eng.Services.LK@camso.co



Tender Notice

CONSTRUCTION OF MILK COLLECTION CENTERS IN MONERAGALA & BADULLA DISTRICTS

Oxfam, an International Non-Governmental Organization, is calling for bids from qualified contractors (ICTAD category C8 / C7) for the following Constructions in Monaragala and Badulla Districts under the Enhancing Gender Inclusive Socio-Economic Development (EGSD) project. The EGSD project is funded by the European Union under its funding mechanism "Support to Integrated Rural Development in the Most Vulnerable Districts of the Central and Uva Provinces of Sri Lanka" and jointly implemented by Oxfam, Save the Children and LEADS.

- Construction of Milk Collection Centres, Badulla - 02 Nos
Reference No - OIT.TD 2020-21/008/CMB-LK

District	Location
Badulla	Sapurodha - Passara
	Udagama - Passara

- Construction of Milk Collection Centres, Monaragala - 03 Nos
Reference No - OIT.TD 2020-21/009/CMB-LK

District	Location
Monaragala	Kakalana - Siyabalanduwa
	Daleewa - Madulla
	Buddama - Siyabalanduwa

The potential bidders must be registered as legal entity in Sri Lanka under Companies' Registration Act and must be registered with Institute of Construction Training & Development (ICTAD) / CIDA for grade C8 or above value categories in the field of Building Construction.

Bid documents can be collected from following locations between 9.00 hrs and 16.00 hrs from 16th March 2021 until 24th March 2021 (Except on weekend) upon request.

- The Logistics Department, Oxfam Italia, #15, Manthri Place Colombo 05
- The Logistics Assistant, Oxfam Italia, 566, Wellawaya Road, Hulandaawa, Monaragala.
- The Finance & Admin Officer, Oxfam Italia, 85, Dayagunasekara Road, (New Welagedhra Road) Badulla

Completed Bids with all other required documentation should be put in to a sealed envelope, addressed to Procurement Committee, Oxfam Italia, #15, Manthri Place, Colombo 05 with "Bids for Milk Collection Center Construction - Badulla (Tender No (OIT.TD 2020-21/008 /CMB-LK)" or "Bids for Milk Collection Center Construction - Monaragala (Tender No (OIT.TD 2020-21/ 009 /CMB-LK)" and written in the left hand corner of the envelope and should put in the tender boxes at the above locations, on or before 16.00 hrs on Monday 5th April 2021. Late bids will not be accepted.

Bids must be valid at least up to 90 days from bid opening closing date.

Procurement Department,
OXFAM Italia,
15, Manthri Place, Colombo 05
For inquiries, clarifications of questions: 2585855/6 Ext 503



Tender Notice
Supply and Delivery of Electronics, IT Equipment, and Accessories

Oxfam, an International Non-Governmental Organisation implementing both humanitarian and development programs in Sri Lanka. One of its projects 'Assisting Communities in Creating Environmental and Nutritional Development' (ACCEND) is jointly implemented by ADRA and Oxfam and funded by the European Union (EU). The project is a part of its assistance to Sri Lanka government to address the underpinning issues of persisting poverty and other vulnerabilities of the populations living in the Central and Uva provinces.

As a part of this project, Oxfam is looking to procure the following items on competitive bidding and requesting potential suppliers to submit their bids with all relevant supporting documents in the given format.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Laptops | 6. POS Printers |
| 2. Desktops | 7. Webcams |
| 3. Tablets | 8. Smart TV |
| 4. Barcode Readers | 9. Portable Sound Systems |
| 5. Card Printer | 10. USB Hard Disks |

The tender or bid document with the detailed specifications for the above can be obtained from the below link from Monday 15th March 2021 from 2.00pm.

<https://oxfam.box.com/v/Electronicandit>

Suppliers are requested to submit their bids using the given bid documents. Bids prices needs to be valid for at least 3 months from the date of tender deadline.

Interested suppliers are requested to submit their price proposals in a sealed envelope, "Tender for Supply and Delivery of Electronics and IT related items" written in the left-hand corner of the envelop. The bids could be dropped tender box placed at Procurement Dept, Oxfam, #15, Manthri Place, Colombo 05, on or before Thursday 25th March 2021, 1700HRS.

Late bids will be rejected

Logistics Department,
OXFAM,
15, Manthri Place, Colombo 05
For inquiries: 2585855/6

TENDER NOTICE
UNILEVER CEYLON SERVICES (PVT) LIMITED

Invites sealed quotations for below items

Bid documents could be obtained after inspecting of equipment. Inspection to be carried out on appointment with Sudarshana Kalubovila Contact: (076 821 5270) or Roshan Liyanage (077 348 7366)

No.	Item	Serial No	Quantity	To be quoted
1	1,500KV/A Used step-down electrical transformer		1	Units
2	Scrap Iron		1 lot	kg
3	Roller shutter doors		14	kg
4	Rack upright frames, Rack guards and Rack bars		1 lot	lot
5	Damaged electrical cables		1 lot	kg
6	Powered pellet trucks	6132904	1	Units
7	Powered pellet trucks	6132802	1	Units
8	Powered pellet trucks	6132810	1	Units
9	Powered pellet trucks	6132796	1	Units
10	Burnt Host motor		1	Units
11	Exhaust fans		4	lot
12	Gas cylinder (LP)		1	Unit
13	AC parts		1 lot	lot
14	12v used Car batteries		4	lot
15	Removed Power Panel Boards		3	lot
16	Removed Powered pellet truck gear box		2	lot

Duly filled bids placed in a sealed envelope must be addressed to The Procurement Manager Unilever Ceylon Services (Private) Ltd. and inserted into the sealed tender box kept at the Main Gate.

CLOSING DATE AND TIME : March 26th, 2021 at 5.00 p.m.

Unilever Ceylon Services (Pvt) Limited,
Lindel Industrial Zone, Pattiwila Road,
Sapugaskande.

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CORRECTION NOTICE

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

Please note that the above advertisement that appeared in "Sunday Observer" of 07th March 2021 has carried some defects. Hence, following corrections should be made as follows

1. The title of the Advertisement

Supply, Delivery, Installation, Commissioning, Training and Maintenance of Hybrid Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory and Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) for University Hospital General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University

Contract Identification No : MOD/KDU/02/2020

2. Body of the Advertisement

The versions "Hybrid uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS)" in Para 01 and Para 03 and "Hybrid OT uninterrupted Power Supply" in Para 01 (a) should be corrected as **"Hybrid Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory and Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS)"**

General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Hospital Werahera
Boralesgamuwa 10290
Sri Lanka



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011 242 9333

LAKE HOUSE No 25, D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10

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Refundable deposit Rs. 5000/-
Inspection/Contact during office hours (8.30 a.m. - 4.30 a.m.)
Closing Date: 28.03.2021

INTERNATIONAL DISTILLERS LTD
Melfort Estate, Kotalawala, Kaduwela.
0114 653 435 / 0114 653 437 / 0114 653487

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY

SRI LANKA POLICE

SPECIAL TASK FORCE

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLES

1. The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC) of Ministry of Public Security on behalf of the Secretary, Ministry of Public Security, now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the procurements of the **under noted Vehicles to be used in UN Mission Deployment of STF Troops in African Continent. (Bidders are requested to refer the UN COE Manual for details).**

The Vehicles to be procured and other details are as follows :-

Item No.	Procurement Reference	Description of Vehicles	Qty.	Value of the Bid Security (Rs.)	Non-Refundable Tender Fee (Rs.)
01	PS/03/PB/PR/08/15 /2021	Brand New 4x4 Ambulance	02	1,500,000/=	20,000/=
02	PS/03/PB/PR/08/ 16 /2021	Truck Recovery (Over 05 Ton)	01	775,000/=	13,000/=
03	PS/03/PB/PR/08/17 /2021	Truck Water Bowser (8000-10000 Ltrs)	01	500,000/=	7,500/=
04	PS/03/PB/PR/08/19 /2021	Truck Water Canon	01	775,000/=	13,000/=
05	PS/03/PB/PR/08/21 /2021	Jeeps 4x4 With military Radio	04	1,680,000/=	22,000/=
06	PS/03/PB/PR/08/22 /2021	Truck Utility Cargo	02	690,000/=	12,000/=

