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MORE THAN 30 INJURED, 10 CRITICAL

FIFTEEN DEAD AS BUS PLUNGES DOWN PASSARA PRECIPICE

BUS WAS TRAVELLING AT EXCESSIVE SPEED

By Leon Berenger and Prassana Padmasiri, Uva Correspondent

At least 15 people died and more than 30 others were injured, many critically as a packed private-owned passenger bus plunged down a deep precipice at Passara yesterday morning, police and hospital officials said.

The bus was travelling from Lunagala to Colombo when the incident took place at the 13th milepost around 6.30 am. Among the dead were six women and a boy and most of the victims were residents from Lunagala, many of them bound to their workplaces, they said.

At least 10 persons had sustained life-threatening injuries and were receiving emergency medical care at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the Passara Government Hospital.

According to officials, the death toll was also expected to rise. They said the bus was travelling at an excessive speed and the driver had apparently lost control while attempting to provide room for an oncoming

tipper truck. They added that the bus had hurtled some 500 feet down the precipice before resting at the base in a forest reserve.

The dead and the injured were taken from the scene by residents and police who had to use ropes to take the victims, many of whom had got entangled on to trees and branches after they were thrown out of the vehicle. The hospital authorities will release the dead to their relatives after a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test is conducted and they also made an urgent appeal for blood.

According to officials, a rescuer was also injured after a falling boulder fell on his head and had to be hospitalised. Following the accident, the police said a special month-long crackdown will be launched to nab drunk and careless drivers throughout the country.



PIX: UVA GROUP CORR. PRASANNA PADMASIRI AND D. S. GUNATHILAKE

Three PCols to commence next month

The operations of three new Presidential Commissions of Inquiry (PCoI) will commence next month.

Accordingly, a PCoI will submit recommendations on streamlining Sri Lanka Customs. The other PCoI will probe alleged human rights violations, serious violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and other such offences in Sri Lanka and a PCoI to implement the recommendations of... **SEE PAGE 12**

Largest asteroid of 2021 to make closest approach to Earth



WASHINGTON, March 20. (Aljazeera) The largest asteroid to sweep past Earth this year will make its closest approach tomorrow (21). But scientists have told people not to panic as it poses no threat to the planet.

The giant space rock that researchers call 2001 FO32 has a diameter of several hundred metres and will approach Earth at a distance of about two million kilometres, US space agency NASA said. **SEE PAGE 12**

TALKS ON PRICE AND QUANTITY UNDER WAY

Cabinet nod to purchase Russian vaccine

By Uditha Kumarasinghe

State Minister of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals Prof. Channa Jayasumana said that Cabinet approval has been granted to purchase the Russian Sputnik V vaccine and that negotiations with the Russian producer on the price and the quantity of vaccine to be imported to Sri Lanka is under way.

When these arrangements are finalised, the State Pharmaceutical Corporation (SPC) will be ready to purchase the Sputnik V vaccine - one million doses at a time, the State Minister told the *Sunday Observer* yesterday.

Prof. Jayasumana said "The Government has sufficient

funds and we are financially strong enough to purchase even three to four million doses at once. It depends on their decision."

He said that in the world market, each dose of the Sputnik V cost around US\$ 10 but we are negotiating to reduce the price further.

He said the National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) has already granted approval for emergency use of the Sputnik V vaccine. **SEE PAGE 12**



GOVT CALLS ON REGIONAL FRIENDS TO DEFEAT RESOLUTION

Sri Lanka to face crucial Geneva vote tomorrow

By Manjula Fernando

Sri Lanka will face a crucial vote on a fresh Resolution moved by the UK, Canada and Germany along with other states at the UN Human Rights Council tomorrow.

The Government has reached

out to regional friends India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh, the countries which yield voting rights at the HRC, to garner support to defeat the Resolution, which the Government termed as a political move and an interference with the internal affairs of the country.

The country has also been lobbying friendly nations of the 47 members represented in Geneva at their capitals and in Colombo.

However, India has not made a formal commitment on its stance over the resolution so far, whereas 20 countries including Pakistan,

China, Russia and the Philippines backed Sri Lanka during the Human Rights Council's ongoing session, some criticising the latest report of the UN Human Rights High Commissioner which called for tougher action by member states and the Council... **SEE PAGE 12**

PRO-LTTE PROTESTERS ORDERED TO PAY COSTS

Major Gen. Fernando acquitted by UK High Court

Major General Priyanka Fernando, the former Minister Counsellor (Defence) at the Sri Lanka High Commission in London who was convicted in a case filed by pro-LTTE protesters in 2018 was acquitted by the UK High Court on Friday.

"The High Court rejecting the arguments by the defendants, upheld the traditional views on diplomatic immunity, as contained in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961," Sri Lanka's High Commission in London said in a... **SEE PAGE 12**



MOUS SIGNED

PM Rajapaksa holds talks with Hasina

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the visiting Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa held bi-lateral discussions at the Prime Minister's office in Dhaka yesterday.

During the discussions Premier Rajapaksa thanked his counterpart and the Government of Bangladesh for their steadfast support in combatting terrorism in Sri Lanka. In this context, he thanked... **SEE PAGE 12**

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PM's tour of Bangladesh



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa who arrived in Bangladesh on Friday to attend the celebrations of the Birth Centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh's independence, held discussions with his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina. Picture courtesy Prime Minister's Media Division

Air Force officer dies in mid-air parachute mishap

BY LEON BERENGER

An Air Force officer died on the spot after his parachute got entangled with another parachutist during a training session at Amparai-Uhana yesterday morning, a senior official said. The victim, identified

as 34-year-old Manoj Padmathilake was described as an experienced parachutist and was on his maiden free fall jump after the basic training period when the incident took place, Air Force Spokesman Group Captain Dushan Wijesinghe said. The other Air Force officer sustained serious

injuries in the incident and is currently receiving treatment in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the Ampara hospital.

He added that the incident took place some 50 feet from the ground as the pair was reaching the demarcated drop zone. Earlier, the two had

jumped off the aircraft from some 3,500 feet and as they were nearing the drop zone they were caught in a sudden change of wind, he said.

"Apparently, the pair had not expected the change of wind as they had received the all clear prior to making the jump from 3,500 feet",

Capt. Wijesinghe said.

The drop zone is located in the Air Force base in Amparai, he added.

The victim had joined the Air Force as a Cadet Officer from the Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) in September 2008 and was a father of one. Incidentally, yester-

day's fatality was the second in nearly two years.

A soldier attached to the elite Army Special Forces also died when his parachute failed to open shortly after he made a free fall jump from a military aircraft in 2019 in Ampara-Uhana.

Appeal by Major General Priyanka Fernando

UK High Court quashes Westminster Magistrate's Court's judgement

The appeal made to the UK High Court by Major Gen Priyanka Fernando, the former Minister Counsellor (Defence) of the Sri Lanka High Commission against the judgement of the Westminster Magistrates' Court on him was allowed on Friday.

In the judgement handed down by the High Court, it decided in favour of Major Gen Fernando and quashed his conviction by the Westminster Magistrates' Court on December 6, 2019 and acquitted him. The defendants, who are pro-LTTE demonstrators who staged protests in front of the Sri Lanka High Commission in London on Sri Lanka's 70th Independence Day on February 4, 2018 are ordered to pay costs to Major Gen Fernando.

The High Court compellingly rejected the arguments of the defendants and accepting the arguments on behalf of Major Gen Fernando, upheld the traditional views on diplomatic immunity as contained in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 to which Sri Lanka and the UK are States Parties.

"The interpretation of the treaty should not be an exercise in 'pedantic literalism'. It should be read in the context of its 'object and purpose'" said the court in its judgement. The Court said that the efficacy of the Vienna Convention depends, even more than most treaties do, on its reciprocal operation. Article 47.2 of the Vienna Convention authorises any receiving state to restrict the application of a provision to the diplomatic agents of a sending state if that state gives a restrictive application of that provision as applied to the receiving state's own mission.

The UK High Court also draws the danger of the threat to the efficient performance of diplomatic functions which arises from the risk of trumped up or baseless allegations and unsatisfactory tribunals. It opines that from the United Kingdom's point of view, a significant purpose of conferring diplomatic immunity of foreign diplomatic personnel in Britain is to ensure that British diplomatic personnel enjoy corresponding immunities elsewhere.

The UK High Court said that the doctrine of diplomatic immunity affords protection to all diplomatic staff in the UK in exchange for the equivalent protection afforded to the UK's diplomatic staff abroad. The grant of immu-



Major Gen Priyanka Fernando

THE HIGH COURT COMPELLINGLY REJECTED THE ARGUMENTS OF THE DEFENDANTS AND ACCEPTING THE ARGUMENTS ON BEHALF OF MAJOR GEN FERNANDO, UPHELD THE TRADITIONAL VIEWS ON DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY AS CONTAINED IN THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS OF 1961 TO WHICH SRI LANKA AND THE UK ARE STATES PARTIES

nity does not depend on ministerial fiat, rather it exists by virtue of statute and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

The High Court judges also decided that the Chief Magistrate of the Westminster Magistrates' Court was not right in her determination that Major Gen Fernando was not covered by residual immunity when he faced trial at the Westminster Magistrates' Court.

Public assistance sought to trace 16-year-old

Police and family are seeking help of the public to find 16-year-old Aldon Devon Kenny who was last seen at Ratmalana on Thursday morning.

The Ordinary Level student of St. Peter's College in Bambalapitiya was last caught on CCTV footage near a Standard Chartered Bank branch close to his home.

Devon's mother Deepika Kenny told the *Sunday Observer* that she last saw him early Thursday morning.

"It was around 5.30am. he left home and was caught on CCTV at around 6.20am. We don't know where he went after that," Kenny said.

A police complaint was lodged at the Mount Lavinia Police. He was last seen wearing a black hoodie, a pair of black trousers, a backpack and a pair of slippers. He has reportedly refused to go to school before he left the house.

"My son is a quiet and an innocent child. Reading is his main hobby," Kenny said, recalling Devon to be a 'home person' with a close net of friends.



Devon Kenny

"He never went out and is calm and quiet," she said. She urged the public to contact the nearest police station or call her on 0773 779850 with any information about her son's whereabouts.

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Interview/Feature



Opposition on disinformation drive to discredit Government

-Prof. Channa Jayasumana

CHEERED BY CERTAIN WESTERN EMBASSIES AND NGOS

By
Uditha
Kumarasinghe



State Minister of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals Prof. Channa Jayasumana said the Opposition has launched a disinformation campaign to discredit the Government which has secured a two-thirds majority in Parliament and also has the blessings of the overwhelming majority of the Maha Sangha and the patriotic people.

The State Minister in an interview with the *Sunday Observer* said during the period from 2014 to 2015, a similar campaign was launched with the help of NGOs and certain Western embassies.

At present the same campaign has been launched against the Government and their aim is to distract the Sinhalese middle class from the Government. For that, they have selected certain themes such as the environmental issues and have also level unsubstantiated allegations like the 'sugar scam'. They are creating issues without any acceptable evidences and certain pictures they used for their campaign are coming from some other foreign countries. Prof. Jayasumana appealed to the intelligent people in the country not to be misled by this well-organized campaign launched by the Opposition with the help of certain foreign elements.

Excerpts

Q: The Opposition and certain other sectors attempt to portray that the sugar tax issue is bigger than Treasury Bond scam. Your comments?

A: There is no such fraud as highlighted by the Opposition and it is fully fabricated. That is a concession given to the people by the Government and there is no fraud. If we take this as a fraud, any tax concession given to the people will be a fraud in that definition. Unless this tax reduction is done, a price of kilogram of sugar would have been above Rs.185. Still a kilogram of sugar can be purchased around Rs.115. It means this tax reduction has worked for the benefit of the people. So, this is entirely fabricated and there is no logic behind this false argument.

Q: Recently Samagaj Jana Balaya (SJB) Parliamentarian Ashok Abeysinghe was questioned by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for making baseless allegations against the President and Sri Lanka Podujana Permana (SLPP) National

Organiser Basil Rajapaksa. How do you view the attempts by the Opposition to mislead the public by making such baseless allegations against the President and the Government?

A: This is a very good example as to how cheap the politicians in the Opposition behave. Some of these low-profile politicians in the Opposition are not using their brain and they are just only using their mouth. The best example is how SJB MP Ashok Abeysinghe behaved. Not only Ashok Abeysinghe, many other Opposition politicians are behaving in a similar manner. If we take some of the environmental issues raised in the social media, those are well organised, funded and sponsored projects.

We have one experience. During the period from 2014 to 2015, a similar campaign was launched with the help of NGOs and certain Western embassies. Now the same campaign has been launched to attack the Government which has secured two thirds majority in Parliament and also has the blessings of the overwhelming majority of the Maha Sangha and the patriotic people.

Their aim is to distract the Sinhalese middle class from the Government. For that, they have selected certain themes. The environmental issues are one of that. Then they level unsubstantiated allegations like the 'sugar scam'. They are creating issues without any acceptable evidences and certain pictures they used for their campaign are coming from some other foreign countries.

They are targeting deforestation in certain places but when we go to the actual scenario, it is not deforestation. In certain places, two or three trees have been cut down on some private lands. However, it is highlighted by the Opposition as a huge deforestation taking place with the blessings of the Government. That is totally wrong and false. I appeal to the intelligent people in the country not to be misled by this well-organized campaign launched by the Opposition with the help of certain foreign elements.

Q: Colombo Archbishop Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith said that the final report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) on the Easter Sunday attacks is incomplete and insisted that they will not stop until the masterminds of the attacks are brought to justice. Would you like to comment on that?

A: Actually, we have a huge respect for the Colombo Archbishop. With that respect, we have to say that this is a Presidential Commission report submitted by a panel of experts. However, this is not a criminal investigation.

Based on the facts revealed in the PCoI report, a criminal investigation should be carried out. This is the first step. We are eager to do a criminal investigation and pin point the exact figures.

There are certain limitations for a Presidential Commission with regard to certain matters on national security and such information cannot be divulged to the people. However, those matters are under investigation now. I noticed Minister of Public Security Rear Admiral (Retd) Sarath Weerasekera said the person called Naufer, the mastermind behind the Easter Sunday attacks who had a very close relationship with a Middle East country has been taken into custody. I think those investigations are being carried out so that many fresh information will be revealed in the near future.

Q: There is an allegation that PCoI which probed the Easter Sunday attacks has completely ignored the masterminds behind the attacks. Your comments?

A: Actually, what the PCoI has done was that they access and analyze the evidences available to them. There are certain other factors which are not accessed or analysed by this particular Commission. For an example, you may remember that there was an assassination of two policemen at Vavunativu, Batticaloa and initially that was put into the LTTE account. Some say this is the re-emergence of the LTTE and the then Government also categorically said that it was done by ex-LTTE cadres.

Later on, once those T-56 weapons were traced, it was revealed that it was done by the Zaharan's group. If a proper investigation was carried at that time, the Easter Sunday attacks would have been prevented. That was the first scenario. The second scenario is a training camp in Wanaathawilluwa but no proper investigation was carried out. The previous Yahapalana Government missed that opportunity. The third scenario was the attack on the Buddha statue at Mawanela.

A proper investigation was not carried out at that time and that opportunity was also ignored. The Easter Sunday attacks would have been prevented if those three incidents were properly investigated. Instead of that the former CID Director Shani Abeysinghe and his officers wasted time to witch-hunt the Opposition politicians. So, the responsibility of preventing the Easter Sunday attacks is fully vested with the former Yahapalana Government. It is not only former President Maithripala Sirisena, but the former



FACT-FILE
Prof. Channa
Jayasumana

► **1980:** Born in Anuradhapura. A physician by profession holds MBBS from University of Peradeniya, PhD and FRCP (Edin.) Higher Education, California State University, Long Beach. Professor at Medical Faculty, Rajarata University

► He has done research on drinking water, occupational exposure to herbicides and its association with chronic kidney disease (CKD)

► **2020:** Elected to Parliament from Anuradhapura district having contested under the *Sri Lanka Podujana Permana* (SLPP) at the General Election on August 5, 2020

► **Aug. 2020:** State Minister of Pharmaceutical Production, Supply and Regulation in the Government of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Source: Internet, Graphic: Mahil Wijesinghe

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and the whole Cabinet of that Government should be fully held responsible.

Q: Has any decision been taken by the Government to ban the Burqa and Niqab or is it merely a proposal which is under discussion?

A: Minister of Public Security Sarath Weerasekera has put forward such a proposal and now it is under discussion. Once we come into some kind of agreement within the Government, the next step will be taken. Actually, we don't know what would be the final decision but it is now under discussion.

Q: The Opposition has raised concern on the arrest of former Western Province Governor Azath Salley. They say the Government has launched a

political witch-hunt against their political opponents. Your views?

A: If a Buddhist makes such a statement in Saudi Arabia, he would have been beheaded within a couple of hours. Azath Salley or anybody else should not test the patience of the Sinhala Buddhist people in this country. We have suffered for 500 years. Various elements including Portuguese, Dutch, English and certain other foreigners in the past invaded our country. Even today invaders and non-nationalistic forces in various forms indirectly attempt to test the patience of the Sinhala Buddhist people and this is very unfair. This is an injustice for the 'Boomi Puthras' of this country. So, this should not happen again.

Q: SJB Parliamentarian Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka has said that it was too late to arrest Azath Salley and the Government should have taken action against him early regarding various controversial remarks and hate speeches he made by challenging the country's law. Would you like to comment on this?

A: I still believe Sarath Fonseka is an inborn patriot. Irrespective of his political vision, still there is a 'patriotic man' in his body and soul. That is why he expressed his genuine ideas on such an incident.

Q: Some have raised concern on the appointment of a Presidential Commission to probe into the political victimisation and they say it has undermined the independence of the judiciary. Could you explain?

A: The present Government would never undermine the judiciary. We have never posed a direct or indirect influence on court procedures as done by certain Ministers during the tenure of former Yahapalana Government. We heard some of those voice recordings that were circulated in the social media as well. Some of those politicians are now in jail. Therefore, undermine the judiciary would never happen under the tenure of our Government. We always respect the judiciary and we are trying to uphold the supremacy of the judicial system in the country. It was the former regime which went to Geneva and betrayed the judicial system and tried to bring foreign judges to the country.

Q: What are the key objectives of the "Discussion with the Village" program launched by the President?

A: Actually, this is the most heartfelt project for the Opposition launched by our Government. The President personally visits countrywide villages and

find out the burning issues faced by the people. The President listens to the grievances of the people and provides immediate solutions to their problems. With that example, all the politicians are now keen to go to villages and find out the problems faced by the people and provide solutions to them. This is a very successful project.

There should be a great appraisal for the President for his move to visit countrywide villages and sort out the issues of the people. Through this program, many development projects were initiated and some ongoing projects were expedited. Our shortcomings are also pointed out by the people and we are correcting them with immediate effect.

Q: Do you think the friendly countries of Sri Lanka would extend their support to defeat the resolution on Sri Lanka moved by the Core Group at the upcoming UNHRC sessions?

A: Definitely. We hope China, Russia, Pakistan, Cuba and many other friendly nations who have continuously supported Sri Lanka at the Geneva for the past 10 to 12 years would further extend their support to us. I hope some of the countries which didn't support us or abstained will also vote in favour of us this time.

Q: Denmark, Iceland and Norway have decided to suspend the use of Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID vaccine. Will this have any adverse effect on Sri Lanka as well?

A: Not only these three countries, now 17 countries have decided to withhold the usage of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine for two weeks and in some countries for four weeks. This is basically due to the suspicion of a particular batch. In certain places, the doctors' suspect there was a linkage between the blood clotting mechanism and the vaccine due to certain clinical scenario. So, they need some time to investigate this matter. Until such investigation is completed, they have decided to stop the usage of the vaccine. However, it is continuing in certain European countries. On the other hand, the World Health Organisation (WHO) says there is no scientific data to link the enhancement of blood clotting mechanism with the usage of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine. As far as we know, this is not a permanent decision or evidence-based decision. This is just a precautionary measure until the investigation is completed. There is no such scenario reported in Sri Lanka but we are very closely monitoring the situation. On the other hand, we are obtaining the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine from Serum Institute of India.

Continued on page 10

What is human in human capital(ism)?

By
Dr. Thilan U.
Hewage



"Train people well enough so they can leave. Treat them well enough so they wouldn't want to." - Sir Richard Branson

The transition from traditional to knowledge economy where new trends and technologies are being introduced faster than one can even get used to, requires every human being to become life-long learners.

This has made the 'formal education' or at least the 'qualification gathering' the highest priority of one's life. Education in general and higher education in particular have become investments people make with the expectation of better employment and higher wages.

But most of the educators and educational institutes claim that the purpose of education is to 'equip people with the knowledge they need to make free and independent decisions' in living the life they have planned for themselves.

The fact that there is an economic basis underpinning those individual choices makes them very much dependent on various factors such as political climate, the economy and the social and

cultural norms of their living environment. Since higher education cannot be seen as detached from the lower levels, most of these factors and concepts mentioned here would have some, if not all of their tentacles wrapped in the whole system of formal education.

As waiting until a child begins school at the age of five or six seems like an unnecessary risk, institutions of early childhood education, have emerged to take up the slack between birth and school to reduce the likelihood of educational failure. Some countries have even started to subsidise pre-school education since they are reluctant to rely upon the parents to invest appropriately in their children's education.

Education and labor market

Even though educational policy dynamics can vary across countries and their political landscape, one would find a great deal of commonalities, especially, within the context of globalization. The debate on the purpose of higher education has become the most important component of the discussions among the policy makers who live in the framework of market-driven economies. Social scientists have been highlighting the increase of

social inequalities despite the efforts to increase the participation in higher education.

Labour market driven higher education policies have increased the competition among the recipients and the degrees have become assets that can be converted to a labour market value. Education is no longer considered as a necessity for human development other than as an instrument for economic progress. Educational institutions have become almost like automated degree producing factories in their efforts to make the process as customer friendly as possible in order to attract better clientele.

These same institutes use phrases such as 'student-centered learning' and 'opportunities for individualised programs' that are contradictory to the assembly-line like process of issuing degrees. The world has accepted this concept of using children as raw material for these education factories in the process of manufacturing adults the market needs to sustain the economic progress. The advancement of the ICT has made it much easier even to reach thousands of customers from all over the world at any given time.

Human capital

One of the early attempts to estimate the monetary value of a human

being was by Sir William Petty in the late sixteen hundred. He considered labour as the 'father of wealth' therefore must be included in any estimate of national wealth of a country.

He extended this idea of 'Human Capital' to showcase the power of England, to explain the economic effects of human migration and the monetary loss to a nation due to deaths, especially during the wars.

A more scientific explanation of human capital was introduced in 1800s where cost of production and future earning potentials of a human being considered into estimating the capital value. This process of capitalising an individual's earnings minus his consumption or maintenance created a way to calculate the compensation for loss of life.

Economists in the past have tried all types of different methods to include human beings or their acquired abilities and skills as a component of capital and recognised the importance of investment in human beings as a means of increasing their productivity.

This idea of including human beings in the concept of capital addresses the cost of rearing and educating human beings as a real cost, the product of their labour as an addition to the national wealth and an expenditure on a human being that increases that product as

an addition to the national wealth.

The re-discovery of human capital in the mid-twentieth century doesn't seem to be a discovery at all. It is just an invention of a technology through which the productive capacity of a human being and of a population can be measured. Investment in human capital then, is analogous to an investment in physical stock, the means of production.

But the investment in human capital stock is different from other forms of capital investment in fixed stock since one cannot separate a person from his knowledge, skills and health the way it is possible to move financial and physical assets while the owner stays at the same place. An efficient measure of human capital should be able to measure the value of all layers of socialisation, which occur over the span of an individual's life including childhood with his family and/or with any other environment.

This will highlight one's education as the main contributing factor to one's capital and that will directly connect the public investments in schools as the most important investment in human capital.

Importance of education

Public education is largely been provided by governments as a means of fulfilling a need for

labour to have a minimum level of schooling. Then there is another segment of the society that can afford private education through which they expect to gather a greater capital than others.

Therefore, an education system that would allow an individual the freedom to choose the best path for him to improve his intellectual capacity while increasing his contribution to the capital is an important component of the development of a nation.

Even with the existing systems of education, the real constraint facing children around the world may be the inability to borrow against future income to buy a parental environment that will allow them to fulfill their potential, which is sometimes called the accident of birth.

Sir Ken Robinson, who was an international advisor on education, once said: "Human resources are like natural resources, they are often buried deep."

You have to go looking for them, they are not just lying around on the surface. You have to create the circumstances where they show themselves."

(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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World Cup victory, a good lesson to all – Prime Minister

An event to mark the 25th anniversary of Sri Lanka's victory at the 1996 Cricket World Cup and felicitate all the players who were part of the World Cup squad in 1996 was held at Temple Trees on Wednesday (March 17) under the patronage of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.

The captain of the 1996 Cricket World Cup winning team Arjuna Ranatunga said that it has been 25 years since Sri Lanka won the World Cup, but everyone in this country still remembers the winning moment. Ranatunga also called on the Prime Minister to appoint a committee to look into the abyss Sri Lanka cricket has fallen into at present. He said money is flowing overseas, the best people are migrating, and coaches are leaving their positions.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa recalled the day the Sri Lanka cricket team arrived in the country after winning the World Cup and how the then Captain Arjuna Ranatunga took the World Cup trophy to late Minister Gamini Disanayake's residence as a mark of respect for the statesmen. He also cherished the solidarity from South Asian countries when Australia and the West Indies refused to play in Colombo.

Premier Rajapaksa said, "Today Sri Lanka celebrates 25 years of humanity on the cricket field." He said if cricketers can build excellent teamwork and play with more commitment like those days, then Sri Lanka could win the Cricket World Cup again. "We have to look at our past and build from those lessons, and the World Cup victory gave a good lesson to all."

Absurd allegations

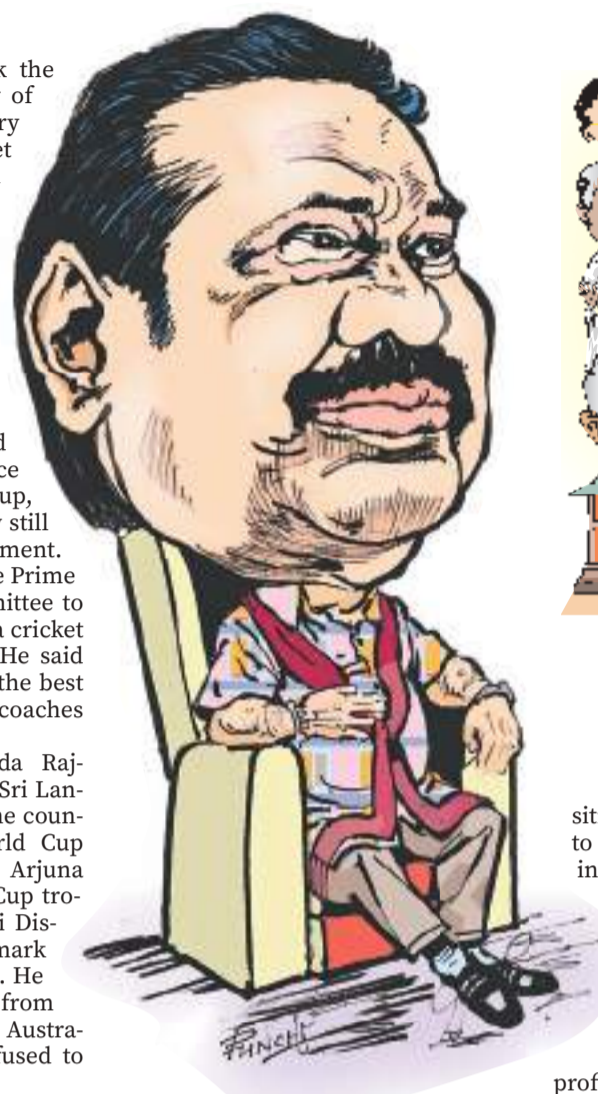
President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said the Opposition campaign to mislead the people by making absurd allegations cannot be allowed and must be countered. He said that the Opposition has the freedom to make various allegations but these allegations should be based on facts.

He was speaking at the 14th "Discussion with the Village" program at the Galagoda East Grama Niladhari Division in the Galle district.

The President said a recent statement made by an Opposition MP regarding the Easter Sunday attacks was circulated in the media. It is a statement that directly concerns national security. Therefore, the CID investigated the matter. The MP who made the allegation gave conflicting answers to the CID such as "I forgot", "Lost memory", "I don't know". The people should never be misled by making such baseless allegations," the President said.

Master brain

SJB Parliamentarian Chaminda Wijesiri said that not only former Finance Minister Ravi Karunanayake, but former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe should also be arrested in connection with the Treasury Bond scam. Addressing a me-



FORMER WESTERN PROVINCE GOVERNOR AZATH SALLEY WAS ARRESTED BY THE CID ON TUESDAY (MARCH 16) ON THE ADVICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. THE AG HAD ADVISED THE CID THAT AZATH SALLEY HAD COMMITTED OFFENCES UNDER THE PENAL CODE, PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT, AND THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

dia briefing in Colombo, MP Wijesiri charged that instead of striving to apprehend Wickremesinghe as the master brain behind the Treasury Bond scam, the present regime was deriving temporary satisfaction through the arrest of the former Finance Minister Ravi Karunanayake.

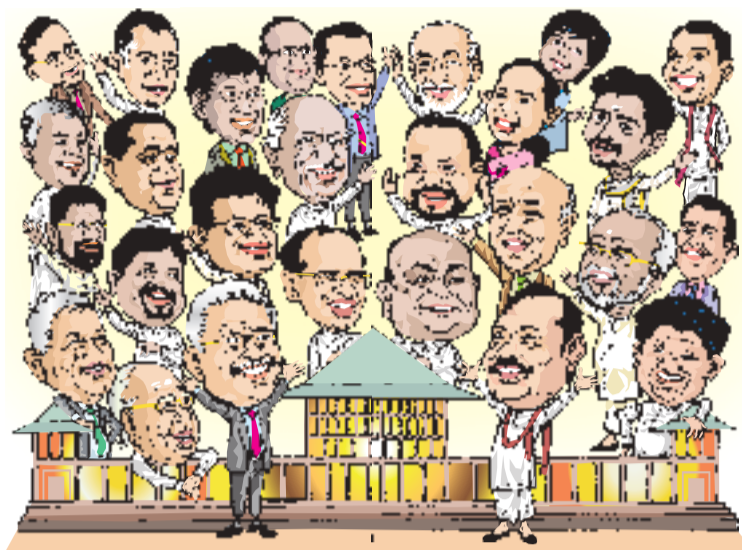
Arrested

Former Western Province Governor Azath Salley was arrested by the CID on Tuesday (March 16) on the advice of the Attorney General. The AG had advised the CID that Azath Salley had committed offences under the Penal Code, Prevention of Terrorism Act, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights over a statement made on March 10 over Sharia law and that he does not wish to honour the law of the land.

Public Security Minister Sarath Weerasekera told the media that Azath Salley was arrested by the CID as he is alleged to have had links with the Easter Sunday suicide bombers. The Minister alleged that according to initial investigation it was revealed that Salley had overt or covert links to the vandalisation of the Buddha statues in Mawanella and to the attack.

"Cannot remember"

Agriculture Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage said SJB Parliamentarian Ashok Abeysinghe who said that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Basil Rajapaksa were behind the Easter Sunday attacks, had told the CID that he could not remember making such a statement. Minister Aluthgamage told the media in Kandy recently, said the people have a clear understanding of the Oppo-



University of Politics

By Prof. Backbencher

sition politician who tries to save himself by making baseless statements to mislead the people.

The Minister said that while taxes are increased, some people make a profit and some people lose when taxes are reduced. He said President Gotabaya Rajapaksa is eliminating fraud and corruption and creating respect and value for the votes cast by the people and he has reduced expenditure from what the former President incurred which was Rs. 3.2 billion, by a massive Rs. 1.3 billion today.

Insult to the Judiciary

Chief Incumbent of the Pepsiyana Sri Sunethradevi Pirivena, Ven. Prof. Medagoda Abhayatissa Thera told the media with people of the likes of Azath Salley, it would be impossible to prevent this country from going up in flames and becoming a battle ground.

He said that it was not an issue regarding Salley alone but a problem regarding spineless persons. Ven. Thera told the media recently that the statement made by Salley that the laws of this country did not impinge on him and that he accepts only the 'Sharia Law' was an insult to the laws of this country and to the Judiciary.

He also said that it was clear that Salley was dragging the Muslim community of this country on a vicious racist, extremist and terrorism path. Ven. Abhayatissa Thera



SAJITH PREMADASA VOWED TO ENSURE THE VICTORY OF THE SJB AT THE NEXT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AND TO FORM A GOVERNMENT THAT IS SENSITIVE TO THE PEOPLE'S GRIEVANCES AND IS A TRUE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE

THE MP WHO MADE THE ALLEGATION GAVE CONFLICTING ANSWERS TO THE CID SUCH AS, "I FORGOT, LOST MEMORY, I DON'T KNOW". THE PEOPLE SHOULD NEVER BE MISLED BY MAKING SUCH BASELESS ALLEGATIONS, THE PRESIDENT SAID



or any organisation either local or international, that had funded these extremists and the masterminds behind these attacks. "Therefore, we cannot be satisfied with this Presidential Commission report. This is the reality and we have to accept it."

The Cardinal said that he was unaware if the politicians had seen the carnage created by those bomb blasts but said that he had witnessed his beloved people blasted into pieces at the churches that had come under attack. "I say this because I love my people. Therefore, we cannot allow anyone to make profits or gain any advantage by having brutally killed these innocent people in this manner. That is against our religious conscience. I know that the majority of our people will not support the perpetrators of such a crime."

"Therefore, if justice is to be meted out for the innocent people who were killed, we need to get out of this undermining, ruthless politics. Our country has been under such politicians, who would do anything for their gain, for far too long, but we cannot allow this to continue. We need leaders with a backbone who would stand up for the people and fight for justice, not those who will succumb for political or other gains," he said.

Restrictions on the burqa

Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said the Government will take a decision on banning the Burqa and the Niqab wisely so as not to exert undue influence on any party. Responding to a question by a journalist at the weekly Cabinet press briefing, the Minister said the Muslim community in Sri Lanka has inherited a unique culture and the restrictions on the Burqa should be done in a manner that does not adversely affect their culture.

"However, if there is a threat to national security through clothing such as the Burqa, it is imperative that action be taken in this regard but it should not be done hastily," he said.

The Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) celebrated its first anniversary at the Hyde Park Grounds in Colombo on March 15. The first anniversary celebration was held on the theme "Let's stand together to overcome challenges".

Many people's representatives representing the SJB were present at the celebration. SJB Leader Sajith Premadasa told the gathering that despite the party having been formed and registered a few months ago, the SJB succeeded in obtaining the highest number of seats in Parliament and gaining the highest number of votes. He vowed to ensure the victory of the SJB at the next Presidential election and to form a Government that is sensitive to the people's grievances and is a true representative of the people.

Bond scam

Former Finance Minister Ravi Karunanayake and seven other suspects were remanded till March 23 by the High Court Trial at

Bar over the 2016 Central Bank bond scam. Karunanayake and seven others who were ordered to be remanded were brought to the Welikada Prison on Wednesday (March 17).

The eight suspects had been directed to the quarantine centre of the prison. The Attorney General on Wednesday filed indictments against the suspects before the two Trials-at-Bar hearing the legal matters on Central Bank Treasury Bond auctions held between March 29 and March 31, 2016. The accused were indicted under the Penal Code, Public Properties Act and the Registered Stock and Securities Ordinance; and face charges, including criminal misappropriation and insider trading.

FORMER FINANCE MINISTER RAVI KARUNANAYAKE AND SEVEN OTHER SUSPECTS WERE REMANDED TILL MARCH 23 BY THE HIGH COURT TRIAL AT BAR OVER THE 2016 CENTRAL BANK BOND SCAM. KARUNANAYAKE AND SEVEN OTHERS WHO WERE ORDERED TO BE REMANDED





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This is an initiative of the State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation, which is supported by the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and implemented by Oxfam in Sri Lanka.

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SUNDAY OBSERVER

A sound decision

The use of vaccines dates back 200 years and over the intervening years, they have saved millions of lives around the world and made people healthier. Today, many diseases from Diphtheria to Influenza can be prevented with the use of vaccines. They are usually the only effective deterrent against viral diseases, since there really is no "cure" for them.

A century ago, when the Spanish Flu conquered the world after World War I, scientists could not invent a vaccine as medical science was not developed back then up to today's level. When the Coronavirus hit the world exactly one year ago, there was still no cure in sight, but vaccines were a distinct possibility. But what no one bargained for was the speed with which they were developed – in less than one year, the world had not one but five promising vaccines, with more on the way.

Vaccines are like any other drug, in that some people may develop adverse reactions and yes, even die. But these are very rare events. Besides, it cannot be definitely proven that the vaccine is the culprit for the adverse event or death since some people may succumb to totally unrelated health developments in the natural course of things.