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) method and the source of funding is GOSL.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Chief Accountant, Ministry of Public Security, 14th Floor, Suhurupaya, Battaramulla through Telephone 011- 2887697 and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Procurement Branch addressed above from 09.00 am to 03.00 pm on any working days (except Public & Bank Holidays) from 15 .03.2021 until 06.04.2021.
- Qualified bidders should have legal right for the above procurements and comply with the requirements under the Public Contracts Act (PCA) No. (03) of 1987. The Original of the PCA 03 registration should be submitted with the bidding documents. The Bidder shall not have a conflict of interest and bidder's name shall not be included in the list of debarred firms at the Department of Public Finance. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders from the Procurement Branch of Ministry of Public Security, 14th Floor, Suhurupaya, Battaramulla. from 09.00 am, to 03.00 p.m. on any working day from 15.03.2021 until 06.04.2021 on submission of a written application to the Chief Accountant of Ministry of Public Security, upon payment of a non-refundable fee mentioned above on behalf of Secretary, Ministry of Public Security. The method of payment will be in cash. Only a single set of bidding documents shall be issued for bidder.
- Sealed Bids in (Original & Duplicate) with PCA 3 Form shall be kept at the Tender Box placed at the Procurement Branch of Ministry of Public Security, 14th Floor, Suhurupaya, Battaramulla. Alternatively, bids may be sent by registered post to reach the above address at or before 14.00 hrs on 07.04.2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing of bids in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the Procurement Branch on 14th Floor at Ministry of Public Security, Suhurupaya, Battaramulla. The representatives who wish to attend should produce an authorized letter from the organization and the letter should be sent to reach Chief Accountant of Ministry of Public Security, prior to the date of bid opening.
- Bids shall be valid until the period mentioned in the bidding documents.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security and it shall be;
 - Issued by any Commercial Bank operating in Sri Lanka and approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka
 - In favour of Secretary, Ministry of Public Security
 - At the amounts mentioned above
 - In the form included in Section 09 of the Bidding Documents an unconditional on demand bond and shall be valid for **119 days** i.e from 07.04.2021 to 03.08.2021.
- Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 23.03.2021 at the Procurement Branch, Ministry of Public Security, 14th Floor, Suhurupaya, Battaramulla.
- The decision taken by the Procurement Committee will be the final and the Purchaser reserves the right to make any amendments to Financial Regulations and Treasury Circulars issued periodically.
- For further clarifications, please contact:-

Chief Accountant
Ministry of Public Security,
14th Floor, Suhurupaya,
Battaramulla.
Telephone 011- 2887697
Fax 011-2887784
E-mail caminlofinance@gmail.com

Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee,
Ministry of Public Security,
14th Floor, Suhurupaya,
Battaramulla.

STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA



TENDER NOTICE

The State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, Colombo 01 invites quotations from registered and previous sources for following items for open market sales and tenders will be closed at 1.15 p.m. on the dates given below. **(E-mail/Fax offers as well as FOB offers are not acceptable).**

Item	Qty.	Tender No.	Closing on
Item Code No : 120102C14 Nicorandil Tablets 10mg In 10 x 10 Tablets (Blister)	100,000 Packs	RES/26/03/A/2021	26.03.2021
Item Code No : 100204C11 Phytomenadione Tablets BP 5mg OR Phytonadione tablets USP 5mg In 20 Tablets (Blister)	800 Packs	RES/26/03/B/2021	26.03.2021
Item Code No : 270102C34 Ascorbic Acid Tablets BP/USP 500mg In 100 Tablets (Blister)	30,000 Packs	RES/26/03/C/2021	26.03.2021
Item Code No : 270118D99 Vitamin B Complex with Vitamin C and Zinc Capsules in 60 Capsules	72,000 Packs	RES/26/03/D/2021	26.03.2021
Item Code No : 130306I99 Clobetasol Ointment BP/Clobetasol Propionate Ointment USP 0.05% w/w In 15g tube air tight sealed printed collapsible tube	60,000 Tubes	RES/29/03/A/2021	29.03.2021
Item Code No : 310122V99 Absorbent Cotton Gauze Type 13 BP OR Absorbent Cotton Gauze SLS 395: 1985 (Add. 87 : 1987) Width 36 inches or 91cm Unstretched Length 6 yards or 5.5m	24,000 Rolls	RES/30/03/A/2021	30.03.2021
Item Code No : 310120V99 Open Wove Bandage BP (1988) Type 3 (White). Finished Width : 3 inches or 7.5cm Unstretched Length : 5 yards or 4.5m in 12 rolls in a pack	18,000 Packs	RES/30/03/B/2021	30.03.2021
Item Code No. 130105O43 Tolnaftate Topical Solution USP 1% In 10ml bottle	100,000 Bottles	RES/30/03/C/2021	30.03.2021
Item Code No : 170201C14 Domperidone Tablets BP 10mg In 10 x 10 Tablets (Blister)	240,000 Packs	RES/30/03/D/2021	30.03.2021
Item Code No : 180503C24 Sitagliptin Tablets 100mg In 3 x 10 Tablets (Blister)	220,000 Packs	RES/30/03/E/2021	30.03.2021
Item Code No : 020101C20 Gastro Resistant Diclofenac Tablets 50mg BP OR Diclofenac Sodium Delayed Release Tablets 50mg USP in 10 x 10 Tablets (Blister)	240,000 Packs	RES/30/03/F/2021	30.03.2021

These tenders are administered by the provisions of the "Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987" and therefore, in the event bidder is to retain an Agent, Sub-Agent, Representative, Nominee for and on behalf of tenderer shall register himself and such Public Contract in accordance with Section 10 of the Public Contracts Act and produce such valid certificate of registration in the course of any transaction relating to the tender or Act any stage in the duration of the tender.

Tenders will be closed at the office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at 1.15 p.m. on the dates indicated against each tender and will be opened immediately thereafter. Tenderers or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Tender.

The Chairman - Procurement Committee
State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka
75, Sir Baron Jayathilake Mawatha,
Colombo 01.
Phone: 00 94 11 2320356-9

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6 ශ්‍රේණිය

7 ශ්‍රේණිය

8 ශ්‍රේණිය



9 ශ්‍රේණිය

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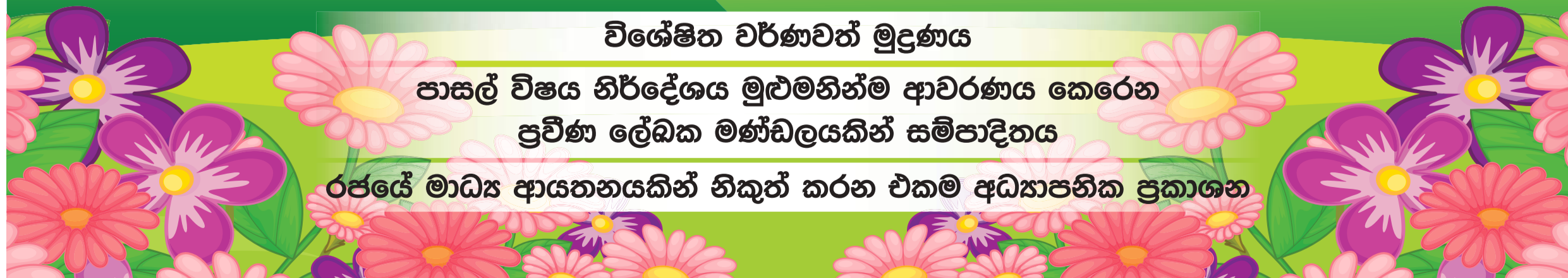
11 ශ්‍රේණිය



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Buddhist Bank Manager, Teacher, Engineer, Doctor, family from Colombo suburbs seek academically professionally qualified son for their 33 year, pretty, fair, Bank Executive Graduate daughter. She is legally separated from a 2 months marriage. She has valuable assets (Kuja, Rahu in 7th house). Email - p roposalmdr@gmail.com **OB160194**

About Matugama Town famous business family 5'0" beauty only daughter 1994 reading for special degree, amount of cash will be given 50 lakhs and assets, looking for good businessman Bodu Govi Western Province born in 1989 - 1993 settle down in Sri Lanka. No horoscope with malefic. Tel. 0345726993. dils han9292@gmail.com **OB160103**

About our daughter 1992 born, 5'5" holding AAT and a Business Management Diploma and reading for Chartered Accountancy, working as an executive in a company located in her hometown, Kuliyaipitiya. Brought up with an excellent character and her Sinhala Roman Catholic parents seek a suitable partner from a respectable family. Inherits assets. The eldest brother is a Manager residing abroad, her elder brother is a Manager residing in Colombo. Reply with family details and contact information. msf.mp2021@gmail.com **OB159953**

About our search : slim and pretty (MBBS) Doctor GP daughter. Australian born in 1988 and 5'8" Kandy/G Christian. Parents look for a professional son (prefer Doctor, Civil Engineer. Prefer Australian or NZ born citizen. Email : prop osalgw2021@gmail.com **OB159902**

Academically and professionally compatible caring decent partner sought by Govi. Buddhist respectable retired parents for 1992 January born, 5'6", pretty, well mannered daughter. She is a qualified Software Engineer with BSc and MSc in Computer Science and PR with permanent employment in Western Australia. Reply with horoscope and family details to a singhe1992@yahoo.com **OB159914**

Academically and professionally qualified and well mannered son is sought by Hindu Solliyar Vellalar parents seeking suitable son for our daughter born in 1992 Kandy District 5'2" double Degree Holder cultured oriented girl. Please contact with horoscope. 011-647-510-1919, 0765903045. **OB159880**

Academically and professionally qualified caring son from a respectable family sought by G/B parents. She is 35 yrs, BBA and currently reading for MBA. Inherits substantial assets. Reply with family details, copy of horoscope and contact No. propfin d2020@gmail.com **OB160165**

Academically and professionally qualified caring son is sought by Bodu Vishwa family for their daughter living in Matara. She is 29, 5' 7 1/2" height pretty and fair, graduated from Moratuwa University and she has Quantity Survey or degree currently working at a leading company in Colombo as Quantity Surveyor (Cost Engineer). Please reply with family details and contact information. Tel: 0412225180. Email: nnaotunna@gmail.com **OB160056**

Academically and professionally qualified caring son is sought by B/G (Buddhist) mother for 34 years, 5'5", kind, very pretty, fair, BSc. Degree qualified daughter (she was in the UK) employed in an IT/BPO position in a leading Organization in Colombo. Reply with horoscope. Email : rchproposals@gmail.com **OB159894**

Academically and professionally qualified caring son with sober habits, willing to settle in Ontario, sought by Sinhala Buddhist parents in Canada for their pretty daughter born 1990, 5'1" with post-graduate qualifications, well employed in health sector. IT, Science, Commerce graduate preferred. Please reply with family details, horoscope and contact No. to canprop66@gmail.com. **OB160209**

Academically and professionally qualified caring, well mannered tall (above 5'7"), fair son is sought by Roman Catholic parents for their only daughter, a Group Finance Administrator at Multinational Company. She is 25, fair, pretty, 5'5", academically & professionally qualified AAT, ACCA and holding BSc degree of Finance and She is presently reading for her MSc. She inherits substantial assets. Parents seek qualified son preferably a non smoker between 27 - 30, from a Roman Catholic, respectable family. email: dhammika.senaratne969@gmail.com **OB160031**

Academically and professionally qualified well employed well mannered caring son is sought by Bodu Salagama parents from Colombo for pretty well accomplished daughter. She is IT graduate working in an international IT Company in Colombo, born in 1989 December, height 5'2". Please send full family details and the TP number to: w arnasr52@gmail.com **OB160036**

Academically and professionally qualified partner from respectable family sought by B/G parents for 1988 July born 5'2" tall daughter, studied in a leading school in Kandy, graduated with BSc in Govt. University and MSc in USA. Now she is ready to her PhD in USA. Reply with family details. Email: g vsperera@gmail.com 0812351449 after 7.30 p.m. **OB160213**

Academically and professionally qualified partner (age between 35 and 39) is sought by B/K professional parents for their daughter 34 yrs, 5'2" tall, graduate working as an Executive in a leading organization. Shani & Kethu in 07th house. E-mail: hspieris@yahoo.com **OB160082**

Academically and professionally qualified son is sought by Govi Buddhist parents for the Senior Lecturer daughter works at a Government University completed Doctoral and born on 1987 September and 5'5" tall. Please call after 6.00 p.m. T.P. 0472246512. **OB159877**

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered partner from similar background is sought by G/B respectable professional parents in Colombo suburbs for their MSc qualified well employed, slim, pretty daughter born 1991, 5'2" studied at a reputed Girls' School in Colombo. No plans for migration, owns substantial assets. Please reply giving family details, copy of horoscope and telephone No. Email: marrprop91@gmail.com **OB160050**

Academically and professionally qualified well employed parents for their convent educated eldest daughter 30, 5'6", fair and pretty, holds double degrees, an Attorney-at-Law employed in a government Dept. Six figure salary. Owns and inherits substantial assets. We are Catholic but differences immaterial. Horoscope available. E-mail: drana deva@yahoo.com **OB160149**

Academically and professionally qualified well employed as a finance manager in a leading company in Colombo. Legally separated after a brief marriage as the plaintiff, no encumbrances. Send horoscope copy, contact information and family details to: mm wproposal@gmail.com **OB160184**

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered son from a respectable family is sought by parents for their daughter born in 1987 October, 5'4" MSc / BSc IT professional educated in leading girls' school in Kandy and overseas. Please reply with family details and copy of horoscope. propsoalk andy87@gmail.com **OB159863**

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 (Hons) employed at IT Company in Colombo as a Software Developer. She inherits substantial assets. Please reply with family details. k anwasfdo65@gmail.com **OB160218**

Academically and professionally qualified well employed caring Catholic son is sought by Sinhalese Catholic parents for daughter 24 years 5'2" graduated in B.Eng Software Engineering (Hons) employed at IT Company in Colombo as a Software Developer. She inherits substantial assets. Please reply with family details. k anwasfdo65@gmail.com **OB160218**

Academically and 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 **OB159866**

Academically professionally qualified son living in Australia is sought by Buddhist parents for their Australian citizen daughter 38, BSc, MSc, 5', slim, pretty, divorced no encumbrances. Owns assets. Reply with details. propa usi22@gmail.com **OB160078**

Academically qualified well employed caring Catholic son is sought by Sinhalese Catholic parents for daughter 24 years 5'2" graduated in B.Eng Software Engineering (Hons) employed at IT Company in Colombo as a Software Developer. She inherits substantial assets. Please reply with family details. k anwasfdo65@gmail.com **OB160218**

Academically & professionally qualified son living in the USA, who is open minded, caring and kind, is sought by a G/B family. Proposed daughter is 34 years, 5'5". She has a BA and MBA from USA and is currently working for a reputed company in the USA as a Technical Engineer. She is divorced after a brief marriage due to incompatibility (no children). Caste/religion immaterial. Please reply with family details to: g.weera kkkody10@gmail.com **OB160134**

Academically & professionally qualified son (who isn't only child) below 34 years from a respectable family is sought by Gampaha B/G Doctor mother for her 5'1" fair, slim, 1993 born eldest daughter a graduate & working as Software Engineer in a leading Software company in Colombo. Please reply with family details, horoscope and contact number. (special for Western Province). p syat1963@gmail.com **OB159927**