The controversy that arose over the use of the Oxford/AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine is a case in point. Several persons mainly in Europe who took the vaccine developed blood clots and a few died. In Sri Lanka too, there were a couple of blood clot episodes. However, one has to look at the wider picture. Millions of doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine have been administered around the world, including nearly 800,000 in Sri Lanka, with the recipients reporting only mild reactions such as fever. Yes, a few have developed very adverse reactions.

But that would be a pathetic excuse to halt the vaccination drive, because we must ensure the greatest good of the greatest number. In other words, it is better to continue the vaccination drive rather than discontinue it over mostly unfounded fears.

Yet, this is exactly what happened in a number of countries, including Germany, France and Italy, which suspended the vaccination campaign over concerns about blood clots in some recipients. We have to be thankful to our health regulators and authorities for continuing the vaccination campaign unabated despite this action by some European countries. In hindsight, it has proven to be the correct decision.

European Medicines Agency Executive Director Emer Cooke told a news briefing that her agency's expert committee on the safety of medicines has "come to a clear scientific conclusion" on the review of cases of blood clots in people vaccinated with the drug. "This is a safe and effective vaccine," she said. "Its benefits in protecting people from Covid-19, with the associated risks of death and hospitalisation, outweigh the possible risks." Cooke added that the vaccine was not associated with an increase in the overall risk of blood clots.

Dr. Hans Kluge, the World Health Organisation's regional director for Europe, said that countries should continue to use AstraZeneca's vaccine. AstraZeneca itself said that a review of safety data from more than 17 million people given its shot in the United Kingdom and the European Union had shown no evidence of an increased risk of blood clots.

Within hours of the announcement, French Prime Minister Jean Castex said his country would start using the vaccine again, adding he would receive it on Friday afternoon. Other European countries were expected to follow suit. This is a good sign that will enable countries around the world to beat the Covid-19 virus.

Like with any medication, those who receive the vaccine must talk with a doctor beforehand and disclose any underlying health conditions and allergies they suffer from. They should also discuss the medications that they currently use. People with some severe allergies have been told to defer taking the vaccine or take medications that can suppress such allergies before taking the vaccine. Moreover, there is another school of thought that those who take certain medicines must stop taking them for a couple of days before the shot, though the scientific basis for these claims is not all that clear. In the end, it is better to take the vaccine than risk getting the disease, which can be deadly especially to people who have existing health conditions such as heart anomalies, diabetes and cancers.

Actually, this goes for anyone, healthy or not – getting the disease is not better than getting the vaccine. You should, in fact, get the vaccine even if you have been previously infected with Covid-19, because vaccine immunity is said to be of a higher magnitude than natural (Covid-19) immunity. The only advantage is that those who have had the disease can usually manage with just one shot of any vaccine, according to latest research. However, some countries may not allow this.

Sri Lanka is also fortunate in another sense – there is zero vaccine hesitancy here, unlike in some other countries. This is mainly due to a free immunisation drive that kicks into action literally from the moment you are born. It has helped Sri Lanka to achieve health indices that are almost on par with those of the developed states. Even Covid-19 would have created a bigger mayhem here if not for our free healthcare service and its dedicated workers, who are in the frontlines of the battle against Covid-19 along with heroic Security Forces and Police personnel.

We should all help them achieve zero Covid-19 status by turning up at a vaccination centre to get inoculated when our turn comes.

The critics have gone bananas

by
Rajpal Abeynayake



The method of the propagandists attempting to vilify the Government is to try and caricature the President, Prime Minister and other key Government figures. They feel that if they can neatly fit the Government frontliners into caricatures, their job will be done.

The problem is that the folk who try to caricature the key figures of the Government, are already caricatures themselves. Harin Fernando is a caricature first and a politician second.

Caricature is defined in the Oxford English Dictionary as "A picture, description, or imitation of a person in which certain striking characteristics are exaggerated in order to create a comic or grotesque effect."

If the comic or grotesque effect is imbued in the personality of an individual, he or she becomes a living, walking caricature.

Sir John Kotelawala was successfully caricatured and those who glorified his lifestyle became living caricatures. Senaka Weeraratna, writing to a website, states that one cartoon sealed the fate of Sir John and his Government. The depiction was of a milling crowd of Westernised folk descending on a Buddha statue, with a calf to be barbecued, sketched being transported on a handcart.

But yet, the caricaturisation of politicians doesn't need pen and ink – doesn't need any type of sketching on paper at all. Caricatures are created in the mind's eye by fitting political figures into a stereotype – and then keeping them within that frame by lampooning them in a subtle way.

This can be done by others, but the types who are a godsend are those who caricature themselves without any help from outsiders. Harin Fernando falls into that category and so do Premadasa and Harsha de Silva.

But yet, these are the very people that try to caricature the President and the frontliners of the Government and they fail because flesh and blood caricatures can't make caricatures of others.

These people are trying to caricature the key State leadership because once upon a time, they tried to demonise them and utterly failed. They did succeed in demonising folk, such as President Gotabaya Rajapaksa for a while and then all of that began to unravel.

The people rejected this exercise in demonisation. Now, the attempt is to lampoon and fit these same leaders into a convenient stereotype so that they could be cast as living caricatures, such as Sir John was before he was ousted.

Regulation

But, before explaining how all this came to this pass, here is a story of how the past Government caricatured itself. They didn't really need cartoonists because they lampooned themselves so well by just breathing.

It was not for nothing that Ranil Wickremesinghe was called Mr. Bean among the younger tykes in particular, but let that pass. With the memorable Volkswagen caper, Harsha de Silva became the air cooled version in the caricature bloopers-rail.



As the two-thirds majority at the General Elections showed, the people are no longer bamboozled by the lie machine of the Opposition players

The Government has more serious issues to deal with, than all this ham-handed lampooning. Those such as Sajith Premadasa, that try to lampoon, end up lampooning themselves, because it's a character trait with Premadasa

Now, that was the fun that was!

Harin Fernando, of course, came to fame via his father, who also became famous for more than the regulation fifteen minutes, because the son chose to become a cartoon character with the story about the dad. But then again there were so many now SJB figures that caricatured themselves, that they are far too numerous to mention here.

However, it is important to assess the social dynamic behind the fact that the Opposition has seen it fit to transition from essentially demonising the President and the front rankers of the Government, to try to lampoon them and fit them into some sort of a stereotype.

Their finger-wagging and the lie machine has failed miserably. As the two-thirds majority at the General Elections showed, the people are no longer bamboozled by the lie machine of the opposition players.

Proxies

Therefore, they have tried to tinge the lies with a bit of lampoon, knowing that the old tactics are not working.

Note the shift away from the old tactic of crying thief, thief.

Since that didn't work obviously on the long run, they have resorted to using the 'incompetence' and 'insensitivity' card, alleging that there is insensitivity to environmental concerns, and a lack of ideas.

What's happening is a resort to emotion – an attempt to whip up strong anti-Government emotion by using proxies, such as a fifteen year girl on a private television channel etc.

This fifteen year old stated that the Sinharaja is being laid waste, whereas the forest clearing she is talking of is not

happening within the Sinharaja reserve. But when that misrepresentation is being called out, they say "but after all the lady is only fifteen years old".

They found that caricatures such as Harsha de Silva cannot caricature a Government that has competence as its strong suit. Proxies such as young children are being deployed instead, because they know that the old bumbling image of the comic UNP type cartoon like figure doing the finger pointing will not do.

The Government has more serious issues to deal with, than all this ham-handed lampooning. Those such as Sajith Premadasa, that try to lampoon, end up lampooning themselves, because it's a character trait with Premadasa. He can't say two words without sounding buffoonish.

The Government has to focus on the serious issues and let the Opposition stew in its own juice. The President and his administration has to look into the fallout from the pandemic, foremost on its agenda. Opportunities have to be created for tens of thousands that have to transition to self-employment because a sizable segment of the workforce lost their jobs due to the work from home rules and the layoffs that resulted.

This is a serious issue, that requires focused attention and optimal strategy on the part of the Government and not the type of flailing of hands that the Lakshman Kiriella, Ranil Wickremesinghe duo displayed in Parliament as a substitute to solving problems.

The private sector has to grow, but perhaps with a shift in focus from small business, to the smallest business. Mom and pop outfits are proliferating, with many retrenched workers innovating by selling things out of their cars etc.,

Some of these people have already made an advantage out of a disadvantage. They have struck out in business,

and found opportunities they never dreamed of with their nine to five jobs that they were retrenched from.

Of course, not everyone is a businessman, and there has to be a safety net to catch those who fall through the cracks of the new system.

The previous Government had one solution to all this - they called for those who did not have bread, to eat cake. Refer Harsha de Silva's metaphor for cake eating, which was basically, "we have girls now knocking about in high heels, so there."

They taxed business - small, medium, large or any size, out of their existence.

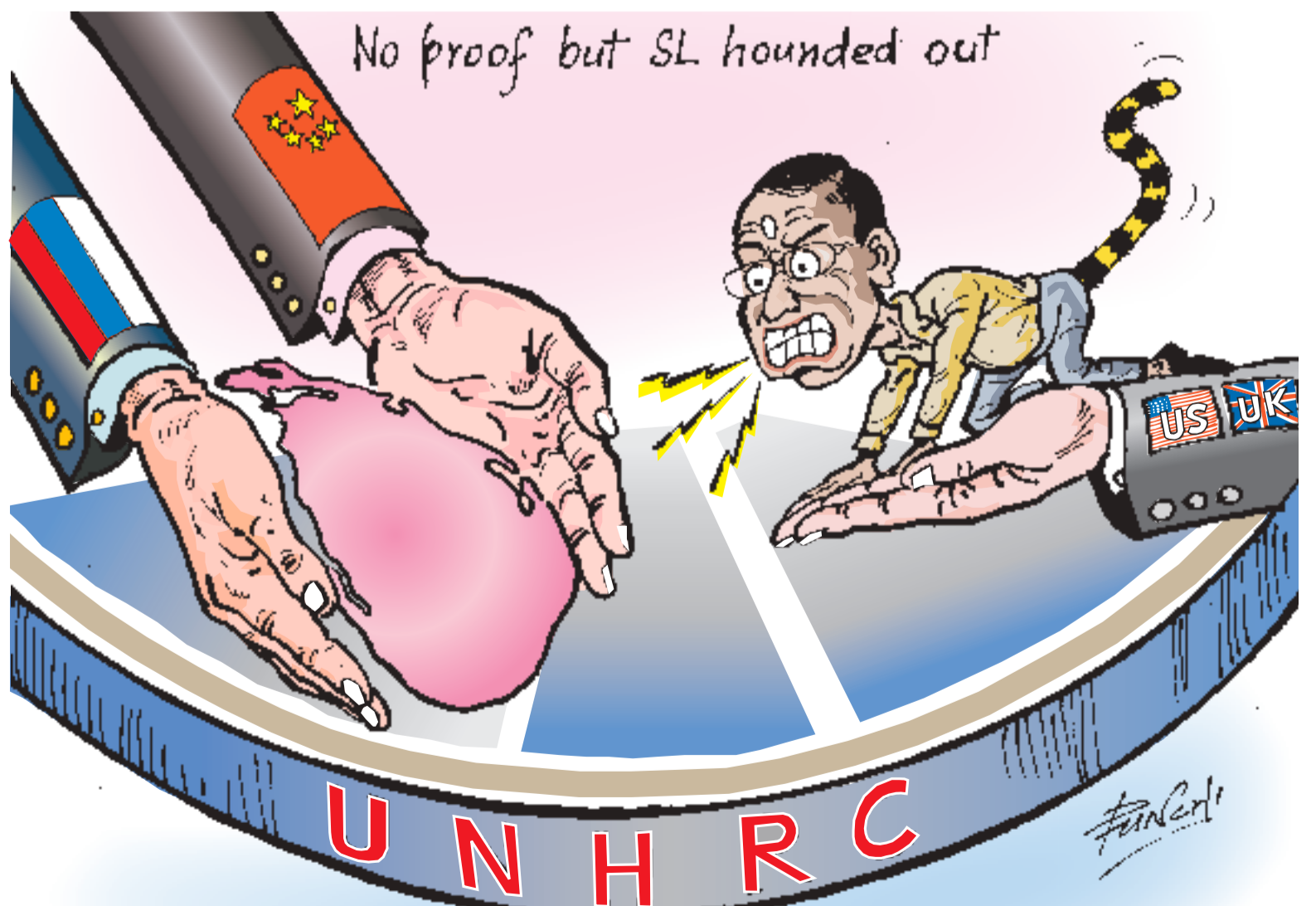
Controlled

Today, business has been made lean, which was not resulting from Government policy, but became the unavoidable result of the pandemic. But lean workforces also mean that businesses have the opportunity to start over, making use of the growth friendly economic policy of low interest and minimum taxation.

There is a transition taking place that's a very rare occurrence as it's tantamount to a structural overhaul of the way we run the economy. The Opposition's tactic of lampooning all this has been met with a rebuff from most quarters, especially businessmen. Business leaders, for instance, are taking on the task of articulating how printing money under controlled conditions is good in some circumstances.

They are not ready to accept the stereotyping; one environmentalist, for instance, made a detailed takedown of the environment related criticism of government policy, and explained why those who politicise environmental issues do a disservice to the cause. He says that the focus on Dahhayagiaga, for instance, was misplaced because that situation had been going on for over nine years. Politically motivated focus on these issues detracted from the real environmental concerns.

Caricature like characters trying to stereotype and lampoon in the midst of this serious business, cause the boomerang effect. The cartoonists end up becoming the cartoon.



International legal luminary rebuts war crime canard

BY SHENALI WADUGE

Luckily the Mahinda Rajapaksa Government had sought the legal opinion of international legal experts whose opinions should now be used to compare the OISL and UNHRC Heads reports and demands that contravene Article 2.7 of the UN Charter by interfering in the internal affairs of a sovereign nation.

Reading Prof. Michael Newton's legal opinion alongside that of the OISL and the PoE any would laugh at the childishness of the report produced, the premises and insinuations made. Any would have to wonder for whose interest the report has been written and for whose benefit the recommendations have been made.

Michael Newton

He is an expert in terrorism, accountability, transnational justice, conduct of hostilities and has published over 80 books, articles, op-eds. He has been an expert witness in terrorism related trials. He has also been the senior advisor to the Ambassador-at-large for War Crimes issues in the US State Department.

Civilians used by LTTE

The LTTE refused to permit some 330,000 fellow Tamils to flee away from the zone of conflict.

The LTTE used them as human shields.

The Government declared area as safe civilian (no fire zone) to protect innocent civilians but LTTE refused to agree to its creation. This he says constitutes prima facie evidence of LTTE's intent to use civilians/civilian objects for its military campaign.

The LTTE embedded its heavy artillery within the NFZ and intentionally shelled Sri Lankan positions from amid civilian population.

Using civilians, Prof. Newton said is 'roughly comparable to the war crime of perfidy' because the LTTE sought to use the Government's compliance with the laws and customs of warfare to gain unwarranted military advantage. (this nullifies OISL allegation against SL Army).

The LTTE intentionally used the civilians to shield military operations - this Prof. Newton said constitutes a war crime.

Prof. Newton said that the obligation to protect civilians within the zone of conflict (as given in Article 57(1) of Protocol 1 to the Geneva Convention of 1949).

Prof. Newton said 'there is no evidence to suggest that Sri Lankan Commanders ignored this fundamental obligation. As reported by the US Embassy, the Sri Lankan military expressly took the utmost care' to avoid civilian casualties, despite the intentional warping of its operational environment by the LTTE'. (This demolishes OISL's claims)

Distinguishing civilians from combatants

The question is how to distinguish civilian population from combatants and civilian objectives from military objectives to direct military operations only against military objectives as required by Article 48 of the Protocol 1.

The assessment of the US Ambassador at the time gives that the operational goal of the LTTE was to effect military advantage against the Sri Lankan forces and so the LTTE forcibly prevented evacuations of civilians who wanted to leave (again the OISL premise is demolished)

Prof. Newton said that the 'Elements of Crimes for the Rome Statute' adopted in June 2000 was clear that action by a perpetrator with the intent to 'shield a military object from attack' or to take advantage of one or more civilians to 'shield, favour or impede military operations' constitutes a war crime (OISL - it is the LTTE who has committed the war crime not the Army)

Prof. Newton also demolishes Ban Ki Moon's Panel of Experts who claimed that 'credible evidence of the LTTE deliberately moving civilians towards military targets to protect the latter from attacks'. (PoE argument legally thrown to the dustbin)

Prof. Newton also said that the 'crime of using human shields is committed by any perpetrator that intentionally moved or otherwise took advantage of the location of one or more civilians or other persons protected under the international law of armed

conflict' (LTTE becomes a clear war criminal)

Prof. Newton authoritatively said the LTTE committed the war crime of using human shields on any occasion that it took advantage of the presence of civilians with the intent of protecting its military assets from any attack or to shield, favour or impede military operations.' (LTTE by attempting to gain inappropriate military advantage from the presence of civilians/civilian objects commits the war crime of using human shields with or without deliberate moving of civilians) - there goes another unfounded premise of the OISL and PoE to the dustbin.

Prof. Newton said that 'there is no per se prohibition against attacking targets protected by human shields' so long as Government Artillery strikes comply with the principle of proportionality and after taking 'all feasible precautions in the choice of means and methods of attack with a view to avoiding, and in any event to minimising, incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians and damage to civilian objects'.

Prof. Newton said that both Hamas and LTTE used human shields unlawfully to favour military operations.

Military attacks

Evidence is clear that targets were 'specifically attacked in response to LTTE fire emanating from within the civilian areas'.

To elucidate this Prof. Newton brings out other examples.

'No Government has declared the illegality of Israeli strikes simple because they were directed into civilian areas (law is that artillery fire into civilian areas cannot be deemed per se unlawful but must be subjected to the traditional analysis drawn from principles of distinction, military necessity and proportionality).

Response of the German Government following the 2009 Israeli incursion into Gaza was that it supported the assertion that there is no per se prohibition on the use of artillery shells in urban areas: The Federal Government has no reliable information on the use of such ammunition. The use of means of warfare which cannot be directed against a specific military objective, so called indiscriminate attacks, would be prohibited. This would depend not only on the type of ammunition, but also on the circumstances of their use'.

Gotovina case - neither ICTY Trial Chambers nor Appeals Chambers asserted that use of artillery fire directed against purported military objectives located in civilian urban areas is in itself dispositive of illegality.

Principle of distinction

The Principle of distinction requires parties to distinguish at all times between the civilian population and combatants, between civilian and military objectives, and accordingly direct attacks only against military objectives.

It is prohibited to target civilians in customary international law.