Anglican bride 38, 5'6", Specialist Doctor seeking Doctor groom living in Europe. vivaha@soulmateviva.lk **OB160132**

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 **OB159866**

Academically & professionally qualified son (who isn't only child) below 34 years from a respectable family is sought by Gampaha B/G Doctor mother for her 5'1" fair, slim, 1993 born eldest daughter a graduate & working as Software Engineer in a leading Software company in Colombo. Please reply with family details, horoscope and contact number. (special for Western Province). p syat1963@gmail.com **OB159927**

Beautiful pleasant young lady 5'6" just turned 32 years, US qualified Chemical Engineer with Masters. Working as a Process Control Engineer in a well reputed Company in California. Substantial assets in the US and Sri Lanka. A well mannered academically qualified son is sought by Sinhala Buddhist parents. Residents from the US or Canada preferred. Please respond with family details to : goodluck1988sk@gmail.com **OB159947**

Badulla, BG, 1987, 5'6", Paramedical (Pharmacist) in a Government hospital, fair complexioned daughter, retired parents seek same caste, employed son. **OB160006**

Beautiful pleasant young lady 5'6" just turned 32 years, US qualified Chemical Engineer with Masters. Working as a Process Control Engineer in a well reputed Company in California. Substantial assets in the US and Sri Lanka. A well mannered academically qualified son is sought by Sinhala Buddhist parents. Residents from the US or Canada preferred. Please respond with family details to : goodluck1988sk@gmail.com **OB159947**

Badulla, BG, 1987, 5'6", Paramedical (Pharmacist) in a Government hospital, fair complexioned daughter, retired parents seek same caste, employed son. **OB160006**

BG, Colombo, respectable parents, seek an academically and professionally qualified, well mannered B/G son employed in SL, for their well accomplished, very slim and pretty daughter. Born 08/1986, 5'3" tall, brought up with Sinhala Buddhist values. Studied at a leading girls' school in Colombo and holds a postgraduate qualification from UK university. Well employed in a managerial capacity. She will inherit a modern upstairs house in Colombo. Prefer a son who can converse fluently in English and has a good personality. Kindly reply with full family details, copy of horoscope and contact information to: sanmech008@gmail.com **OB159998**

Bodu Govi mixed parents seek partner for their well mannered graduate daughter with Masters, 28 years, 5'3", pretty slim and employed. Inherits substantial assets. dprop4572@gmail.com **OB159868**

Bodu Govi retired parents seek suitable partner for pretty daughter born in 1987 and 5'2" tall. She obtained an MBA (HR degree) and Business Administration graduate and currently working at an HR Executive at Ministry of Human Resource & Emiratization UAE. We seeking kind, honest Gentleman from similar background or Bachelor. Please reply with family details and a copy of horoscope. **OB159945**

Bodu / Christian parents from Colombo seek a qualified partner for their daughter (age 30) very fair, slim pretty, who studied at leading School in Colombo and graduated and done Master degree in Engineering at University in UK, now working as an Engineer in International Telecom company in Colombo, only elder brother Engineer married and living in USA. ncsnissanke@yahoo.com **OB160029**

Born in 1993 February 5'3" Sinhala Bodu Govi living in USA for 20 years, she is a Doctor of Physical Therapy. She is a charming, down to earth girl and loves to the nature, animals and music. Parents seek similar professional qualified suitable lovely son. Son who has qualifications to migrate to USA also welcome. Please reply. sanjaya a4334@gmail.com **OB159955**

Buddhist Govi parents from a respectable family of Colombo suburbs seek an academically and professionally qualified, decent & kind hearted son for their daughter, born in 1993, 5'6". She is fair, pretty, educated at a leading girls school in Colombo and is a foreign graduate Engineer. Please reply with full family details and a copy of eproposal487@gmail.com **OB160156**

Buddhist, Dewa, Principal father seeks suitable partner for his daughter pretty, fair only daughter in the family, born May 1987, permanently employed English teacher, graduate, height 5'3", tan, able to migrate too Tel: 037-2298234 after 7.00 p.m. samanindr arathne@gmail.com **OB160070**

B/G Colombo suburbs parents seek partner for daughter born 1986/9, 5'6" tall slim pretty smart, BSc, MBA, PMP qualified Senior Project Manager (IT). E-Mail : proposal924@gmail.com **OB159994**

B/G parents seek a boy, currently living in Canada for their daughter born in 1990 November, 5'1" doing higher studies in Canada. Tel. 037 2230610. **OB160121**

B/G parents seek a suitable son for their beautiful daughter 1993 born 5'2", Electrical Engineer in Melbourne (Australia). Reply with horoscope. 011-2769519. **OB160034**

B/G parents seek a well educated professional for their beautiful daughter born in 1986, who is an English Lecturer. She is 5'1", slim and fair. Owns substantial assets. 2021proposals@gmail.com **OB160101**

B/G parents seek professionally qualified N/S PT son from a respectable family for daughter 83 born fair, slim, 5'4" tall, BSc/MSc qualified in Medical field working in semi government hospital in Colombo, as a Senior Executive. She owns two storey house in Colombo suburb, car and family assets. Reply with full family details & H/C. E-mail: proposals7923@gmail.com **OB160180**

Continued on page 78

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B/G parent living in Colombo looking for an educated partner with good character for their pretty, fair daughter. She is 35 yrs, 5'2", BSc qualified Maths teacher working in a leading school in Colombo. Owns substantial assets. Write details with horoscope. E-mail: priya.njalidiana@yahoo.com Contact Number: 0112751677. OB160126

B/G WP Practising Buddhist 39Y old divorced with 2 kids, graduate working for a leading bank younger looking with an active lifestyle. Mother is looking for a kind hearted, well educated, down to earth son with a similar outlook towards life. Caste religion immaterial. Self replies preferred. Reply with a recent photograph and horoscope to jncnorman@gmail.com. Genuine replies only. OB160158

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 OB159654

Catholic parents from Western Province Sri Lanka is looking for a professionally qualified son for her daughter born in 1996. She holds CIMA (UK) and currently in the final year Bachelor's degree of State University and ACCA (UK) while employed in a reputed private company. Please send details of your son/family to: m.arji.ingrid@yahoo.com OB159929

Catholic / Anglican, academically & professionally qualified partner below 43 is sought by aunt for niece born in 1984, fair, 5'4" in height. Email: sylviaiveera.koon@yahoo.com OB160041

Christian Sinhala parents in Colombo seek partner for daughter, born 1990 height 5ft, professionally qualified, employed in a private bank. Call 011-2792436. OB159940

Close to Colombo B/G respectable family invites an educated loving son to join our family. She is pretty fair kind-hearted 5'5", 29 MBBS Doctor. Reply with family details and H.C. E-mail: proposalud77@gmail.com OB159988

Close to Colombo from a respectable B/G business family, 1992, 5'7" fair, pretty with a proactive personality BSc graduate with MBA, having high income and assets looking for a smart, kind hearted professional or successful businessman devoid of all vices, from the same caste. Please reply with horoscope and contact number along with family details to: kdlproposal@gmail.com OB160162

Colombo born, good looking girl, 33, Roman Catholic family, Degree holder and Asst Manager in an MNC in Singapore, looking for a suitable groom settled in Singapore / Australia. No religion or language bar. email - lbm.argherita@gmail.com OB160226

Colombo Gobi 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: pjay911k@gmail.com Telephone: 0112700026. OB159886

Colombo G/B family seeks independent established gentleman for well-educated professional daughter 39, 5'4" fair slim pretty separated with one child. Self reply with full details: shan.ig21prop@gmail.com OB160072

Colombo Salagama Buddhist parents in Pharmaceutical Business seek educated son from respectable family for their daughter 5'8" Master degree in Food Science, working as an Assistant Brand Manager for leading company. Please reply with family details including horoscope Sithanekatha Shani 7. OB160096