The Galic Appeal Judgement, Article 51(2) of Additional Protocol I states in a clear language that civilians and the civilian population as such should not be the object of attack', that this principle does not mention any exceptions, and in particular that it does not contemplate derogating from this rule by invoking military necessity.'

Article 51(2) explicitly confirms the customary rule that civilians must enjoy general protection against the danger arising from hostilities' and stems from a fundamental principle of international humanitarian law, the principle of distinction, which obliges warring parties to distinguish at all times between the civilian population and combatants and between civilian objects and military objectives and accordingly to direct their operations only against military objective.'

Prof. Newton said that There is no requirement that particular areas or zones be designated as civilian or mili-



THE SECURITY FORCES HAD EVERY RIGHT TO RESPOND TO THOSE PROVOCATIONS WITH ARTILLERY FIRES TARGETING THE LTTE POSITIONS, PROVIDED THAT THE ESTIMATE OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES WAS NOT CLEARLY EXCESSIVE" IN RELATION TO THE ANTICIPATED MILITARY VALUE



Soldiers provide water to civilians who were liberated from the clutches of the LTTE.

tary in nature' because a distinction is to be made between the civilian population and combatants, or between civilian and military objectives - on a case-by-case basis.

Sri Lankan Government did not require labelling area as safe or protected so long as attacks were on lawful targets using lawful weapons in a lawful manner as permitted under the laws and customs of warfare.

Proportionality with modern human shielding

The problem - human shields present military decision-makers a challenge to ensure civilians are protected from hostilities (unless they take part in hostilities) and the violation by one side who locates military objectives within or near densely populated areas and fails to take the necessary precautions to protect civilian populations.

Prof. Newton said that the Commander in the field has to either cede an unlawfully obtained military advantage to the enemy and suffer casualties or undertake careful strikes in response.

He goes on to say that 'if the law is warped to permit the enemy to unlawfully exploit human shields with no

possibility of recourse, then it becomes irrelevant and essentially obsolete'. He said the only way to balance is to apply good faith application of the law of proportionality. (Another OISL premise against the Army demolished)

Prof. Newton adds an important answer that no military Commander in the world, and by extension no political official that authorises the use of military force, should accept a legal premise that military forces must suffer the lethal force of the enemy while under a legal obligation not to respond using lawful force in self-defence' (This is exactly what the UN/UNSG, PoE and the OISL demands of the SL Army - to become guinea pigs for LTTE fire)

Prof. Newton said that the 'LTTE enemy misused civilians to protect military targets, and ignored governmental efforts to establish safe areas for civilians, while hindering their ability to seek safety'.

He said that the right of the Government to respond using lawful weapons against identifiable military targets must be respected.

Prof. Newton said that the LTTE deliberately ignores its own legal duties, disconnects between aspirational legal rules'.

Prof. Newton said that the warning of the U.S. Ambassador that strikes should not be undertaken against clearly identified military objectives when the LTTE used the presence of civilians in the so-called NFZ to launch military strikes is both naive and unfounded in modern international law.

What the essential argument is that the Sri Lankan forces cannot be shown the red card and charged when the other side is violating all rules of law and laws of proportionality.

Voluntary human shields

Voluntary human shields, even though they do not wear uniforms, carry guns openly, or follow a chain of command, seem to have chosen directly to participate in the war effort and even

jectives despite presence of human shields. Prof. Newton said that more lives were saved than lost.

Even when Sri Lanka forces issued effective warnings to the civilian population (which negates the accusation by the OISL that SL Forces did not) these warnings came to nought as the LTTE prevented civilians from leaving to safety. Prof. Newton says that the LTTE rejected the area declared safe for civilians and nullified the warnings and thus the LTTE bears 'responsibility for civilian deaths because their own conduct was the causal factor in such deaths'.

'No evidence is in the record to suggest that the Government used inherently indiscriminate weapons such as barrel bombs or Grad rockets 15, that are typically used for their capacity to affect a wide area at great range (this again demolishes OISL specific claims about the military using such weapons - this is a key factor that absolves the military and shames the OISL for lying).

The Army can almost certainly produce evidence that it undertook artillery strikes in compliance with the best practices designed to minimise or to eliminate civilian casualties.' For example, artillery experts will attest that frequent adjustments to equipment are needed to account for wind changes, humidity changes and temperature changes that affect the predictability of artillery round trajectories.

These practices in turn served to decrease the foreseeable civilian casualties by ensuring that rounds were directed specifically to the lawful LTTE targets (what does the OISL have to say now an apology to the SL Army is fine for starters)

Similarly, commanders are experts at using the artillery batteries that are best positioned to respond to a given attack. Use of on-scene observers whenever possible and stringent rules of engagement to require higher level approval under specific operational conditions for the return of artillery fire into the safe zone served to minimise civilian casualties.' (Don't you just wonder what the OISL is upto when reading Prof. Newton's legal opinion?)

Prof. Newton said proof that the Army did their best to anticipate causal factors that could have made worse civilian casualties and so fired at military objectives from a greater distance which indicates the Army compliance with proportionality principle. He concludes that 'the Sri Lanka military cannot be responsible for a higher margin of error than anticipated'.

Civilians and combatants

Prof. Newton said 'civilians that intentionally shielded the LTTE targets forfeited their otherwise protected status by virtue of having directly participated in hostilities' (we now want to know how many civilians intentionally shielded LTTE targets).

'The reported inflation of estimated civilian casualties sought to aggrandise the wrongfulness of the military responses and to obscure the prior war crimes committed by the LTTE precisely to achieve a propaganda victory that might translate into strategic success' (how will the OISL respond to this).

In my opinion, the Security Forces had every right to respond to those provocations with artillery fires targeting the LTTE positions, provided that the estimate of civilian casualties was not clearly excessive' in relation to the anticipated military value.

Commanders have every right to consider the safety of their own forces in making proportionality determinations because, the perspective of the commander (or other warfighting decision maker) is entitled to deference based on the subjective perspective prevailing at the time.'

'It is my unqualified opinion that the overarching necessity of ending the multi-generational struggle against the LTTE permitted Sri Lanka Commanders to consider means of attack that accomplished the vital goal of final victory', even as they sought to protect their own forces. It would be ludicrous to suggest that there is some precept of international law that required them to send ground forces into the NFZ to respond to the LTTE artillery fire. I cannot imagine a knowledgeable expert in my field that would suggest otherwise.'

Reading Prof. Newton's opinion one can realise the level of lies that the UNHRC has stooped to in trying to twist and turn the law to favour the illegal combatants the LTTE and the audacity of the UNHRC head to demand that the Government 'rein in Sri Lanka's Security Forces' shows he is going well over his limits.

- Lanka Web



PROF. NEWTON DEMOLISHES BAN KI MOON'S PANEL OF EXPERTS WHO CLAIMED THAT 'CREDIBLE EVIDENCE OF THE LTTE DELIBERATELY MOVING CIVILIANS TOWARDS MILITARY TARGETS TO PROTECT THE LATTER FROM ATTACKS'

Equilibrium between political and non-political leadership

by
Hemantha Kulatunga



The world is moving at a fast pace. Countries have changed drastically during the past several decades. Nevertheless, since independence, even after 73 years, Sri Lanka has been a 'developing country' or 'lower-middle-income country' and continues to be the same. (The recent upgrading of the status to an upper-middle-income category by the World Bank was short-lived). Besides, the 130th rank Sri Lanka holds in the 'World Happiness Index' has not shown a significant improvement for the past several years.

The pertinent question to ask about this stagnation is whether the country's political leadership was inspirational and influential enough throughout the past seven decades. During the time until 2019 when the newest political party, the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) took over, the two main political parties, the United National Party (UNP) and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) with their alliances ruled the country interchangeably. Even though there was development work carried out by the Governments of both parties, the general status of the country has not substantially changed.

Political dialogue

A controversial political dialogue surfaced in the country when a senior politician who also is a leader of a political party backing the Government, said that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa should take over the leadership of the SLPP, the party leadership that is held by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. The statement

came into vehement opposition by almost all senior members of the SLPP and launched scathing attacks on the politician who made the statement. They claimed that this initial memberships were largely built around the Premier.

Most politicians will consent that the President should be a political figure. In this writer's opinion, most of the citizens believe that the Presidency is more affluent and more effective to the welfare of the public as a 'neutral' person rather than a party politician.

The people experienced an unpleasant run with the previous leader who was voted to the office with a promise of neutrality. The pledge became a hoax in a short time. The whole scenario changed when the ex-President took over the SLPP leadership. Many people blame that the country was compelled to live through a terrible time due to this move.

Strength

The assumption of the people is that had the ex-President remained neutral, most of the negative incidents that occurred during that time would have been averted. The governance during the period between 2015 and 2019 was one of the worst and the weakest in the recent past due to weak, petty and insecure political leadership.

Nevertheless, as in many other democracies, the head of the Government in Sri Lanka has always been elected through a political party since independence. In such a situation, the key challenge is whether the incumbent President can win the next election without the backing of a strong political party or alliance.

Fortunately, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa is relieved from that issue to a certain extent as his family possesses the best political strength in Sri Lanka. Particularly, with the



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa

FOR THE LEADER TO BE SUCCESSFUL, HE NEEDS AN IDEAL TEAM. THE SUCCESSFUL EXECUTION OF THE VISION DEPENDS MAINLY ON THE COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF THE TEAM MEMBERS. THEREFORE, GOOD LEADERS INITIALLY ACCEPT THAT THEY NEED THE ASSISTANCE OF OTHER EFFICIENT AND COMMITTED LEADERS TO YIELD SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES THAT ARE BENEFICIAL TO THE COUNTRY

presence of Premier Mahinda Rajapaksa, perhaps the most charismatic leader ever born in Sri Lanka, the incumbent President will have a definite and unparalleled advantage with voters.

Good political leadership is not only about individual characteristics or qualities but also about managing the whole system to be supportive of the complex government machinery. A smart and successful leader knows that their task is not to have all the answers but to ask the right question from the right person. He knows that others may be better placed to answer.

Covid-19 vaccinations program, Muslim burial issue and several other similar issues.

The President has been patient and exceedingly flexible in solving issues diplomatically. He has shown ample political astuteness in collaborative decision-making in consultation with stakeholders. As a successful leader, the President understands that his task primarily is building relationships and working across diverse sectors to achieve a common purpose. He did not need much talk on political experience to succeed in most of these situations.

Sri Lankans, as a nation are looking towards a leader with an honest and genuine 'Sri Lanka first' attitude. In fairness, most of the past Presidents and Prime Ministers started with this notion with unadulterated interest and enthusiasm. However, the same cannot be said about the majority of other politicians who usually flock around power. These shady politicians with vested interests knowingly or unknowingly derail the path of the leadership, at times severely damaging the image of the leader. For the country's sake, the citizenry believe that the incumbent leadership cannot be sent up a gum tree easily by these dishonest elements.

Vision

Citizens in any country wish for leaders with clear, precise and inspirational vision, who can take a nation to prosperity. The dire need for Sri Lanka is to have a leader who has the strength, desire, knowledge, and sheer will to achieve goals amid difficulties. Specifically, the leader must have the courage to withstand malicious criticisms while accepting constructive assessments positively. Such leaders earn the trust of the people who make them legends in a country. The vast majority of Sri Lankans notice these qualities in President Got-

baya Rajapaksa and perhaps, it is the reason for expecting him to be a non-political statesman.

However, for the leader to be successful, he needs an ideal team. The successful execution of the vision depends mainly on the cooperation and support of the team members. Therefore, good leaders initially accept that they need the assistance of other efficient and committed leaders to yield successful outcomes that are beneficial to the country. It is imperative that the leader has an ideal team.

Mediocre

In public opinion, President Rajapaksa's team comprises a mixture of good and mediocre members. Part of the team, particularly some Cabinet and State Ministers seems to have understood the leadership style of the President and work along with his plans while some others do not show adequate interest.

The salient point is that the whole team must be equally effective in public matters. Even a few bad characters can upset the apple cart. Even if such politicians (who are largely disliked by the public) can collect votes in their constituencies, they may create bigger overall damage in an election. Therefore, they must be kept in check for the sustainability of the Government.

It is up to the President himself to determine whether he should be a party politician or not. Nevertheless, the expectation of the entire population, irrespective of which party they belong to, is that the President is a statesman rather than a traditional politician. The country has witnessed 73 years of post-independence politics without much progress in public lives. Therefore, the vast majority of Sri Lankans still believe that the plan under the presidential vision is the most ideal development program for prosperity if carried out without hindrance.

AstraZeneca jab safe - WHO Blood clot fears rock several countries

World Health Organization experts on Wednesday recommended countries continue to use the AstraZeneca vaccine, but said they were looking into the jab's safety after a slew of countries suspended its use over health fears.

The WHO, Europe's medicines regulator and AstraZeneca itself have repeatedly said the vaccine was safe after several countries reported feared links with blood clots or brain haemorrhages.

The suspensions have marred the global vaccine drive aimed at ending a year-long pandemic that has already killed more than 2.6 million people around the world since it first emerged in China in late 2019.

But the WHO's vaccine experts have said it was still better to take the AstraZeneca vaccine than not - adding that it was looking into available data on the jab.

"The WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety is carefully assessing the latest available safety data," the UN health agency said in a statement.

"At this time, WHO considers that the benefits of the AstraZeneca vaccine outweigh its risks and recommends that vaccinations continue."

The recommendation echoed a similar statement from the European Medicines Agency on Tuesday advising countries to continue using the vaccine, saying there was no link with clots.

Several countries such as France, Venezuela and Indonesia said they would not use the vaccine after several reports emerged of blood clots and brain haemorrhages in people who had

received the vaccine.

The British-Swedish jab has been dogged by controversy from early on in its rollout, after some countries initially recommended it for people over the age of 65 and then backpedalled, saying that there was insufficient data for people in the age group that had received the shot.

The firm later sparred with the EU, which accused it of failing to fulfill vaccine contracts after the bloc's immunisation campaign came under fire for a sputtering start.

Crisis of the century

The head of the EU Commission on Wednesday threatened to introduce export curbs to stop suppliers within the EU from sending jabs outside the bloc to ensure 'reciprocity' from other vendors.

Ursula von der Leyen singled out Britain, which she accuses of operating a de facto export ban to achieve its own vaccine success at home, which London furiously denies.

She said the EU was 'still waiting' for its AstraZeneca orders to come out of production sites in Britain, despite the fact that 10 million doses from other manufacturers had entered the United Kingdom from the EU.

"This is an invitation to show us that there are also doses from the UK coming to the European Union, so that we have reciprocity," she said.

The warning came as the EU chief also unveiled plans for a digital certificate that could allow people who have been vaccinated

to travel freely within the bloc.

The pass could also apply to people with a recent negative test, or have been previously infected and therefore are presumed to have antibodies, she said, calling the pandemic 'the crisis of the century'.

Governments are hoping that vaccines will clear the path to a return to normal, more than a year into the pandemic that has plunged the world into a devastating recession and subjected much of humanity to some sort of anti-virus restrictions.

In Ireland, St Patrick's Day celebrations were dampened for a second year running with the country still facing restrictions - after the first wave of anti-virus measures shut the party down last year.

"It's a year on now and we seem to be back where we started," said Publican Tom Cleary, perched on a barstool in Dublin next to a Guinness tap fashioned in the shape of the Celtic harp.

"It's sad there's no end in sight," he told AFP. "I mean, will we be here next St Patrick's Day with the same problems?"

New lockdowns

More than 382 million doses of vaccine have been administered globally, the vast majority in wealthier countries while many poorer nations have yet to receive a single jab.

AstraZeneca's shot, among the cheapest available, was billed as the vaccine of choice for poorer nations but the clot reports have had an impact beyond Europe.

The suspensions come as some countries see worrying new caseloads, including India where Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for 'quick and decisive steps' to halt a new wave of infection.

In France, President Emmanuel Macron was to decide on Wednesday whether to impose a weekend lockdown in the Paris region as it faced its own third wave of infections that have bloated hospital ICUs.

And Poland announced a three-week partial lockdown of its own, while in the South Pacific the health minister of Papua New Guinea issued an urgent appeal for vaccines to stave off a wave of new infections. (AFP)

Indian HC calls on Minister Dinesh Gunawardena



Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay called on Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena on Friday at the Foreign Ministry.

A lengthy discussion was held on the control of the Covid-19 pandemic and the provision of the Indian vaccine to the people of both countries with special attention paid to the longstanding bilateral relations.

Sri Lanka Press Association conducts 65th AGM



The Sri Lanka Press Association conducted its 65th Annual General Meeting at the Western Province Aesthetic Resort auditorium in Colombo 7, recently.

The Association's office-bearers and the executive committee for the years 2020/2021 gathered for a group photograph following the meeting.

Seated from left, National Or-

ganiser Nimanthi Ranasinghe, Treasurer Chaminda Karunaratne, Chief Patron Muditha Kariyakarawana, Guest of honour and Sri Lanka Press Complaints Commission Complaint Official Kamal Liyanarachchi, President Dharman Wickremaretna, Secretary General Kurulu Koojana Kariyakarawana and Dep. Sec. Gen. Tilak Senanayake.

Standing from left, Daminda

Opposition on...

That particular batch under suspicion had been produced in UK and not in the Serum Institute. So far, none of the batches produced by the Serum Institute have reported such incidents.

Q: Has the Government decided to provide Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine to the most vulnerable persons over 60 years of age group in the most high-risk areas?

A: Actually, I should clarify this. Our decision is to give the vaccine to those above 30 years of age and residing in most vulnerable places or in hotspots. With the help of the national intelligence service and also from the data available in the Epidemiology Unit, we have a list on what are the most vulnerable places or hotspots. So, we will select the Grama Niladhari divisions

which have reported the highest number of risks, patients and deaths. So, we have a formula and in that we identify what are the most vulnerable places. Likewise, we categorise those areas. In that particular Grama Niladhari division, all those who are above 30 years of age are vaccinated irrespective of the fact whether they are permanent residents or temporary residents.

Our strategy is to give geographical coverage for hotspots. We received 264,000 Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines from the WHO under their COVAX program. They indicated priority should be given for the elders.

They haven't said that this should be given to those who are above 60 or 70 years of age. For our convenience we allocated the 264,000 vaccines for the elderly

population who are above 60 years of age.

Q: What is the progress of the Government's Covid-19 vaccination program?

A: Now more than 800,000 vaccines have been given to the people without any serious adverse effect. In earlier days of the program, there were some unpleasant events reported in the queues and with regard to the arrangement procedures.

However, we were able to correct all those shortcomings within a very short period of time. Now the Covid-19 vaccination program is going on very smoothly. I must thank the local political authority and the local administrative structure who have given us an enormous support in organising this vaccination program.

Continued from page 4



Make media a level playing field for all during elections - Election Commission chief

BY MANJULA FERNANDO

Stressing the importance of the role played by the print and electronic media, to ensure a level playing field during elections, Election Commission Chairman Nimal Punchihewa said the media failed to live up to its expectations to maintain neutrality on their part during the past elections.

He said that democracy depended on free and fair elections and urged the media fraternity to make their contribution to uphold this people's right, speaking at a workshop for media organised by the Election Commission at its Secretariat at Rajagiriya last week.

Senior lecturer at Sripali Campus for Performing Arts and Mass Media of the Colombo University, Prof. Tudor Weerasinghe, Director MTV/MBC Asoka Dias, Chief Editor, Irida Lankadeepa Ariyananda Dombagahawatte and Director General Elections Saman Sri Ratnayaka spoke on different aspects of the role of the media in the coverage of the national election process and related matters.

The opening speech was made by Director, Research and Policy Planning of the Election Secretariat Channa P de Silva.

Election law

The Election Commission Chairman said the election law before the 1978 constitution had strong provisions and punitive measures where offenders had to face severe punishment including depriving of

their civic rights, yet today the Election Commission itself has become a toothless entity helpless to rectify the flaws in the election law.

Referring to the Provincial Councils Election, he said the Commission is of the view that a mixed electoral system combining the First-Past-the-Post system and the Proportional Representation (PR) system was ideal for the country.

There were divergent views and proposals as to the composition of the FPP and PR in the mixed electoral system, whether it should be 50 percent - 50 or 70 to 30 percent.

Appealing to the media to respond courageously to challenging situations and report the truth during an election phase, the Chairman said, the absence of incidents on the day of the election alone would not suggest the election was free and fair.

Referring to Sri Lanka's international commitments, Punchihewa said that the country has an obligation to adhere to international agreements, including International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to which we have become a signatory in 1980.

Citing a Supreme Court ruling in respect of a case filed against the attempts by then President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga to put off a scheduled election in 2005, the Election Commission Chief said that even the Executive President couldn't interfere with the people's right to exercise their franchise. Courts have also ruled that no one - even the President or the House Speaker - can enjoy privileged status



Nimal Punchihewa

when casting the vote, that everyone is equal under the election law. Thus, it is mandatory for everyone to cast their vote at an official polling station.

Prof. Tudor Weerasinghe said the role of journalists has transformed drastically and the media has deviated from their primary objective which is to inform the masses. He said the media has instead become a 'manipulator', disseminating 'prescriptive information' and a slave of political and industry needs.

Independent opinion

He said that the media must essentially have their opinion independent from political voice. "It is for the betterment of the country, if the academia, politicians and the



Prof. Tudor Weerasinghe

media held independent opinions rather than shared agendas that would only serve each other," he said.

Editor Ariyaratne Dombagahawatte said the Fourth Estate is much more important than the other three pillars of democracy - Executive, Legislature and Judiciary - since it is the organ through which the public is educated on the 'operation of governance' executed by the other three.

However, he said it was unfortunate that this sector is not regulated properly and anyone with a smartphone can become a journalist today. "Media must consist of people with self-discipline and proper training," he said, adding that a quest for truth, impartiality, minimising damage and accountability should be the driving forces of a sound reportage.

THE FOURTH ESTATE IS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE OTHER THREE PILLARS OF DEMOCRACY - EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATURE AND JUDICIARY - SINCE IT IS THE ORGAN THROUGH WHICH THE PUBLIC IS EDUCATED ON THE 'OPERATION OF GOVERNANCE' EXECUTED BY THE OTHER THREE

Saying that the newspaper industry too depended upon profit, Dombagahawatte added, yet, journalists must always fight for editorial independence for which they must strike a balance between the industry needs and ethics.

Responding to criticism by the Election Commission Chairman that polls reporting by the media was biased, MTV Director Asoka Dias reminded the risks taken by the media in the performance of their duty during an election phase.

Recalling the December 1999 Presidential Election where two television camera crew members from Sirasa and ITN died in a suicide bomb attack which targeted Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga's People's Alliance final rally, he said they came under scrutiny of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) which kept on asking why the news was not relayed immediately.

"The delay was because we were in a dilemma whether the news should be telecast before it is pri-

vately conveyed to the 25-year-old wife of our crew member. The CID kept on questioning us for the reasons for our delay," Dias said.

Indika Paththiniwasam of Sirasa and Anura Priyantha of ITN were killed in the bomb attack carried out by the LTTE. He said the ITN would also have been in a similar situation, torn between ethics, compassion and professional conduct.

Referring to a spate of attacks on the media over the years, Dias asserted that the Sri Lankan media faced far more challenges in covering elections than their foreign counterparts.

He emphasised the need to revisit the whole electoral process, including the law on '48 hour silent period' before the election day as social media platforms and satellite TV networks operating from overseas continue propaganda and campaign work despite this law. According to him, this 'silent period' has become redundant due to technological advancements in the media world.

POLICE Log

BY LEON BERENGER

PS members feel police heat

BANDARAGAMA: Two Pradeshiya Sabha members were arrested and a hunt is on for a third in connection with separate incidents reported from Bandaragama, Biyagama and Baddegama.

A 44-year-old PS member of the Bandaragama Pradeshiya Sabha was taken into custody after he is alleged to have assaulted a differently-abled soldier over a personal dispute.

The suspect was later produced before a Magistrate and remanded till April 4.

In the second incident, a PS member of the Biyagama Pradeshiya Sabha was arrested after he is alleged to have forcibly entered a restaurant and damaged the premises. The suspect had been highly intoxicated at the time of the incident, according to police.

A Baddegama Pradeshiya Sabha Member is wanted in connection with illicit logging in an irrigation reserve at Dolekada, Baddegama.

The name of the PS member surfaced following the arrest of a man along with 35 timber logs and an excavator inside the reserve.

Customer bolts with jewellery box

EHILIYAGODA: A man posing off as a customer in a jewellery store and grabbed a box of gold items and bolted.

This incident was reported from the Ehiliyagoda Town.

The man clad in smart attire was pretending to sort out female jewellery when he grabbed the box with gold items and bolted.

There was nothing the shop owner could do but stare in horror as the man rode off into the heavy traffic along with an accomplice clutching tightly on to the boot.

The stolen gold was valued at Rs. 2.5 million according to the shop owner.

Public warned on counterfeit currency notes

AKKARAIPATTU: The public have been warned against counterfeit cur-

rency notes that could be circulated at rush hours during the oncoming festive season.

The warning comes after military intelligence busted a clandestine printing house that was turning out counterfeit currency notes in Akkaraipattu.

Some 124 Rs. 5000 currency bills and 20 other partially printed currency notes were seized along with equipment used in the racket.

The police have warned the public to be extra vigilant when dealing with Rs. 5000 currency notes in crowded shopping malls and other similar outlets.

Fake Sub Inspector nabbed

HOMAGAMA: A person who posed-off as a Police Sub Inspector (SI) and who posted pictures of himself on social media was nabbed in Homagama.

The 30-year-old suspect had used the police uniform to strike up several business deals with local traders among other activities.

A doctored police identity was also recovered from his residence at Rakwana.

Murder suspect's house torched

RAMANATHANPURA: Unidentified persons torched the house of a suspect who allegedly killed a 19-year-old school boy at Ramanathanpura, Killinochchi.

The occupants were not at home at the time of the incident.

The suspect is a close relative of the girl who was maintaining a clandestine love affair with the boy.

It is believed that the suspect, angered over the love affair may have killed the boy.

Youth dies in drug dispute

GRANDPASS: A 19-year-youth was stabbed to death over a narcotic dispute at Sedawatte, Grandpass.

The victim is alleged to have had a heated argument with the suspect, that led to a bloody scuffle.

The suspect, a 41-year-old man from the same area is receiving treatment at the National Hospital under police guard.

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News/Obituaries

Parliament to meet from March 23-26

The Parliamentary Business Committee chaired by Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena which met on Wednesday (March 17) decided to convene the Parliament for four days from March 23 to 26.

March 25 and 26 have been set aside for the adjournment debate on the Report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) into the

Easter Sunday attacks which commenced on March 10, Secretary General of Parliament Dhammika Dasanayake said. Although March 25 and 26 have been fixed for the adjournment debate on the PCoI into the Easter Sunday attack, time will be allotted for oral questions of MPs on March 25 from 10.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. The Adjournment Debate will be held on March 26 from 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. without oral questions, Dasanayake said.

Leader of the House and Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena said that steps would be taken to set aside a day or two in the coming days to answer the oral questions of the MPs, while responding to a question raised by the Chief Opposition Whip Lakshman Kiriella regarding the adjournment of oral questions.

Attention was also drawn on debating the report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into Political Victimisation and the report of the Presidential Commission of inquiry into the incidents of fraud and misappropriation which had allegedly taken place at public institutions from January 14, 2015 to December 31, 2018.

THIRD MONTH REMEMBRANCE OF MANJU R. FERNANDO



11.08.1956 – 06.12.2020

"When we lose someone we love, we must learn not to live without them, but to live with the love they left behind."

Remembering the life of love and joy he lived, and drawing on the comfort his love will always give us.

Appreciating all those family and friends who have stood by us during this time.

Ramya, Amali, Udara, Izky, Ravindi, Baby Raayah, Damayanthi (Thara) and Ajith.

Dr. Peramuna at World Scientific Congress

Dr. Sudheera Peramuna took part in the World Scientific Congress which was held in Paris recently through video technology.

Scientists representing international universities and research institutions relating to government policies took part. During the session allocated for social scientists, Dr. Peramuna submitted several research papers on social and political topics.



Largest asteroid of... From page 1

That distance is more than five times as far as the Earth to the moon.

"It's stable, it's not on a risky course," Detlef Koschny, an asteroid expert at the European Space Agency, told dpa news agency, adding that the celestial object will be available for viewing by amateur astronomers with the proper equipment.

"We know the orbital path of 2001 FO32 around the sun very accurately, since it was discovered 20 years ago and has been tracked ever since," said Paul

Chodas, director of the Center for Near Earth Object Studies, which is managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California. This particular asteroid, which orbits the sun once every 810 days, will fly past Earth at a speed of about 124,000kph.

After its harmless visit on Sunday, 2001 FO32 will continue its lonely voyage, not coming as close to Earth again until 2052, NASA said.

Scientists plan to use the flyby to study the asteroid more closely.

Gen. Shavendra Silva meets Pakistani President

Commander of the Army, General Shavendra Silva is currently in Pakistan to attend the Pakistan Day celebrations also known as the National Day Joint Services Parade.

He was invited as the guest of honour at the invitation of Chief of Army Staff of the Pakistan Army, Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa.

Gen. Silva had an audience with President of Pakistan, Dr Arif Alvi at the President's House on Friday.

Dr Arif Alvi said that Sri Lanka remains the most successful country to have crushed terrorism and Pakistan too has done so effectively. "Pakistan would strongly back Sri Lanka at the UNHRC and stand against those allegations as we have done in the past."

While condemning the brutal Easter Sunday bomb attack, he underlined the need for both countries to work closely together in spheres of mutual interest in the future, too. He also commended Sri Lanka on her fight against the Covid-19 epidemic especially the preventive mechanism in place.

"On three of my previous visits to



Gen. Shavendra de Silva presents a memento to Pakistani President Dr. Arif Alvi

your country, Anuradhapura touched me very much, due to her beauty and old heritage. I plan to visit Sri Lanka again. Let us work together further promoting SAARC and spheres such as commerce, sports, education and environment conservation," Dr. Alvi said.

General Shavendra Silva told the President of Pakistan that Pakistan has to-date remained a true friend of Sri Lanka during all her critical endeavours and the prevailing bonds of good-

will and understanding were further enhanced after the recent visit of Pakistan Prime Minister to the country.

Senior officials of the Pakistan Government and senior army officers, including the Adjutant General, Major General Sanjaya Wanasinghe of the Army were also present.

Gen. Shavendra Silva presented a memento to the President of Pakistan as a symbol of goodwill and sound bilateral relations.

Sri Lanka to face crucial Geneva... From page 1

...against the country.

When the first country specific Resolution was moved against Sri Lanka in 2012 which was successfully shot down by Colombo at that time, India voted against Sri Lanka while during a similar move in 2014 Delhi decided to remain non-committal.

In 2015, Sri Lanka, under the former Government, co-sponsored a Resolution committing itself to a series of obligations, including some that the Constitution did not provide legal space. The present Government citing the electoral mandate and the Constitutional restrictions, therefore, withdrew from the co-sponsorship in March 2019.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa held a telephone conversation with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 13. The Indian High Commission in Colombo in a twitter message said, during the dialogue "Cooperation

on multilateral platforms" was also discussed, indicating that the Human Rights Council vote on Monday would have been a key discussion point.

Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena on Friday responding to journalists at the Foreign Ministry said, "The allegations of human rights abuses in Sri Lanka by several countries including the UK, Canada and Germany is an action taken for political purposes," adding that these allegations were not based on true facts.

He said, "Over the years, various allegations have been levelled against our country, alleging human rights abuses. We have been cautious about this. After our Government was elected, a Presidential Commission was appointed to investigate human rights allegations. Funds have been allocated from the Budget to activate the Office on Missing Persons. While the present Government was taking a number of

such positive steps, it was not fair to ignore it and accuse us repeatedly in various ways at the Human Rights Council in Geneva" the Minister said.

"We will try to defeat the false accusations levelled against us. Many friendly countries have joined hands with us towards this end. We hope that India too, will support us this time," Minister Gunawardena said.

The UNHRC is holding its 46th regular sessions from February 22 to March 23 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva with member states taking part virtually due to Covid-19 health risks.

The Resolution on Sri Lanka is co-sponsored by Canada, Germany, Malawi, Montenegro, North Macedonia, The United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. Thirty-five other countries including the US and Australia are backing it. But only 12 of those countries have voting rights at the Council this year.

Major Gen... From page 1

...statement. Sri Lanka and the UK are State Parties to the Convention. The Westminster Magistrate's Court earlier concluded that Brigadier Fernando was not entitled to diplomatic immunity because the acts complained of did not form part of his "job description". Shortly after the Magistrate's Court ruling former Foreign Secretary Ravinatha Ariyasinghe met the then British High Commissioner in Colombo James Dauris and conveyed that this incident will set a bad precedent on diplomacy. The UK High Court allowed the appeal by Major General Fernando against the judgement of the Westminster Magistrate's Court which was delivered in December 2019.

Following the ruling, the Court ordered the defendants, the pro-LTTE demonstrators who staged protests in front of the Sri Lanka High Commission in London on Sri Lanka's 70th Independence Day on February 4, 2018, to pay costs to Major General Fernando. The pro LTTE Diaspora groups in the UK made a huge outcry for action against Major General Fernando.

Full media release by the Foreign Ministry on page 3.

Cabinet nod to purchase... From page 1

There is a huge demand for the Russian Sputnik V vaccine even from the European countries, Latin America and also from South East Asia. Based on the availability of the vaccine, we are ready to purchase any amount, he said.

Prof. Jayasumana said over 800,000 people have been vaccinated under the Government's Covid-19 vaccination program and none of them had any adverse effect.

In earlier days of the vaccination program, there were some unpleasant events reported in the queues with regard to the arrangement procedures.

However, we were able to rectify all those shortcomings within a very short period of time.

The State Minister said at present the Covid-19 vaccination program is going on very smoothly. "We must thank the

local political authority and the local administrative structure who gave us enormous support in organising this vaccination program."

Senior Advisor to the President and Chairman of the Presidential Task Force for National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for Covid-19 Vaccine Lalith Weeratunga told a recent media briefing that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had called for the Sputnik V vaccine from the Russian President and accordingly, Sri Lanka will receive the first batch of the vaccine as a donation.

Weeratunga said that the Sputnik V vaccine will be procured pending the approvals to vaccinate every Sri Lankan citizen and especially those in the tourism, export and apparel industries who are the driving force behind the country's economy.

PM Rajapaksa holds... From page 1

...his host for extending support to Sri Lanka at international fora, including the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and other United Nations bodies and international organisations. "Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa expressed the hope that Bangladesh will continue to stand in solidarity with Sri Lanka at the ongoing 46th Session of the UNHRC in Geneva," the Foreign Ministry stated in a release.

Before the formal talks, the two leaders also held a tête-à-tête, the *Dhaka Tribune* reported. Earlier, on arrival of the Sri Lankan Premier at the Prime Minister's Office, he was received by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Tiger Gate. Premier Rajapaksa invited the Bangladeshi PM for a state visit to Sri Lanka.

Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) in a number of spheres including training for Bangladeshi nurses and health-care workers in Sri Lanka, youth development and agricultural research were signed following the talks.

Premier Rajapaksa arrived in Dhaka on Friday morning on a two-day bilateral visit to join the celebrations of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the golden jubilee of the country's inde-

pendence. PM Rajapaksa delivered the Bangabandhu Memorial Lecture at the special program at the National Parade Ground, Dhaka on March 19 as the Guest of Honour.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa paid tribute to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his visionary leadership that led to the emergence of a sovereign and independent Bangladesh. He also lauded Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for successfully carrying forward Bangabandhu's rich legacy in realising his dream of a Sonar Bangla, the 'Prosperous Golden Bengal'.

He was given a guard of honour by a contingent drawn from Bangladesh Army, Navy and Air Force at the airport on Friday.

Premier Rajapaksa and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina witnessed the state honour from a makeshift dais while the national anthem of the two countries were played. Ministers, State Ministers, civil and military high officials among others were present at the airport, the Daily Star reported.

He also met President M. D. Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaba yesterday evening. The high level Sri Lankan delegation included State Ministers Ajith Nivard Cabraal and Tharaka Balasuriya.

FIRST MONTH REMEMBRANCE

Beloved Chairman of M/s. A.C. Paul & Co., Ltd.



Late Mr. Egbert S.V. Paul

Died at age of 79 on 21.02.2021

Son of late Mr. A.C. Paul (Founder of A.C. Paul & Co., Ltd.) & Edith Ratnabai
Loving Husband of Dr. Vimala Paul,
Father of Arun John Paul,
Brother of Sarojini C. Panjaratnam, Late Andrew J.S. Paul,
Late C. Kamalabai Gemson, Nirmala Chellabai,
Moses S. Paul and Sakuntala C. Samuelson

Remembered by Family Members & Staff of A.C. Paul & Co. Ltd. Colombo 10

100th Birthday Remembrance

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Patricia de Zoysa

Date of Birth 17th March 1921 Passed away 13th May 2011

A tribute of love from the family Lakshman, Shanti and Rohan

Dearest mother we love you dearly
In death we love you still
In our hearts you hold a place
That no one can fill
Though you are gone away
You reside in our thoughts every single day
Hard to forget someone who gave so much to remember
We never lose people we love even to death
Their love leaves an indelible print

Gone but never forgotten

OBITUARY

Born 1939. 07. 18 Died 2021. 02. 09



Johnson David Isaac

(18th June 1939 - 09th March 2021)

Arms Giving of the 40th day on 20th March 2021

May his Soul rest in peace

In grief: Sons, Daughter, Son in law, Daughters in law, Grand Children, Sisters and Friends.