Colombo suburbs G/B parents seek a suitable son for their only daughter born in 1994 July, 5', slim, pretty and fair in complexion, brought up with Sinhala Buddhist values, after graduating RBA degree, working in an International company. Please reply with full family details with horoscope. E-mail: shishy.aw1962@gmail.com OB160091

Colombo suburbs, G/B respectable family, parents bank executives, academically and professionally qualified TT/NS son is sought for well brought up daughter MBBS Doctor (Local University) with assets. She is a Visakhian, slim, attractive, 5'6", born in 1992. Only sister and brother-in-law state bank executives. Reply with family details and copy of horoscope. E-mail: marriageprops1992@gmail.com OB160174

Colombo, Buddhist, Vishwa, seek professionally qualified partner for pretty daughter, 1992/8 height 5'5" BSc (Hons) in Science, Executive in private company, owns land, house, and other assets. Reply with family details, copy of horoscope (Kuja 07, Age 29 - 32). kichan.drai05@gmail.com OB160089

Father retired professional seeks a suitable marriage partner for only child in the family MBBS Lady Doctor dual citizen qualified in Australia and working in a Hospital in Australia, 25 years old, fair, pretty, Sinhalese Buddhist. Owns several properties including a coconut estate in Sri Lanka & a house in Australia. Has Buddhist Sinhalese values, seeks a Doctor qualified in a Western Country & working in a Western Country. Below 30 years & has Buddhist Sinhalese values. Must be a teetotaler with a good character & from a good family. Must be willing to work & live in North Queensland of Australia. Must be handsome & have means. OB159979

Galle Gobi Buddhist simple and unassuming very wealthy parents invite a professionally and academically highly placed partner for MBBS (B'desh) lady Doctor born 1992 March 05 feet 07 inches, fair and virtuous. Born 1992 March 05 feet, 07 inches Rahu 07 Kethu 01 in the horoscope will receive impressive dowry. Reply with compatible horoscope foreign residents also considered. OB160095

Gampaha B/G mother seeks educated partner for daughter 1986, 5'6" (NDT) Textile Moratuwa working leading Apparel Company. prop.osalp1986@gmail.com OB159838

Gampaha B/G mother seeks educated partner for daughter 1987, 5'8" working as a Manager. plya.nage06@gmail.com OB159840

Gampaha District Bodu Gobi Musaeus College educated University Graduate, Postgraduate student state university Visiting English Lecturer 28 year only child. Parents seek same caste, religion state sector Engineer Doctor Executive Officer. Send horoscope and other details. OB160201

Gampaha District Buddhist Vishwa parents seek a son for their Teacher daughter Vegetarian, 39, 5'2", differences immaterial. OB159991

GB parents invite a professionally qualified partner for daughter, 31+, 5'8", fair and beautiful, Doctor in England who will inherit valuable assets. Please send details, horoscope to: a.marasena@gmail.com OB160127

GB parents invite a suitable professionally qualified partner for daughter, 31+ 5'8", a Medical Doctor employed in England very beautiful and fair who will inherit valuable assets. Please email details, horoscope copy to: a.marasena@gmail.com OB160122

GB parents seek a well mannered N/S suitable professionally qualified partner for their daughter born in 1990 pretty 5'4" educated a leading school in Colombo with a BSc in Graphic Designing and currently a Freelance Art Director. Reply with family details and H. Cope. anurad.hiwelikala@gmail.com OB160216

Govi caste, 24 years BSc degree from Kothalawala University, owns a house in Bandaragama, good character, youngest daughter, businessman father seeks a suitable partner. OB159964

Govi / Catholic parents Kelaniya seeks academically professionally qualified daughter for their handsome educated son born 91/5.8 Canadian citizen graduate prestigious Universities USA / Canada (MSc / BSc Chartered Accountancy finalist employed reputed company as Assistant Finance Controller, inherits substantial assets. Pl/reply. sun.ilper12@yahoo.com OB160084

G/B mother Colombo suburbs seeks partner for daughter, tall, fair, pretty, 41 years, educated, holds senior position in company, has own car and house, non malefic horoscope only. OB160097

G/B parents seek academically and professionally qualified partner preferably living in the USA or Western Europe for their 30 yrs., old daughter (5'2") she completed her Bachelor's degree in the USA. Her Master's degree in the USA & a Ivy League University. Currently working at a prestigious consulting company in Europe. She is kind, caring and intelligent. Looking for a son who is very well educated and kind hearted. Please reply with family details and son's horoscope to: proposalduwa27@gmail.com OB159920

G/B University academic (retired) parents seek a suitable partner with sober habits for their pretty, fair and well-mannered daughter, born 1988/7, PhD holder from a reputed US University, currently holding a Postdoc position in a highly reputed US medical school. Reply with family details and copy of the horoscope to propsp18@gmail.com OB160197

G/B 38 years, 5'2", slim, academically and professionally qualified, pleasant and very much younger looking female working in Accounting in Canada seeks a suitable partner from Canada or USA with similar qualification. Reply with family details. Email: mrgpr.op1982@yahoo.com OB160150

Jaffna Hindu Velala parents seek academically professionally qualified suitable partner of similar standing for their fair smart daughter, 1986 born, 5'4", Nadchathiram Pooram, qualified MBA Finance, BSc Hons Finance, ACCA all UK qualifications and employed as Accountant in Colombo, to reply with family details and horoscope. mproposals767@gmail.com OB160002

Kandyan Buddhist Govi parents father Medical Specialist living in Brunei seek suitable Govi Buddhist professional partner from Sri Lanka or abroad for their daughter New Zealand citizen born in November 1986, 5' fair complexion pleasant appearance graduate educated in Australia New Zealand and Brunei and brought up according to Sri Lankan and Buddhist values. Email - propbrbu@gmail.com OB160205

Kandyan Govi Buddhist professional family from Colombo suburb seeks a qualified well educated kind hearted son for their daughter 24 slim and pretty 5'3" educated at a leading private school in Colombo and has completed her BSc degree in Science. She inherits valuable assets. Reply with horoscope, family details to: dol.phinceylon@gmail.com OB159866

Kandy B/G parents are looking for an academically and professionally qualified son for their daughter, 1996/April 5'6" in height. She has a BSc currently working in a well known institute and reading for MSc. Please reply with family details and horoscope. pro.1962ks@gmail.com OB159922

Kandy S/B/G 1993 October, fair, 5'0", BSc (Science Special) Colombo University presently working as Research Assistant and reading for higher studies (Local/Foreign) retired parents seek educated similar capacity son. Reply with family details and horoscope. E-mail: hjk921263@gmail.com OB160068

Kurunegala B/G teaching parents seek suitable partners for their two academically qualified, well mannered daughters, eldest, born 1993, 5'3", studying MA, RMIT, Melbourne, second, born 1995, 5'2", studying Architecture B.Arch (hons), (final year) UOM. Please reply with family details and contact number to proposalsk20@gmail.com OB160229

Malay parents looking for a partner for their daughter who is graduated and working for a leading audit company. She is fair, slim 5'3", 26 years of age religious expecting educated religious and teetotaler from a respected family. Send details with contact number to: malay.proposal21@gmail.com OB160067

Malay 22, 5'2", BSc. Brand Manager, very fair and pretty seeking compatible teetotaler partner. 011-5268888. OB160133

Moor family seeks genuine, professional Muslim groom with no kids living & working in Colombo for divorced bride age 45, fair, resides in Colombo. mypre.tty.girl@yahoo.com OB160004

Moor mother seeks well qualified partner, preferably Doctor for final year MBBS student daughter in Sri Lanka, 24 yrs., pretty well mannered, kindly reply to email address : nikkah2020@yahoo.com OB159975

Moor parents from Colombo seek a suitable partner for their 25 years old English educated Graduate daughter (BSc./MBA) currently working. Please email details to - fulfarook@yahoo.com OB159891

Muslim educated family from Colombo seeks a professional partner age below 32 years for their 28 years 5'6" religious fair Software Engineer (Freelancer) daughter nikahtog.hatuwa@gmail.com 0112547202. No abroad / business. OB159846

Muslim parents seek religious educated and employed groom below 35 years for their educated and religious daughter employed as a Software Engineer in a reputed firm in Colombo. Contact prop.er771810@gmail.com OB160204

Our daughter is 39+ years old, divorced, has a baby of three years, graduated and is living in Australia and has investment properties. Dual citizen. We are expecting a partner of less than 45 years of age with good education and fluent English for marriage. Please email your reply to ratnemangala@gmail.com OB160207

Parents are looking for an educationally and professionally qualified, below 35, well mannered son living in UK or Australia, or willing to migrate, for their professionally qualified pretty daughter 5'2" separated as an innocent party from an incompatible one year marriage with no encumbrances. Presently she is reading for her higher studies. We are Buddhist people hence we do not consider caste differences. Please write with a copy of the horoscope. OB159872

Parents from Colombo seek partner of similar status from a respectable family for only daughter MBBS Doctor 34 yrs., 5'3" v.fair pretty with assets. Only brother Doctor. Email : prop.dev8683@yahoo.com OB159985

Parents residing in Colombo seek a son for their eldest daughter born in 1989, height 5'2" fair in complexion. Educated in a private school in Colombo. Currently a Teacher in a private boys' school. Please drop your details to : info@netlin.k.lk OB159981

Parents seek a medical Doctor / Medical student / professional in a medicine related discipline with good qualities and character, 35 years old or less, for the final year MBBS student daughter (Sri Lanka). Dual citizen Australia / Sri Lanka. 5'5", age 30, slim, good looking and kind-hearted. Australian / NZ residents are welcome. Please send copy of the horoscope. pks.m187@gmail.com OB160152

Proposed son (we expect)
 Academically qualified, honest, smart personality, tall, kind, caring, well-mannered son from an affluent, well respected family. (Age 26-29)
 Seeking to build up a relationship leading to marriage. Who's happy to help our family business or who's from a business family.
 Kindly reply with full family details and horoscope via email.
 Marriage brokers please contact
spropo276@gmail.com
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 C/O Sunday Observer - Lake House, Colombo 10.

BRIDE
 23 years from an affluent, well established, reputed B/G business family in W/ Prov. Only child, 5'4" tall, very pretty, kind-hearted, studied in a leading international School, holds a 1st class BBA (International business/ management) from a reputed Australian university. She's a well-mannered daughter brought up with Buddhist values.
 Non Malefic horoscope.

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Parents wish to find a genuine partner over 45 for Doctor daughter. Reply with H/C and family details. sa mkula1969@gmail.com OB159878

Piliyandala Bodu Govi 1985 June born 5'2" height, retired Government parents seek a suitable partner for their professionally qualified daughter (Chartered Accountant) working in a private company as an Accountant, mother was a Nursing Sister worked at General Hospital, Colombo, father worked as a Supervisor in a Municipal Council, Colombo studied at Lindsay Girls' School, Colombo 3. OB160223

Respectable Christian parents from Colombo seek an educated, kind hearted and God fearing partner for daughter. She is 25 years old and is a graduate employed in a leading company in Colombo. Please reply with full details to; p roposal.m2102@gmail.com OB159925

Retired parents K/B respectable family seek educated professional businessman between 45 - 55 for pretty teacher. Details horoscope in first mail. pearecostn zrgroom@gmail.com OB159973

Sinhala Bodu professional parents from USA looking for a suitable partner for their only daughter pretty 5'5", 31 yrs., with a MBA degree from a reputed university in US. She will inherit a significant wealth. The future son should be educated smart around 37 or less. 5'8" or taller with a good Physical build. The caste, wealth or family background immaterial. But US or raised preferred. MD, Engineer, Lawyer or similar professions preferred. Pls respond to: pjayakody12@gmail.com OB160173

Sinhala Buddhist Government employed mother seeks a well-mannered academically and professionally qualified son for daughter, only child born in 1997, BSc (Computer Science) Graduate, currently working as an Academic Instructor in a leading private university. 5'4" height. She inherits substantial assets. Please respond with full family details and horoscope to: Email: nalanikm@icoud.com or proposalh apu1997@gmail.com OB160087

Sinhala Buddhist parents from Colombo South seek academically and professionally qualified, down to earth and caring life partner for their 29 yrs., 5'2", well accomplished, fair, kind & honest daughter, working as an MBBS qualified Doctor in Australia. Please only respond if planning to settle in Australia and reply with details of son/family, copy of horoscope to; htrops91@gmail.com OB159942

Sinhala B/G mother seeks a suitable partner for her 56, 5'2", unmarried pretty, young looking, educated daughter for early marriage. Reply with full details to; h irundi2@gmail.com OB159918

Sinhala Buddhist parents seek a well-mannered academically and professionally qualified son for daughter born in 1994 BBA, MSc, CIM qualified, Executive in a leading Company. 5'2" height. She inherits substantial assets. Please respond with full family details and horoscope copy. Email: sam24wije@gmail.com OB159935

Sinhala Govi Buddhist retired parents looking for a gentleman for 49 years 5'8" young looking beautiful daughter who is a well educated and 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 OB159803

Sinhala Buddhist parents well settled in Canada are looking for a partner for their academically and professionally qualified Canadian born daughter currently holding a Senior Scientific position in Canada. She is 36-years old (1984/10), 5'1" tall, pleasant, good looking with modern values. We are looking for an academically and professionally qualified partner, preferably from USA, Canada. Please reply to mari prop21@gmail.com OB159982

Sinhala Buddhist professionally qualified parents residing in UK, seek an academically and professionally qualified son living and working in UK for their very fair, pretty, slim UK born Doctor daughter (28, 5'4") who is working towards specialty training and living in London. Please reply with full details of son and family to: mp 2021sl@hotmail.com OB160144

Sinhala Roman Catholic parents from Colombo suburbs seek a professionally qualified, kind, caring partner for their attractive daughter born in 1990. Height 5'4" educated in a leading Convent in Colombo, graduated in Business Management and currently employed in a leading private company. Reply with details and contact number to: m prop179@gmail.com OB160066

Sinhala, Catholic parents seek a suitable partner for their Chartered Architect daughter, 1988 currently working in a private company. She inherits substantial assets. Catholic or Christian preferred. proposalesh@gmail.com 011-2236828. OB159949

Well-mannered, academically and professionally qualified son is sought by B/G parents Sydney Australia dual citizens for their well-mannered, Double Degree educated, smart, beautiful, 5'2", 1991 born, Finance professional daughter works at a private company as a Finance Executive. Caste / horoscope immaterial. Reply in email with details. a ps120124@gmail.com OB160202

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 oposals202021@gmail.com OB159384

1983/05, W/P B/G, 5'4" slim fair 'MB' Holder, Chartered Accountant daughter, parents seeking for teetotaler, well-mannered educated son, B/G, non-malefic, "Guru" in cages 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 12, horoscopes pl. She has more assets. mp2020 propose@gmail.com OB159990

Academically and professionally qualified G/B parents from Colombo suburb looking for a pretty, fair, slim, educated and well brought up daughter for their handsome, well-mannered son 36 with an excellent personality, 5'7". Graduated as an Engineer from a state university. Did PhD in a leading university in Europe. After working in Melbourne for a few years, moved back to Sri Lanka and started working as Senior Lecturer in a state university. His two siblings and their spouses are doctors. Reply to, colom bokandyprop@gmail.com with family details and horoscope. OG159944

Academically and professionally qualified slim pretty and intelligent daughter from a respectable family is sought by Buddhist Govi professional parents from Gampaha for their youngest son 29 years height 5'11", non smoker, teetotaler who is a Lawyer (LLB. London). Please reply to marriageprop.gam@gmail.com OG159874

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered Sinhalese Buddhist partner from Australia is sought by mother for only son 39 years, 5'5" in height, Australian citizen, with postgraduate qualification from prestigious university in Sydney, Australia, holding a senior managerial role in a reputed Australian company in Sydney. Only child in the family and owns assets. Please reply with family details to: cika us14@yahoo.com.au OG160137