DEATH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT REGINA FERNANDO

28 March 1945 - 8 March 2021

Dearly beloved wife of late Ratnasiri Fernando, beloved mother (Mutti) of Chani, Nalin, Mewan and Rainer, loving mother-in-law of Peter, Josette and Rekma, precious Oma of Avisha, Aiyana, Kiara and Diego.

Funeral took place on Tuesday 9th March 2021.

We sincerely thank and extend our deep appreciation to those who were able to attend the funeral, sent flowers and messages of condolence.

Forever in our hearts, now at peace

Obituaries

DE ALWIS - PATRICIA IRANGANIE (PAT) Nee Bulathsinhala. Daughter of late Alfred Stephen Cooray & Hilda Bulathsinhala, loving sister of Dr. Ranjith Bulathsinhala & Devika, dearly beloved wife of the late Justin De Alwis, affectionate mother of the late Trevor and of Jayanthi & Savithri, mother-in-law of the late Chelvan Mathiapparanam, fond grandmother of Dinesh & Sonali, Kajanka & Himali, Kisholi, Jiloshi and Shamli. Cremation took place on Thursday 18th March 2021, according to her wishes. 7/5 A, School Lane, Kapuwatta, Gangodawila, Nugegoda. 022273

KARIYAWASAM - Dr. TAMARA - Dearly beloved wife of Premasiri, precious mother of Chandima and loving mother-in-law of Imalka, dearest sister of Rupa Maheswaran and Hemamalini Vitharana, passed away peacefully on the 19th of March 2021 and cremated soon after at a private family funeral. May she attain supreme bliss of Nibbana. 022279

MANICKAM - YOGARATNAM (Yogan). Former proprietor of Swenitha, Gnanamani & Pushpa Stores Bambalapitiya, entered eternal rest on the 18th March 2021. Beloved son of late Mr & Mrs E. Manickam of Suruvil & Karampon West, son-in-law of late Mr & Mrs Selvaratnam, devoted husband of Amara, much loved father of Myuran and Gayathri (UK). Brother of late Vijayaratnam, late Vijayalaxmi Somaskandan and Yogalaxmi Balasubramaniam (New Zealand). He touched so many lives with his presence, was loved and adored by all and will be dearly missed by all his family and friends. Enquiries to gaya_yogan@yahoo.co.uk 0044 7476 130998 022287

RAJAPAKSE - Dr. VIJITHASENA. Dearly beloved husband of Nelunika, most affectionate father of Dr. Vinodh Rajapakse (son) and Milakshmi (Mimi) Rajapakse (daughter), loving brother of the late Hemalatha Laktilake, the late Dr. Sirimana Rajapakse, Chandrapala Rajapakse, Premalatha (Merle) Weerasinghe, Sarathchandra (Ranja) Rajapakse and Anura Rajapakse and much loved brother-in-law of Dr. Shanti Gunawardena and Ramesh Gunawardena, passed away peacefully on March 4, 2021, in his home of 42 years in Solon, Ohio, USA. May he attain the supreme bliss of Nirvana. 020894

Opportunity for devotees to deposit treasures at Sandahiru Stupa

The religious ceremony organised for the depositing of treasures at the Square Chamber of the Sandahiru Stupa will be held on March 28.

Defence Secretary Gen. Kamal Gunaratne (Rtd) said last week that having completed the construction of Hemispherical Dome of the gigantic Stupa, the Square Chamber construction will be commenced following the depositing of treasures.

Retired Gen. Gunaratne told the media at the Defence Ministry, that "the opportunity is available for devotees around the country to offer their treasures for this noble cause from March 20 to 27 at the temple" adding that "a special committee has been appointed to collect treasures from the public."

The families of fallen War Heroes will have the opportunity to offer treasures if



any, in memory of their beloved ones, he told the media.

Plans are afoot for exposition of the Crest-Gem and the Minaret around the country in a religious procession for public veneration, he said.

The Defence Secretary said that the

gigantic sacred Stupa which is only second to Ruwanweliseya would be vested in public in November 2021.

The labour support extended by devotees from various parts of the country prior to the Covid-19 outbreak was also recalled during the session.

"The 24/7 working process would be continued for the 39 feet height Square Chamber erection", he said, adding that "the Cylindrical Neck is over 23 feet in height, while Conical Spire takes 73 feet of the Stupa. The Crest-Gem is 3 feet in height, he said. The Sandahiru Stupa construction which was initiated on the directive of the fifth Executive President of the country and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, in appreciation of the services rendered by the Security Forces personnel to rid the country of terrorism, said "It was built with the contribution of Tri-Forces personnel, devotees and donors".

The Military Liaison Officer of the Defence Ministry Brig. Dinesh Nanayakara, Director Media Col. Chandima Kumarasinghe, Ministry officials and a large gathering of media personnel were present at the media briefing.



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GRANDPASS NO. 260, COLOMBO 14	HASITHA 0767951865
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MATHUGAMA NEAR THE PEOPLE'S BANK, WIYAYA MAMATHA	PRAMODA 0775634245
VAVUNIYA NO.363, MANNAR ROAD, VEPFANKULAM	THIMOTHY 0766582329
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(Please refer the Daily News On 24th of March 2021 For the Full List Of Vehicles)

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MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY (MEPA)

State Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness

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- Every competition category will be judged by a subject-expert panel of judges and the decision of the panel of judges will be the final.

Further information about the competition can be obtained from our website www.mepa.gov.lk or please contact with
Mr. Prabath Amaranyake,
Assistant Manager (Operations), Telephone number **0112554908, 0703331589.**

Applications can be downloaded from the above web site.

Marine Environment Protection Authority
State Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness
No.177, Nawala Road, Narahenpita, Colombo 05.

Resurgence of the spectre of Tuberculosis

By
Dr. B. Kaluarachchi,
President C.N.A.P.T

Despite its eradication some time ago, Tuberculosis (TB) is proving to be the scourge of the 21st Century as it appears to raise its head again with a vengeance.

TB as it is commonly known is posing a serious health hazard in the industrialised world while in the developing world, it is out of control, according to a variety of health officials.

The re-occurrence of TB has brought many complications. Historical statistics show us that more people died of the lung diseases in 1995 than in any other year in history, according to officials at the World Health Organization (WHO), who declared a global emergency.

That year, TB claimed the lives of nearly three million people, surpassing even the worst years of the epidemic around 1900, when an estimated 2.1 million people died annually.

Resurgence

What is worrying for us Sri Lankans should be the fact that the majority of deaths – 95 percent continue to be in the developing world. However, the industrialised nations, which, for decades, thought they had rid themselves of the diseases, are also seeing a resurgence. The number of TB cases is on the rise in Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Italy, Britain, the US and many other industrialised countries, said WHO officials, who warn the crisis will grow unless immediate action is taken.

“Most people in the developed world thought that TB was a thing of the past” in our grandparents’ generation, it was one of the diseases that everyone feared. But for people in the wealthier countries, it is just not something that we worried about any more. It is a common outlook in the west.

This belief has proven to be the industrialised world’s biggest mistake. It seems, while the West basked in a false sense of security, TB raged on in the poorer countries of the developing world and unsuspectingly rode on the movements of mass migration, to turn up on the doorsteps of the wealthy nations again.

And this time, the epidemic may prove even harder to stop, health officials warn. The officials said that the emergence of drug-resistant strains of TB threatens to make the disease incurable, as it was before the discovery of antibiotics in 1944. That raises the spectre of a return to an age when diagnosis of TB was tantamount to a death sentence.

“Not only has TB returned. It has upstaged its own horrible legacy.”

Multidrug-resistant TB has been reported in New York City, London, Milan, Paris, Atlanta and Chicago and in cities throughout the developing world. The number of cases of this form of TB is expected to rise particularly rapidly in Asia, unless control measures are urgently strengthened there, WHO officials said.

A global threat

Tuberculosis, an epidemic assumed by most people to be a thing of a past, still increasing globally. It’s back with a vengeance and once again posing a serious threat to the developed world and is running out of control in the developing world. It has returned in a form worse than ever. It has been reported that more people have died of the disease in 1995 than any other year in history. It is said that 1/3 of the world population are infected with TB and someone in the world is newly infected every second of everyday.

Left untreated, a person who developed active TB will infect an average of 10-15 other people every year. Effective drugs that cure active TB have been available for more than 50 years, yet nearly 2,000,000 people a year still die of the disease.

Eight percent of the world’s Tuberculosis cases are concentrated in 22 high burden developing countries. Mobile populations, the HIV/AIDS epidemic and an increase in multi drug assistance on Tuber have made the World Health Organization to declare TB a global emergency in 1993.

Tuberculosis is expected to rise rapidly in Asia unless control measures are urgently strengthened there, WHO officials said.

Tuberculosis, a highly infectious disease which attacks the lungs, has,

in fact, been curable for almost 50 years with a simple and relatively inexpensive course of antibiotics. But poorly implemented treatment programs and incomplete antibiotics therapy have given rise to the new killer strains. When you start a course of antibiotics on a patient, they are feeling awfully sick and are often coughing up blood and feeling feverish and very ill. But after a month or two of treatment, they feel better. They imagine that the disease has gone, so they don’t finish the course. Later, perhaps months or even years later, the person goes down with the disease again, and when you the antibiotics again, they don’t work.

New strains

You may be successful in diagnosing a patient with TB, but unless you can follow that through with the right therapy for at least six months, you will end up with pockets of resistance to the disease. Health authorities in New York City were among the first in the industrialised world to come up against the problem of the new strains of TB.

For some multidrug resistant strains of TB, there is simply no cure. In poor countries when you have multidrug-resistant TB, it is a death sentence, because they just don’t have a wide array of antibiotics to use. In the industrialised world, drug resistant form of the disease can be treatable, but even then, 50 percent of the time, even in Europe and the US, people die of it.

Research estimates that already, at least 50 million people worldwide are infected with strains that are resistant to at least one of the four common antibiotics used to treat TB. A staggering one third of the world’s population is now infected with the TB bacillus. Over the next decade, it is estimated that 300 million more people will become infected, 90 million will develop the disease and 30 million people will die from it.

TB is the world’s leading single infectious killer. It strikes young and old alike and kills more women each year than all the causes of maternal mortality put together.

TB whose symptoms include coughing up blood, raging fever and severe loss of weight attacks the victims’ lungs gradually destroying the living tissue, eating ragged holes in the organs. As their lungs are consumed, the sick patients die through asphyxia by virtually drowning in their own blood.

Only a relatively small percentage of people who are infected with the bacteria will develop the disease. TB is spread through the air easily when an affected person sneezes, coughs, even talks, suspending the bacilli in the air which can in turn be inhaled by others.

Immune system

“Most people will never get sick. If you have a healthy immune system and you breathe in this bacterium, you only have a 5-10 percent chance of going down with the disease,” said Singer. But unsanitary living conditions, or a poor state of general health provides ideal conditions for the bacteria to take hold in the body and to develop from a passive to a full

blown active phase.

That goes some of the way towards explaining why immigrants to the industrialised world are proving particularly vulnerable to the disease, said health officials. The first and most important reason for the comeback of TB in the industrialised world is immigration. There has been a mass movement from the poor countries to the rich countries. The immigrants don’t arrive here with the disease, but they are infected.

Only people with active TB can infect others. But unhygienic living conditions and a poor diet – all problems associated with immigrants in a new country – can quickly turn dormant TB in to the disease itself. “Immigrants often live in undesirable conditions and live of a poor diet. This lowers their immune defense system and the disease erupts,” said Dr. Arosa.

In the right conditions, especially where living quarters are poorly ventilated, TB can spread like wild fires. One member of the group who unwittingly had dormant TB soon developed the disease, and the bacteria quickly spread to the others.

There is nowhere to hide from Tuberculosis, said a WHO Global TB Program official. Anyone can catch TB simply by inhaling a TB germ that has been coughed or sneezed in to the air. These germs can be suspended in the air for hours, even years. We are all at risk.

The world is becoming smaller and the TB bugs becoming stronger, he added. While international travel

has increased dramatically, the world has been slow to recognise that the poor TB treatment practices of other countries are a threat to all their citizens,” he said.

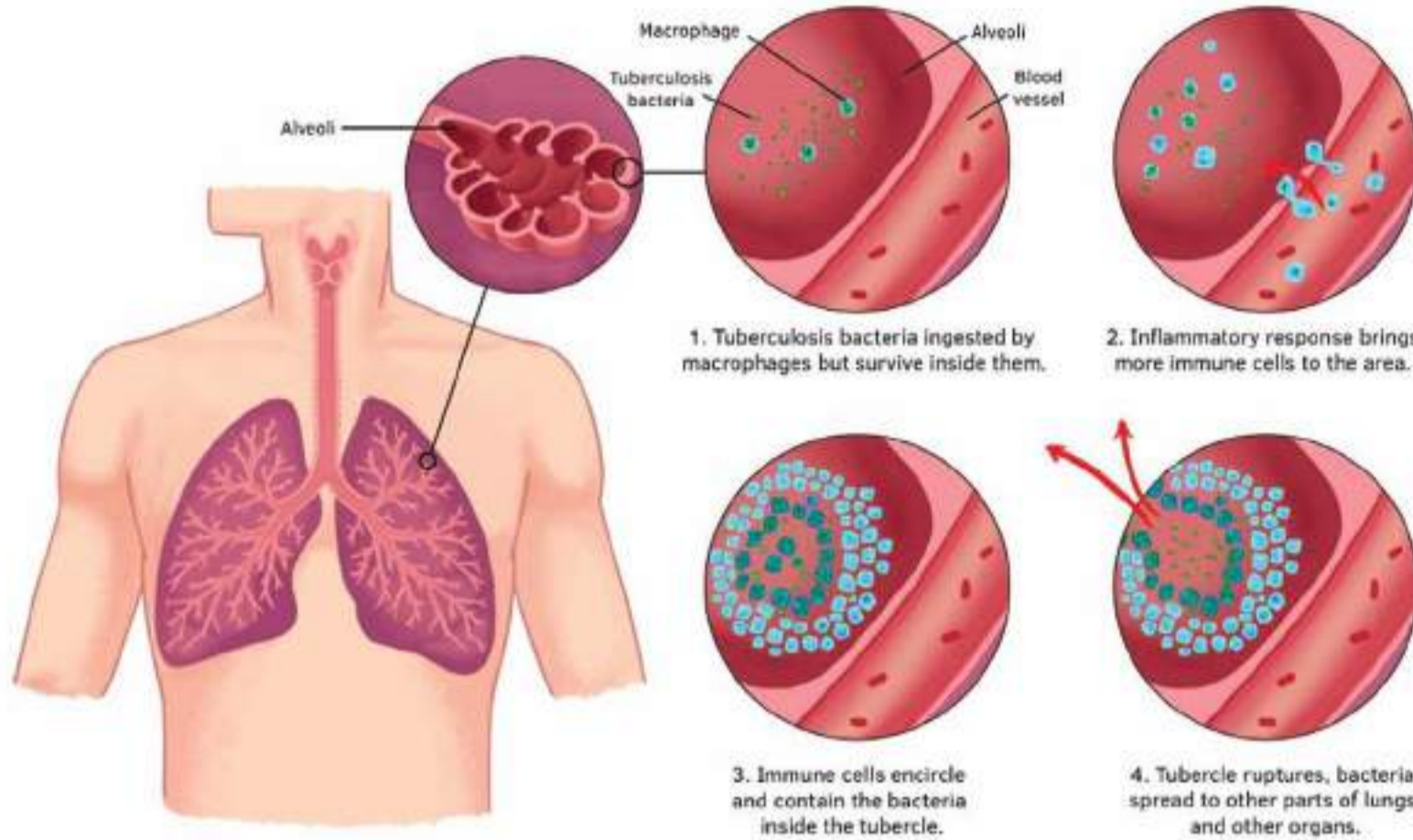
If countries have been slow to react to the danger of the spread of TB, airlines could unwittingly be putting their passengers at risk. There have been some recent documented cases of air travellers who have caught TB from fellow air line passengers.

High-risk segment

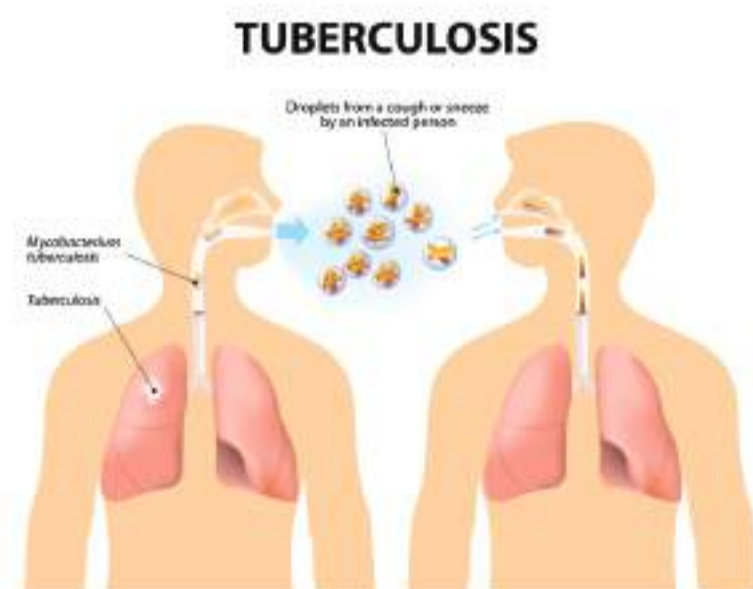
Left untreated, a person with active TB will typically infect a further 10-15 people in the course of a year. Another high-risk segment of the population includes people with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the causative agent and precursor of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes). The HIV virus lowers the body’s defences against opportunistic disease, such as TB, making the victim much more vulnerable to infection.

If you become infected with HIV, your immune system is depressed and that is when, if you are carrying around the TB bacteria in your system, you are likely to develop the disease. The people with HIV can more easily catch TB infection from others who already have it.