Academically qualified fair, beautiful daughter is sought by Kandyan Buddhist mother for her very handsome, fair son born in 1985, height 6'3", brought up with S/B values, an Engineer in the UK. Prefer a daughter from UK, Australia, USA. Reply to luckycharmuk5@gmail.com OG159881

Academically qualified pretty, slim, kind, English speaking daughter who is willing to stay in Australia is sought by B/G mother for her handsome Australian citizen son 33 yrs., 5'10", well-mannered, non-smoker and never married. He studied at Royal College Colombo and graduated from Deakin University, works as a Retail Manager in a leading Supermarket in Melbourne. His elder brother is a Lead Software Engineer and his younger brother is a Chemical Engineer. Race, caste & religion are immaterial. Please respond with full family details to marriageprop.rosalaisy1987@gmail.com OG159892

Age 37, B/K, Doctor MBBS (foreign), 5'8", handsome, teetotaler owning car, house in Colombo, presently working in Government hospital up-country from highly respectable family, parents seek pretty, educated girl from suitable family. Reply with horoscope. email: luckypr op.2021@gmail.com OG159849

An educated slim fair attractive daughter below 38 years from a respectable family is sought for their Sinhalese Buddhist 6' tall, fair handsome well-mannered N/S T/T youngest son who is in mid forties. Legally divorced, MBA qualified, working for a reputed multinational company at a higher position. Well-established. Intends to work abroad till end of this year & get a transfer to Sri Lanka. He has done several income generating investments in Sri Lanka. Caste immaterial & Catholic will be considered. Also welcome proposals from the teachers. Currently he is in Sri Lanka on vacation & will stay till mid of April. Kindly reply with family details & horoscope to: chamir aw2000@yahoo.com OG160107

An educated slim pretty daughter is sought by Buddhist Karawa respectable well to do parents in Colombo suburbs for their handsome well-mannered son with good personality, 33, 5'8", NS/TT PhD holder working as a Lecturer in a Government University. Inherits substantial assets, brother is a Doctor, caste immaterial. Email: marriage2019@yahoo.com OG160221

A Canadian resident, Loss Prevention Officer, Martial art and Physical fitness coach 40 years old, non smoker, non alcoholic, 5'6" B/G, handsome son, a pretty, kind hearted daughter who's willing to live abroad is sought, healthcare, executive fields or others preferred. Reply with family details and horoscope. canadian groom81@gmail.com OG160199

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BRIDEGROOM
 Sinhala/ Buddhist/ Govi Professional business family is looking to introduce an educated slim beautiful daughter, not less than 5'5" in height, age below 25 with a good family background and essential qualities, to our only son - a Civil Engineer, 5'9", currently working overseas with a 6-figure salary, and owning luxury Vehicles and Property, inheritance worth over 180 million. Only sister is an Attorney. Kindly send all Particulars to: srilankad99@gmail.com. Including a scanned copy of the horoscope and links to social media. Information will be treated with utmost confidentiality. 0160224, C/O Sunday Observer - Lake House, Colombo 10.

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mannered daughter sought by G/B parents from Colombo suburbs for Accountant son well employed in a Bank, BSc, MBA, CIMA qualified, NS/TT, handsome, 1983, 5'5", inherits assets. Not willing to migrate. mpropbride@gmail.com OG159870

A respectable Muslim family from Galle following strictly the concepts of Sunnathal Jamath, seeks proposals for their young looking 28 years, 5'11", son who is a degree holder in Telecommunication and Networking and well employed in a reputed company. Confidentiality assured. Please email: bankofkawloon@gmail.com or call 091-2244610. OG160000

A simple, well mannered, kind-hearted, loving daughter preferably studying or working in Australia is sought by Buddhist Karawa respectable parents from Colombo suburbs, for their 6'2" tall handsome, kind-hearted caring 30 years old well brought up son. He is a teetotaler, non-smoker. Our son is professionally qualified from an Australian University and holds dual citizenship in Sri Lanka and Australia. He currently resides in Melbourne, Australia and is employed as an Accountant. Caste immaterial. Please reply with family details along with copy of horoscope and contact information. Tel : 0112716839. E-Mail : address - abcproposals90@gmail.com OG159992

A suitable partner studying in USA or qualified to go to USA sought by B/G mother for her academically and professionally qualified son 5'4" born in June 1985. Reading for PhD in USA. Please reply with horoscope and FB details to: sriya1953@outlook.com 0382296058, 0382232212. OG159951

A well established Govi Buddhist parents seek an educated (preferably a professional) pretty, slim daughter for their Barrister-at-Law (UK) & Attorney-at-Law (SL) son, 6 feet tall, aged 27, fair and slim. Respond with horoscope to: proposal2021.marriage@gmail.com OG158120

A well mannered, educated & pleasant, 5'6" or higher Sinhala Buddhist girl with a good character, is sought by respectable Sinhala Buddhist parents for the only son. He is presently working as a special Assistant and Management Analyst to leading person in Government sector in USA. He has a Masters Degree in Business and Marketing Management. Graduated in USA. He was born and raised in USA. Both parents owned Business. He was born October 1995. He is 5'9" tall, he will inherit valuable assets in USA and Sri Lanka. He is a non-smoker & teetotaler with excellent character and managerial skills. Reply in English or Sinhala with full family details and a copy of horoscope. Email skling62@gmail.com All information is confidential. Preferably lives in USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand. OG159900

B/G ordinary family parents seek kind, educated, Buddhist daughter (1987 - 1993) for 7/1988 born, 5'6", NS/TT, simple lifestyle, final year Ph.D, researcher son studying in Australia and willing to relocate. Caste immaterial. Email: yap a.amw@gmail.com OG160129

B/G professor father & Lawyer mother seek an educated well mannered partner for son born Feb. 1990, height 5'11", employed as a business analyst at a leading company (while running his own business) two elder sisters married. Please reply with family particulars and horoscope. bhadraproposals@gmail.com OG159919

B/G respectable parents seek a well educated pleasant daughter for their son who is a leading Attorney-at-Law practicing in Colombo. He was born in 1986 (5'10") and studied in a leading private school in Kandy and obtained a degree from Australia. Father is an Attorney-at-Law and mother is a retired pharmacist. He has two siblings, the younger brother, a doctor (MBBS) and sister, an Attorney-at-Law. Please reply with family and contact details. E-mail: p roposal8621@gmail.com OG159939

B/G Upcountry Buddhist parents seek fair slim daughter for son 33 yrs, 5' 5 1/2" degree in Logistics and Business Management Director of family owned Business. Studied leading school in Colombo. Owns valuable property. Kuja Shani 5 Rahu 7. Response with family details horoscope and phone No. proposal 007007@gmail.com OG160093

B/S/G parents from Colombo suburbs seek a pleasant fair slim well-mannered employed daughter below 34 years for their 36 years, 5'8", fair, slim, very handsome, caring youngest son IT Manager in a multi-national company. Fluent in English and Spanish, foreign Nationals also considered. Please reply with the horoscope and full family details. Caste religion immaterial son is divorced from very short incompatible marriage no encumbrances. E-mail: mprop4579@gmail.com OG157663

Colombo Sinhala Bodu Govi parents seek an academically and professionally qualified partner for their Australian citizen son, born in 1990 January, 5'2" in height, working in a Global Finance Institution in Australia as a Manager. Shani Mangala horoscope. Reply with family details to: mprop osalsilka@gmail.com OG160098

Colombo Sinhala Bodu Govi parents seek a Doctor/Engineer or professional for their son, born in 1992 September, 5'4" in height, Australian and Sri Lankan citizen, works at the leading Engineering company in Australia as an Engineer. Reply with family details and horoscope to: colombo201908@gmail.com OG160099