Increasingly, the two killer diseases - AIDS and TB - go hand in hand. One third of all people who die of AIDS worldwide are actually dying of TB, health officials said. It is the leading killer of HIV-positive



COMPARED TO OTHER SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES, SRI LANKA IS FAR AHEAD IN TERMS OF QUALITY OF LIFE, LIFE EXPECTANCY, LITERACY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND INFANT MORTALITY. THIS IS A CONSTANT SOURCE OF AMAZEMENT TO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, SUCH AS JAPAN, THAT WONDER HOW WE CAN MAINTAIN SUCH INDICES COMPARABLE TO A DEVELOPED COUNTRY IN SPITE OF OTHER FACTORS, SUCH AS ENDING THE BATTLE AGAINST TERRORISM



cure rates and reduce the incidents of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis in countries as diverse as the Philippines, Peru, China, Bangladesh, Nepal, Thailand, Cambodia, Ghana, Tanzania and Indonesia.

However, DOTS is not easy. It needs a wide network of health institutions close to the patient’s hope. In this respect, Sri Lanka is much more fortunate than most Asian Countries because of the solid health infrastructure, with any health institution within 1.4 km of a patient’s home or a western type of the government health institution within 4.8 km of a patient’s home.

In Yemen, for example, the distance between two health institutions may be more than 75km. All that is needed in Sri Lanka is for these health institutions (General and District Hospitals, Rural Hospitals) peripheral units and central dispensaries) to be stocked with adequate anti-tuberculosis drugs and dedicated to start the administration of the drugs to the patient on a daily basis. (ie DOTS). This has been implemented in the Galle and Kandy district with remarkable results. Cure rates in the Galle district have risen to more than 85 percent from a previous 75 percent. Defaulter rates (patients absconding treatment) have fallen dramatically.

An area which leaves much to be desired in the Sri Lankan context is greater involvement of NGOs in recruiting and mobilising volunteers for treatment supervision. In Bangladesh, a non government organisation BRAC conducts one of the most efficient (probably the most efficient tuberculosis program in the world, entirely outside the government health service, run by volunteer mobilisation.

In Japan, where the royal family itself had casualties from Tuberculosis in the past, the Japan anti-tuberculosis women’s association has a membership of more than 4.2 million active members – this, in a country that is one of the richest in the world with one of lowest tuberculosis prevalence. Each member of the association contributes 100 Yen a year, leading to an annual income of nearly 4,200,000,000 Yen. All this money is used to improve tuberculosis control in Japan and other impoverished countries. If Japan takes the Tuberculosis problem so seriously, how come we don’t?

Sri Lanka’s situation

Compared to other South Asian countries, Sri Lanka is far ahead in terms of quality of life, life expectancy, literacy, maternal mortality and infant mortality. This is a constant source of amazement to developed countries, such as Japan, that wonder how we can maintain such indices comparable to a developed country in spite of other factors, such as ending the battle against terrorism. The answer is the standard of literacy and education of the population and the solid health infrastructure.

It would be tragic, indeed, if the tuberculosis situation in the country was allowed to deteriorate in spite of possessing such a proud record in health care.

Educating the public is the most important part of TB eradication. The Ceylon National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis (CNAPT) has been in the forefront of the campaign for educating the people in Sri Lanka on TB prevention over the past 72 years. It has worked in partnership with the Ministry of Health and a diverse range of civic society partners in promoting knowledge and understanding on the disease among the vulnerable section of the population and improving their access to proper medical care.

Last year, the CNAPT with financial assistance received from the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM), sponsored a knowledge, Attitude and Practice behavior that stands against the national efforts at the TB eradication program. A TB study undertaken in collaboration with the Medical personnel of the Respiratory Disease Control Program of the Ministry of Health was assisted by the Centre for Social Survey and the University of Sri Jayawardenepura.

The CNAPT has also started a health education program on TB assisted by the Global Fund to disseminate knowledge on TB, its spread, its prevention and management and to let the public know where to get the help and assistance they require. The primary target groups of this education campaign launched by the CNAPT are the school teachers aimed at taking advantage of their strategic position and spreading the message through their pupils to society at large.

Poor TB control

Disseminating multi drug resistant TB in the community, in other words, a poor TB control program, will contribute to many patients dying of the disease though there will be no half treated, half dead patients, and therefore, these people will continue to disseminate the disease to healthy people. Also, multidrug resistant TB is man made by doctors, the patients themselves and the drug companies. Doctors may prescribe drugs in the wrong dosage or combinations, or because, the patient may have to buy all the drugs for the prescribed period, in addition to paying the consultant’s fee. Drug companies may produce poor quality drugs which may not have the correct quantity of the drug in them.

However, all is not gloomy. It has been shown conclusively in countries poorer than Sri Lanka such as Nepal and Bangladesh, (with per capita GNPs of around US\$ 200 compared to a per capita GNP of US\$ 840 for Sri Lanka) that more than 90 percent of tuberculosis patients can be cured and the emergence of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis controlled if the treatment of Tuberculosis patient is completely supervised, in other words, if someone (nurse, health volunteer worker public health worker, a relative) watches the patient swallowing the drug.

Tuberculosis patients (or for the matter, any patient) have the bad habit of forgetting to take their drugs when they feel better. The very efficacy of modern anti-tuberculosis drugs is a disadvantage, because patients feel normal too soon, leading them to forget to take their medication or take it irregularly. Directly supervised treatment circumvents this hurdle and has now been shown to be the only way rampant tuberculosis can be controlled. This method of treatment has been given the acronym DOTS – directly observed treatment short course - and has been proven to dramatically improve

Sri Lanka rugby Sevens hit for a massive six

Teams and players disbanded and sent home as backstage blundering shatters what was to be the reemergence of one of the country's sporting passions

BY CALLISTUS DAVY

Away from the peers and prying eyes, Sri Lanka's rugby players and administrators have been bundled out of play as the goal posts were shifted overnight leaving both parties high and dry that resulted in the cancellation of the so-called Commander's Cup Sevens tournament which was timed to kick-off this weekend.

The tournament was initially planned as the annual inter-club Sevens, but Sri Lanka Rugby to please Air Force which is also their stake holder, decided to call it the Commander's Cup.

But behind-the-scene bungling and amateurish behaviour over tournament logistics and sponsorship of the event crippled the proceedings which outsiders say was worse than rugby being brought to a standstill because of a pandemic.

Players from crowd favourites Havelocks and the sports clubs of Army, Navy, Air Force and Police were training without making contact with the outside world over coronavirus restrictions spending millions that has all been brought to zero.

"The manner in which this tournament was handled was unprofessional without accountability", said Havelock Sports Club president Thusitha Peris.

"We put our hand up amid so



File photo of Havelocks vs Army match

many constraints for the sake of rugby to get it off the ground when the others backed out. We did this in good faith, even agreeing to field two teams and now we have got screwed up and paid a heavy price".

Peiris said the club hit the three million rupee mark on expenses that covered the welfare, training and practices of some 35 players, transport, medical requirements, staff salaries and more during the pre-tournament build up.

Peiris said facing the probable wrath of corporate companies that employ players who were released in preparation for the Sevens, will be another bitter pill to swallow.

"We hold Sri Lanka Rugby responsible for all this. Our players sacrificed family, friends and socialising and have been jaded with no tournament and there is a lot more that they (SLR) will have to answer for if they need us in the future", said Peiris.

But Sri Lanka Rugby claimed they paid a much heavier price than the clubs which were to contest in a way it has never happened in the administrative affairs of the sport for more than a century.

Its head Rizly Illyas told the Sunday Observer they "trusted people in good faith" but were let down at the last minute and were the most hurt.

"We did everything possible in the name of rugby but we were let down more than any team that was to take part. We have now been forced into a corner to open our doors to other sponsors who we know are interested in rugby", said Illyas.

He said the Air Force and Sri Lanka Rugby had even signed an agreement to put matters in place for a smooth running of the tournament until it came to light that the former could not keep their side of the bargain in organizing the logistics of player accommodation at hotels for eight teams and officials, transport, practicing and gym training for two weeks that was to cover two segments of the Sevens championship.

With the Air Force pulling out from playing a part in organising the logistics that included providing their ground at a base camp in downtown Ratmalana, Sri Lanka Rugby planned to conduct the matches at the Royal College Sports Complex in Colombo as the traditional inter club Sevens, but with the sponsors showing little or no interest the unforeseen happened.

"As the parent governing body for rugby our only concern like in the past was to monitor and run the tournament and not make any money from it. What happened has taught all of us some lessons. We are going to come back stronger", said Illyas.



Lasith Embuldeniya

Sri Lanka to play one spinner in Windies first Test

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Sri Lanka skipper Dimuth Karunaratne said that Lasith Embuldeniya would be the only spinner that Sri Lanka would go in with for the first Test match against the West Indies which will commence today at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua.

He made the disclosure at a video media conference and said the wickets will mostly suit the pace bowlers while the toss will play a crucial role in the series because of the use of the Duke ball.

Karunaratne further said that Wanindu Hasaranga injured himself during the ODIs and has returned home with Lakshan Sandakan kept as cover.

"I don't think we will get an opportunity to play two spinners on these surfaces and if we need one more there is always Dhananjaya de Silva with his off-breaks", said Karunaratne.

Dhananjaya also bowled well at the practice game to take three wickets.

"With the Duke ball there is always late swing for the fast bowlers. We are playing with the Duke ball after a long time and we don't have as much practice against it.

"We got an idea of how the West Indies fast bowlers will bowl with it during the two-day practice game. The wicket here is always helpful to the fast bowlers on the first two days," said Karunaratne.

"We have experienced bowlers in Suranga Lakmal, Dushmantha Chameera, Vishwa Fernando and Asitha Fernando and I expect them to deliver. I think our bowlers can perform better in the Tests than what we saw in the ODIs where they struggled to get wickets because the wickets were flat. I don't think we will see that kind of wickets in the Tests," he said.

New cricket ground in Jaffna

A cricket ground in Jaffna at Mallakam was commissioned by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) last Sunday with the patronage of its vice president Ravin Wickremaratne and K Mahesan the district secretary of Jaffna on land donated by the late P Sri Baskaran whose wife also attended the ceremony.

Two side practice wickets, a matting wicket, an office room and a player changing area are the facilities provided in the first phase of the development of the ground.

Sri Lanka Cricket said in a

statement the completion of the third phase development program by the end of 2022 will transform the Mallakam ground into a fully-fledged national venue with facilities such as turf wickets, a pavilion, player dressing rooms, gymnasium, a scoreboard, sight screen and facilities for indoor cricket practices.

The Mallakam ground is managed by the Jaffna District Cricket Association, and the 26 cricket clubs and 16 schools playing cricket in Jaffna will benefit from the venue according to SLC.



A match in progress at the Mallakam ground

Five schoolboys from Batticaloa to play at tennis Nationals

Five schoolboys from Batticaloa are set to make their presence felt at the Hutch-HNB Clay Court tennis Nationals which got underway at the SLTA Courts at Sir Marcus Fernando Mawatha yesterday.

The contingent from Batticaloa includes five junior players who will compete in the Boys' under-12, 14, 16 and under-18 events in addition to one female competitor who will participate in the women's Open singles. All players had their preparations for this event at the Batticaloa Tennis Training Center which comes under the supervision of the Lake View Tennis Club and had their

coaching under Thinesh Kumar. The squad also includes one junior national player and they are representing different schools, namely St. Michael's College, Vincent Girls' High School, St. Cecilia's Convent, Shivananda Vidyalaya and Hindu College.

In fact, this event, which is one of the biggest All-Island Grade One Ranking Tennis Tournaments in the country conducted by the Sri Lanka Tennis Association, has attracted a large number of competitors from the outstations including Kandy, Negombo, Ratnapura, Matale, Kurunegala, Bandarawela and Kalutara. (CGD)



Chammika Weerasinghe (second from left) - Head of Marketing, HNB, handing over the token sponsorship cheque to Iqbal Bin Issack (President, SLTA). Also in the picture are S. Sudarshan (Treasurer SLTA) and Pradeep Goonasekera (Tournament Director SLTA)



Wesley College batsman Semila Liyanage stands his ground as St. Joseph's College fielders appeal for his dismissal on the second and final day of their inter-school cricket encounter at Campbell Park yesterday (Pic by Hirantha Gunathilake)

Tillekaratne recalls the road to success at 1996 World Cup

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

A cricketer has to correct their faults and development in important areas if Sri Lanka is to win the Cricket World Cup once again. This was the view of Hashan Tillekaratne a former member of the World Cup winning team.

"Today it's a different game compared to that when we played during our career. I think the player's skills never change but their development from school level has to improve," said Tillekaratne who is the high performance batting coach of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC).

Hashan said that he played for four years in the under-15 level. He then was very mature at the age level of 23-24 years and played very successfully.

"But today most players couldn't find a place in the under-23 team. This is why the development of a player is very important", he stressed.

"A player must be able to read the type of pitch they have to play on and adjust. Today most of the young cricketers lack this knowledge and struggle at international level," noted Tillekaratne.



Hashan Tillekaratne

"Changing coaches and selectors is not the answer to improve the game. We have not groomed a captain during the past ten years. Arjuna Ranatunga always looked to groom new players for the leadership. The confidence of players is also not high," noted Tillekaratne.

"Sri Lanka won the T/20 World Cup in 2014 and then Sangakkara retired in 2015. Thereafter the standard of cricket began descending. It is time to recognize the local coaches and get their valuable services", suggested Tillekaratne.

gested Tillekaratne.

"When Sri Lanka won a Test match in New Zealand in 1995 the former New Zealand great Richard Hadley said that Sri Lanka can do something special at the World Cup.

"Then Sri Lanka went to Pakistan and lost the first Test but finally ended up winning the series 2-1. Sri Lanka followed it up winning the one day series. After that Sri Lanka met with success in Sharjah also.

"Then came the tough series in Australia and that helped us to build the courage and confidence. This gave the Sri Lanka team the morale toughness and ready to face any challenges going into the 1996 World Cup.

"Every player knew their responsibility and knowledge about their workload during the matches and skipper Ranatunga was leading from the front. As a middle order batsman I had a duty to build up the innings and when the top order was out early, myself and Mahanama had the responsibility to build up the innings and we did it with confidence. This was our success story behind the World Cup win and a good lesson for all," concluded Tillekaratne.

Galaxy Cup VB Championship gets underway

BY BERNARD PERERA

Navy women and Mahauswewa women made a great impact winning three matches each at the Galaxy Cup under-23 Volleyball Championship that got underway at the Volleyball House in Dadalla on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Air Force women recorded two wins up to Thursday evening. Two games that aroused most interest that went the full distance were the games between Army and Super Kings SC and Air Force and Vijayaba SC from Hungama.

After losing the first set the Airwomen fought gallantly to win the second set over Vijayaba SC. At the end of the fourth set both teams had won two sets each and the Airwomen used all their experience to clinch the fifth and deciding set on 15-13.

Army women too faced stiff challenge from Super Kings SC from Ampara. After losing the first two sets Army women came back strongly to clinch the next three sets going to the wire in a thrilling finish. The men's tourney is scheduled to commence today.

RESULTS:

MAS Casual Line beat Army 3-1 (17-25, 25-22, 25-12, 25-16)
Hirdaramani SC beat Super Kings SC 3-0 (25-22, 25-19, 25-14)
Navy beat Hirdaramani SC 3-1 (16-25, 25-23, 29-27, 25-17)
Super Kings SC beat MAS Casual Line 3-0 (25-20, 2-18, 25-14)
Navy beat Army 3-0 (25-20, 25-10, 25-22)
Mahauswewa SC beat Vijayaba SC 3-0 (25-10, 25-17, 25-22)
Air Force beat National Youth Service Council 3-0 (28-25, 25-18, 31-29)
Army beat Super Kings 3-2 (17-25, 16-25, 22-25, 28-26, 16-14)
Navy SC beat Golden Birds SC 3-0 (25-13, 25-8, 25-11)
Mahauswewa SC beat Air Force 3-0 (25-11, 25-14, 25-10)
Air Force beat Vijayaba SC 3-2 (12-25, 25-23, 28-30, 25-19, 25-19, 15-13)
Mahauswewa SC beat Golden Birds SC 3-0 (25-23, 25-8, 25-7)

Bandaranayake MV old boys cricket

The Old Boys Association of Bandaranayake MV, Veyangoda Facebook Group has organised a softball cricket tourney to be played today (21) at the Rantharu Sports Club ground, Kurikotuwa from 8 am.

Old Boys who were members of the four Houses, Gemunu Gladiators, Vijaya Vikings, Parakrama Pioneers and Tissa Tuskers will play in the tourney. A live telecast will be on https://www.facebook.com/Veyangoda-Bandaranayake-Api-103937851745718 or Veyangoda-Bandaranayake-Api-You-Tube.

Weeraratne elected head of Old Trinitians SC

BY HAFIZ MARIKAR

Manjula Weeraratne was elected as the president of the Old Trinitians Sports Club at their Annual General Meeting held yesterday at the club house.

Weeraratne said his main aim with the rest of the Committee members is to promote indoor and outdoor sports. The AGM was held with the Trinity College principal Rev Fr.

Araliya Jayasundara at the head table.

The OTSC was formally inaugurated with AGG Perera elected as the first president and Leonard de Alwis as the first secretary on July 19, 1980 with 53 members elected as founder members

Elected to the Committee:

Manjula Weeraratne (President), Dr. Asitha Bandaranayake and Primal Wijesinghe (Vice Presidents), Dr. Indika Rathnathilake

(Secretary), Milinda Jayawardena (Treasurer), Asanka Ranawana (Social Secretary), Thusitha de Silva (Sports Secretary), RC Gamage (Bar Secretary), Lakmal Tennakoon, P. Kapilnath, R. Divagaran and Asitha Wegodapola (Committee Members)

Lakmal Tennakoon, the immediate past president was nominated as the Chairman, Development Projects apart from being a committee member.

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MARCH 21, 2021

Nipunaka, Vinuda steer St. Peter's to easy win

BY CHRIS DHAMBARAGE

St. Peter's College produced a strong batting performance to outplay Dharmaraja College by a massive 125 runs in their inter-schools Under-19 limited overs tournament encounter played at Bambalapitiya yesterday.

The Peterites virtually sealed the game with their batting effort as they rattled up a formidable 265 for seven from their 50 overs after they were invited to bat first.

The Peterite innings was anchored by Skipper Nipunaka Fonseka (63) while Vinuda Liyanage (64 n.o) added the finishing touches along with Shanshay Gunathilaka (39), Lahiru Chethaka (35) and Shanuka Galagoda (24).

The Rajans never looked like even getting close to that score although they managed to play the full 50 overs while scoring 140 for eight.

Meanwhile, Royal College had a close call as they edged out unfancied Gurukula College, Kelaniya by six runs in a thrilling encounter played at Reid Avenue yesterday.