Colombo suburb retired Sinhala Buddhist parents seek a suitable educated partner below 38 years for their professionally academically qualified son, Royalist, 40 years, 5'7" height well employed in Senior position in the state sector in the UK. Dual citizen. Those living in UK or planning to migrate preferred. Caste immaterial. Please respond with horoscope, family details and contact Telephone Number. Email : cristis508@gmail.com OG159834

Gampaha District, Govi / Durawa 5'4" 1990 January son Software Engineer with a house and vehicle find a daughter by parents. OG160105

GB 27, USA East Coast, 5'10", College Grad well employed and independent, parents seek a beautiful educated daughter below 25 years, preferably living in USA for handsome son. Inherits substantial assets. Please forward complete details preferably. headhunter1751@gmail.com OG160054

Govi Buddhist parents seek an academically and professionally qualified daughter with respectable family background for their son, born in 1992, height 5'5", Civil Engineer, living and working in the USA. E-mail: proposal7294@gmail.com OG159915

Colombo suburbs Bodu Karawe born 13.03.78, 5'10" in height from a respectable family employed as a Cricket Coach / Cricket Master In-Charge . Sports Officer in a private reputed school in Colombo, teetotaler, non-smoker with a pleasing personality, religious simple living and caring Mesha Lagna 1, 2, 7, 8, non-malefic no Kuja dhosa. Berana Nekatha sought by sister. Reply with horoscope and family details, call between 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. 0112714489. arosha_a@yahoo.com OG159986

Colombo suburb retired professional parents from Colombo suburb seek a professionally academically qualified pretty slim fair daughter below 32 years for their second son educated at Ananda College, graduated in Business Administration / Finance 1984, 5'8" handsome N/S T/T dual citizen UK/SL working in a Global Co. as an Asst / Accountant. Please send family details with horoscope. Contact 0112 912268, after 6.00 p.m. Email:- mprd11@hotmail.com OG160212

Govi Catholic parents residing in USA seek suitable partner for their professionally qualified son IT Engineer / Senior Management position prefer a daughter living studying in USA or willing to migrate to USA, born in December 1980, 5'4" unmarried teetotaler, caste religion dowry immaterial. Please reply with details and copy of horoscope to a perera2015@hotmail.com OG159853

G/B, educated, fair & slim, height above 5'4", below 35 years, working, non working pleasant daughter for eldest son born 1982, educated at leading boys' school in Colombo, qualified abroad Managing Director of his Business Establishment with assets and wealth, 5'10" tall, handsome, NS/TT medium complexion, Kuja / Shani first house. Reply horoscope, family details. Information treated private & confidential. ye1954@hotmail.com OG159852

Malay 27, 5'6", MSc., handsome, employed (Aus) seeking bride from Western or Europe country. 011-5268888. OG160136

Middle class mixed parents seek a life partner of Roman Catholic faith with a simple lifestyle willing to migrate or residing in Canada for non-smoking teetotaler son, employed full-time, Canadian citizen, 5'8" born 1985. Professional / Academic status of partner immaterial. Please reply to Email: mproposal4son85@gmail.com OG160140

Our son was born in 1990 and 6' tall very handsome person. He is an Electronic Engineer by profession, and has his own business too, his wife died due to an accident so willing to marry a lady with or without kids We are not extreme about horoscopes. His parents are retired teachers. ranukabandara06@gmail.com OG159876

Parents from Colombo seek partner of similar status from a respectable family for only son MBBS Doctor 37 yrs., 5'8", fair, handsome, well assted. Only sister doctor. Email : prop dev8683@yahoo.com OG159984

Moor Muslim parents, well established, respectable, living in Colombo 5, seek a partner for their son born in 84, 5'11" in height, handsome, educated, well mannered, financially stable professional businessman. Seek a well mannered daughter from a respected family business background or professionally qualified living in Colombo. Kindly share the details to p roposal.lv@gmail.com OG160195

Moor parents seek academically qualified bride living in UK or willing to migrate to UK for PhD qualified 32 years son, 5'7", smart, fair employed in UK. He is a practicing Muslim, NS/TT. email: rubyxyz786@gmail.com OG159836

Moor parents seek bride for son only child, 27, 6', Accountant, employed. 011 2731390, 0776256568. OG160171

Moratuwa Govi Karawa mother seeks educated employed daughter for Assistant Manager son 1986, 5'5", non-malefic horoscope. h arin29@gmail.com OG160188

Our son Buddhist Govigama age 38, 5'6" Senior Software Engineer employed in a company in Colombo with Sri Lankan and Australian degrees and Masters degree from Singapore seeks fair, pretty, kind hearted a graduate teacher or other professional in her late 20's to early 30's age group. Please send details of family, contact number and email address. Email - mpropms4@gmail.com OG159833

Sydney based B/G parents looking for a small-build, 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 OG159977

Professionally qualified in Finance and Accounting. Pleasant looking, well-mannered, 24 years (born in March 1997), 5'7" with decent family background, well-employed in a foreign affiliated company in Colombo. He is a non-smoker, teetotaler with an excellent character. Respectable Bodu Karawa & Govi middle class parents who live in Nugegoda searching pretty, pleasant daughter for their son. No barriers with caste. Kuja/Shani 7 or 8 most preferable. Reply with full family details and copy of horoscope. Email : oatg67@gmail.com OG159842

Qualified pretty daughter sought by Bodu Govi well-respected family residing in Western Province for their qualified handsome son born in 1992, 5'6", reading for masters. He inherits millions worth commercial properties and assets. A non-smoker, teetotaler. mpropoeve@gmail.com OG160074

Sinhala Buddhist parents, Canadian citizen, residing in Toronto looking for a suitable partner (living in Canada) who is willing to share life with its ups and downs in an honest and open relationship, for our 33 years old son (only child). Reply with horoscope details to: marriage1987proposal@gmail.com OG160117

Sinhalese Catholic parents seek a well brought up daughter for their son 28 years 5'6" Chemical Engineer (USA) with excellent qualified. Presently he is working and studying for his Masters in USA. Preferred a daughter studying or living in USA. Kindly reply with daughters & family details. Email - usqd8393@gmail.com OG160214

1990/9 Buddhist parents, father retired C.E.O., mother housewife, living in Colombo; proposed son Banker 5'6" has apartment in Colombo, owns a vehicle, seeks pretty, fair, slim working / non working educated daughter. Caste not material. Reply with family details, and H. cope v ajirafernando66@gmail.com OG160219

1994 Western B/G, 5'6" tall, BCom, MBA graduated good looking son from respectable business family. Inherits substantial wealth. We seek a well mannered, fair & pretty, truly kind hearted daughter up with good qualities under Buddhist values. Reply with a horoscope & detailed family background. a rprop94@gmail.com OG159980

(Sinhala, Bodu, Govi) parents seek for their son Chartered Accountant holding a good position in private sector, 34 years, 5'10", owning a land and property, a partner preferably from similar background. Email - isdawn18@outlook.com OG159888

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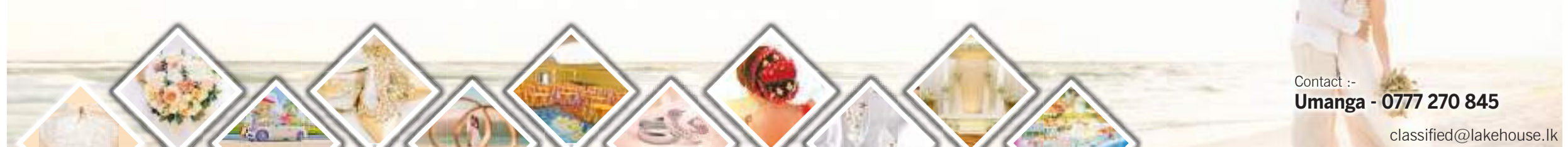
Our son was born in 1990 and 6' tall very handsome person. He is an Electronic Engineer by profession, and has his own business too, his wife died due to an accident so willing to marry a lady with or without kids We are not extreme about horoscopes. His parents are retired teachers. ranukabandara06@gmail.com OG159876

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Muslim Marriage Brokers with good contacts wanted. Call: 0714623642



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