At Bambalapitiya

St. Peter's: 265/7 in 50 overs (Vinuda Liyanage 64 n.o, Nipunaka Fonseka 63, Shanshay Gunathilaka 39, Lahiru Chethaka 35, Shanuka Galagoda 24, Sadeepa Ratnayaka 2/81, Upendra Warnakulasuriya 2/41)

Dharmaraja: 140/8 in 50 overs (Pulindu Perera 61, Chamelka de Silva 3/15)

At Galle

Thurstan: 211/8 in 46.5 overs (Dananja Silva 37, Bawantha Jayasinghe 71, Subanu Rajapaksa 3/34, Navod Paranavithana 2/30, Kushan Madusha 2/40)

Mahinda College: 231/7 in 44.5 overs (Kausitha Kodituwakku 97, Dhanuja Induwara 21, Sandew Induwara 27, Upul Hettiarachchi 5/35)

At Reid Avenue

Royal: 210/3 in 31 overs (Ahan Wickramasinghe 92 n.o, Kavindu Pathirathna 53 n.o, Sadisha Rajapaksa 22)

Gurukula: 204/8 (Sithija Chamod 47, Kemira Nayanatharu 50, Neluka Heshan 28, Rashmika Mevan 33, Sonal Amarasekera 2/42, Gishan Balasoorya 3/33)

Sri Lanka Legends meet India Legends in final

Sri Lanka Legends will meet India Legends in the Road Safety World Cricket series final today in Raipur, India.

Sri Lanka defeated South Africa Legends by eight wickets to enter the final while India Legends beat West Indies Legends by 12 runs after a high scoring semi final game. Sri Lanka Legends skipper Tillekaratne Dilshan said after the semi final that the toss will play an important part.

"We have a strong batting line-up, so we are able to chase totals. We are doing well in all departments, hopefully we can produce it once more in the final. "We are getting good support

back home. Many people left work early and I heard that they were gathering in big numbers to watch this match on a big screen.

"India have been playing really well. If we can continue this brand of cricket in the final, I think we can cross the line," said Dilshan.

The Legends final is expected to be a keen tussle with India skipper Sachin Tendulkar, Virendra Sehwag, the Pathan brothers Irfan and Yusuf and Yuvraj Singh lined up in good form.

Rangana Heath, Dilshan and Sanath Jayasuriya are the leading wicket takers for Sri Lanka. (DR)

SSC blow up Army to regain title after 16 years

BY CHRIS DHAMBARAGE

Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) regained the SLC Twenty20 cricket title when they defeated Army CC by 29 runs in the inter-club tournament final played at the SSC ground Maitland Place yesterday.

The winning team's success had a great amount of significance as they won the SLC T20 title after a lapse of 16 years having last emerged champions in 2005 under the captaincy of Avishka Gunawardena. Electing to bat first SSC were restricted to 146 for five despite an

unbeaten 71 from wicket-keeper batsman and Man-of-the-Match Krishan Sanjula who struck five boundaries during his 62-ball innings.

The SSC bowlers then defended their modest score with a splendid performance on the field as Army CC were bowled out for just 117 runs with four deliveries to spare.

Opener Ashan Randika and middle order batsman Himasha Liyanage were the only batsmen to offer any resistance with Himesh Ramanayake (3/23), Kalana Perera (2/15) and Tharindu Ratnayake (2/21) causing the damage.



The winning SSC squad comprising Charith Asalanka (captain), Avishka Fernando, Sohan de Livera, Sammu Ashan, Nuwanindu Fernando, Nipun Dananjaya, Prabath Jayasuriya, Jeffrey Vandersay, Himesh Ramanayake, Tharindu Ratnayake, Kavindu Nadeeshan, Kalana Perera, Lakshitha Manasinghe, Chamindu Kushan, Dilum Sudeera, Dilshan Abeysinghe and head coach Thilina Kandambi

Former World Cup champs see cricket in a poisoned Chalice

BY CALLISTUS DAVY

With no new World Cup to celebrate, Sri Lanka's ageing cricket champions of 1996 are frowning on both the sport's administration and the team whose pride has sunk to the bottom of the rankings 25 years down the line at a time when its keepers aim to stick around for two more years.

For the silver-haired Arjuna Ranatunga and his band of one time heart throbs, the environment they find themselves in could not have

been more toxic as the former south paw wished he was not around to mark the occasion in the presence of one of the country's die hard fans Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Confessing he was forced to hold back his emotions after seeing some of the faces in the current cricket administration who are facing a public investigation over financial misdeeds and power abuse, Ranatunga rued his worst fears could lie ahead.

"When I saw some faces I wanted to turn back," declared Ranatunga. "But out of concern for you (Prime

Minister) who patronised us when we were a team with less recognition, I decided not to".

Wednesday's ceremony was initiated by Prime Minister Rajapaksa who was a man of less importance in 1996 than he is today.

Referring to what he called 'foreign garbage' at the expense of home grown coaching expertise, Ranatunga said the country was being drained of its precious dollars and it was time the rot is cleaned up.

"I don't think anyone outside Sri

Lanka can tell us how to bat better than we can say and do. If this is not checked I see worse times ahead", Ranatunga warned.

His outburst for currently serving administrators to move out, put him on a growing list of super elite cricket followers who have sought a court intervention to abolish a governing system that provides a breeding ground for the personal gains of officials who are seen as private keepers voted in by clubs.

But common cricket followers have their reservations and are

Teddy bears' picnic at Sri Lanka cricket election

Election Commission accused of playing ball in game of musical chairs disregarding complaints

BY CALLISTUS DAVY

If it takes place, an election of office bearers to Sri Lanka Cricket will go down in history as the most dubious and foul-play ridden ballot that the Shammi Silva camp is expected to wrap up on May 20.

It means candidates from the poised-to-win Shammi Silva clan could lose one post but sneak up from another end and grab another slot.

The rival Nishantha Ranatunga group can only frown on the whole fiasco and the question will be how much time they'll need before they throw in the towel when the going gets tougher after exhausting all legal redress which they claim to be deprived of.

"As you can see from the list of names, something is not right and that is why they are fielding more than one or two candidates for the same post from within.

"For us it is not about me becoming the secretary, Mathivanan becoming the president or Bandula Warnapura becoming the vice president. Our target is not doing business and we don't have money (to pass around).

"As responsible people our target is the Sri Lanka team which is now last in every format of the game", said Ranatunga at an hour long Press conference on Thursday.

Ranatunga is contesting the



Shammi Silva Mohan de Silva Jayantha Dharmadasa



Nishantha Ranatunga Bandula Warnapura K Mathivanan

post of secretary that is currently being held by Mohan de Silva who at the same time is running for the president's post along with the incumbent Shammi Silva and businessman Jayantha Dharmadasa

who now sits with the very people he branded as corrupt at last year's election that he lost.

Ranatunga claimed that all but one of the candidates in the Shammi Silva camp have lost their right

to stand for election as Sri Lanka Cricket had failed to submit its mandatory annual Account Statement to the Auditor General's department at the time of election nominations last month while his pleadings for an impartial inquiry fell on deaf ears.

"The Election Commission disregarded our objections and refused to accommodate us for a full inquiry into the legitimacy of candidates", Ranatunga charged.

The return of Bandula Warnapura to public office has added some sparks to the Ranatunga camp but when told that he could be fighting a losing battle against the Shammi Silva camp, the first Test captain said he saw his re-entry as now or never as the nurturing ground of club cricket was in ruins.

"I accepted an invitation from Nishantha (Ranatunga) and Mathivanan to do something for club cricket which has lost its quality. Without a proper club system and quality we cannot take our international cricket forward and the negative results are clear to be seen.

"When we won the World Cup in 1996 there were just about seven or eight recognised clubs playing quality cricket. Today there is no quality only the quantity of clubs", said Warnapura who was at one time Development Director at the Asian Cricket Council.



Dunith Wellalage of St. Joseph's College bowls to capture six wickets Pic: Hirantha Gunathilake

Shevon Daniel dazzles as Joes dominate Wesley

Seventeen year old Shevon Daniel hit a career-best 164 as St. Joseph's College dominated their inter-school Under-19 traditional cricket fixture against Wesley College which ended in a draw at Campbell Park yesterday.

The stylish left-hander who continued from an overnight 134 played the sheet anchor role and helped St. Joseph's amass 319 for four wickets in their first innings.

In reply, the Wesleyites crumbled against the spin of skipper Dunith Wellalage who exploited the conditions to good effect to finish with a six-wicket haul.

Meanwhile, St. Sebastian's College produced a fine all-round performance to take major honours in their traditional game against Richmond College which ended in a draw at Moratuwa yesterday.

The Sebastianites had the satisfaction of bowling out their op-

ponents for a paltry 97 runs in the first innings with Krishan Fernando (3/15) and Kalana Sandeepa (3/21) sharing the wickets.

Scores:
At Campbell Park (Match drawn)

St. Joseph's: 319/4 dec (Shevon Daniel 164, Sheran Fonseka 73, Yesith Rupasinghe 55, The-nuka Perera 2/50) and 45/1 (Dinal Anuradha 26)

Wesley: 156 (Sahil Dias 39, Anudith Wickremasinghe 23, Dunith Wellalage 6/56, Lahiru Amarasekera 2/46).

At Moratuwa (Match drawn)
St. Sebastian's: 166 and 152/5 dec (Yashan Avishka 36, Sukitha Prasanna 62, Amshi de Silva 2/15)

Richmond: 97 (Bhanuka Manohara 24, Chehan Subasingha 23, Crishan Fernando 3/15, Kalana Sandeepa 3/21) and 71/1 (Thamindu Pradeeptha 26 n.o, Bhanuka Manohara 29 n.o). YK



Arjuna Ranatunga speaks at his World Cup champion team's silver jubilee

IMPACT

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MARCH 21, 2021

Rule of Law and Democratic Liberties

BY PROFESSOR S. SARATH MATHILAL DE SILVA

The expression 'the Rule of Law' is often referred to when democratic liberties are discussed.

The Rule of Law does not merely require a government to act according to the law, but also requires the body of law that exists in a country to be in accordance with certain minimum standards of equity, justice and good conscience.

For the citizen, the Rule of Law is both prescriptive - dictating the conduct required by law - and proactive of citizens - demanding that the government acts according to the law.

As the notion of the Rule of Law is dependent upon the political foundation of a state, it is also dependent on the approach adapted to the concept upon a nation's economic resources.

The narrow interpretation of the Rule of Law insists simply on a citizen's compliance with the rule of law.

However, if the Rule of Law implies more than mere regulation by law and is elevated to a theory guaranteeing freedom from hunger, homelessness and the entitlement to a basic decent standard of life, then economic conditions are of paramount importance to conformity with the Rule of Law.

New Delhi Declaration

Such an approach has been adopted by the International Commission of Jurists which in the New Delhi Declaration of 1959, if it exhibits both these features and an absence of discretionary rules or practice.

The Rule of Law has its well-known exposition in the work of the influential British Constitutional lawyer, A.V. Dicey, who in 1885 published his Introduction to the Study of the Law of the Constitution.

His formulation of the Rule of Law, though not accepted without reservation today, is a useful starting point for discussion of this concept.

Dicey emphasized three aspects of the Rule of Law: (i) no one can be punished or made to suffer except for a breach of law proved in an ordinary court, (ii) no one is above the law and everyone is equal before the law regardless of social, economic or political status and (iii) the rule of law includes the results of judicial decisions determining the rights of private persons.

Despite narrow conception by Dicey impeding its growth in some cases, Indian cases stand as pioneering examples of what an imaginative court could do with this notion.

Judicial review

The Rule of Law has provided one of the main conceptual bases for administrative law in most Commonwealth countries.

Judicial review is the means by which administrative authorities with rulemaking and administrative powers are confined by the courts within the powers granted to them by Parliament.

It is for a court to determine whether the body in question has acted *intra vires* or *ultra vires*. (That is inside or outside its powers). Judicial review represents a means by which the sovereignty of Parliament is upheld and the rule of law applied.

In the United Kingdom Council of Civil Service Unions v Minister for Civil Service, the House of Lords iden-



**FOR THE CITIZEN, THE RULE OF LAW IS BOTH PRESCRIPTIVE –
DICTATING THE CONDUCT REQUIRED BY LAW – AND PROACTIVE
OF CITIZENS – DEMANDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT ACTS
ACCORDING TO THE LAW**

tified the categories of the decisions which could be immune from judicial review and the list is not exhaustive as, the making of treaties, the dissolution of Parliament the appointment of Ministers, declarations of war and peace, and matters relating to granting of honours.

What unites these categories is the fact that each involves matters of high policy which is most appropriately determined in the eyes of the judiciary not by the courts but by the executive.

Where this applies it may be said that the Rule of Law is undermined by respect for the doctrine of separation of powers; an ironic consequence.

The doctrine of judicial review nevertheless, represents the bedrock for the application of the Rule of Law,

keeping those with law making and discretionary powers, within the law.

Legal process

For the Rule of Law to be respected and applied the legal process - civil and criminal - must exhibit certain features. These features may be categorised as, accessibility and procedural fairness.

In terms of accessibility, the law must be accessible to all, if rights are to be enforced. Accordingly, not only must there exist a system of courts available locally, but the cost of having recourse to the courts must be such that there is real access to the courts.

For the law to be attainable, adequate legal advice and assistance

must be provided at a cost affordable by all. With regard to procedural fairness, justice and the Rule of Law demand that in the conduct of legal proceedings, procedural fairness be observed.

Subsumed within this requirement are many subsidiary conditions. The Rule of law in International Dimension the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations adopted in 1948, declares:

"It is essential if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression that human rights should be protected by the Rule of Law".

The European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Free-

doms (1950) also recognises the concept of the rule of law.

Rule of Law

The Declaration of Delhi 1959 states: "The Rule of Law is a dynamic concept for the expansion and fulfillment of which jurists are primarily responsible and which should be employed not only to safeguard and advance the civil and political rights of the individual in a free society, but also to establish social, economic, educational and cultural conditions under which his legitimate aspiration and dignity may be realised".

In S.P. Gupta v Union of India (1982), nine Judges of the Supreme Court of India ruled in favour of a public interest suit filed by certain lawyers as a writ petition. In this judgment, Bhagwati J., stated:

The Rule of Law and the United States, an important aspect of the Rule of Law with regard to its application to the United States of America is the concept of 'due process'.

The 5th Amendment (1791) provides that no person shall be deprived in any criminal case of life, liberty or property without due process of law and the 14th Amendment (1868), that no state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or "If there is one principle which runs through the entire fabric of the Indian Constitution, it is the principle of the Rule of Law and under the Constitution, it is the judiciary which is entrusted with the task of keeping every organ of the State within the limits of the law and thereby making the rule of law meaningful and effective.

It is to aid the judiciary in this task that the power of judicial review has been conferred upon the judiciary."

Property, without due process of law nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction, the equal protection of the laws. The due process clause of the 5th Amendment was thought to have descended from the Latin phrase 'per legem terrae' (according to the law of the land), in Clause 39 of Magna Carta. (1215).

Fair trial, freedom from search and seizure, freedom from self - incrimination and coerced confessions, right to counsel, equal treatment before the law - all these and many more facets of the Rule of Law reach American citizens through the 'due process' clauses.

Prior to 1994 the Rule of Law in South Africa was in fact, the rule by law. Legality as part of the Rule of Law required the government to act through the law, that the actions of officials were *intra vires* and that arbitrary actions on the part of officials were prohibited.

Legality in the common law was narrowly construed as a constraint on administrative actions and it did not reflect a broad normative commitment to the rule of law in the substantive sense.

Supreme Constitution

The advent of constitutional democracy has changed all of this; constitutional supremacy replaced parliamentary supremacy and the Supreme Constitution introduced a justifiable bill of rights.

In addition to this, Section 1(c) of the Constitution lists "Supremacy of the Constitution and Rule of Law" among the founding values of the sovereign, democratic South African State.

The Sri Lankan Supreme Court has also begun to use the Rule of Law in an imaginative way.

In *Gunaratne v Petroleum Corporation*, the court stated that the principle of equality before the law embodied in Article 12 is a necessary corollary of the concept of the rule of law.

As a result article 12 prohibited arbitrary, capricious or discriminatory action.

In *Wickramatunga v Ratwatte*, the Court cited the *Gunaratne* case and observed that Article 12 combines elements of the Rule of Law and elements of the 14th Amendment of the American Constitution.

The court wondered whether it was because of this link that there had been a proliferation of applications under Article 12.

Respect for the Rule of Law required the observance of minimum standards of openness, fairness and accountability in administration, according to the Supreme Court in *Jayawardene v Wijetilleke*.

The fact that the Constitution and system of Government was founded on the Rule of Law was referred to in *Premachandra v Major Montague Jayawickrama* to prevent the erosion of that foundation, was the primary function of an independent judiciary.

Unfettered discretion cannot exist where the rule of law reigns. The Rule of Law demands that discretion be restricted.

Public functionaries

The Supreme Court held that there were no absolute or unfettered discretions in public law. Discretions were conferred on public functionaries in trust for the public to be used for the public good.

The propriety of the exercise of such discretions was to be judged by reference to the purposes for which they were entrusted.

In *Priyanganu v Nanayakkara*, the Supreme Court stated that Article 12 contains 'safeguards based on the Rule of Law' which provides against arbitrary and unreasonable action and added that discretionary power can never be treated as absolute and unfettered.

The applicability of the Rule of Law in Fundamental Rights jurisdiction through equality was further expanded and articulated by His Lordship Justice Fernando in the case of *Jayawardena v Dharani Wijeyatilake*, Secretary Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and others in respect of the termination of the holder of the office of Inquirer into Sudden Deaths, where it was held that: respect for the Rule of Law requires the observance of minimum standards of openness, fairness and accountability in administration and this means, in relation to appointments and removal from offices involving powers, functions and duties which are public in nature, that the process of making a decision should not be shrouded in secrecy.

The concept of public trust and the abiding principle that the powers of the state and that of its officials, agents and instrumentalities are held in trust for the public is a necessary corollary of the more generic concept of the Rule of Law.

The Rule of Law underlies the entire constitution and in one sense all constitutional law is concerned with the rule of law. The Rule of Law cannot be viewed in isolation from the political society.

(The writer is a retired Professor in Law at the University of Sri Jaywardenepura. He is an Attorney-at-Law, practised in courts and holds a PhD in law)

Tribute to teachers at St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10

BY MARUTHAI RAVINDHIRAN

St. Joseph's College was founded on March 2, 1896 by French missionaries led by Rev. Fr. Christophe-Etienne Bonjean.

On this quasiquintennial (125th Anniversary), I am delighted to pen down my tribute to all our respected and distinguished teachers of the past and the present, who have worked laboriously to produce multi-talented Josephians and have dedicated their efforts to making our college a leading school in Sri Lanka.

"Thank you seems too short a word to express our gratitude to your good selves who have taught us. We are indebted to all our parents, rectors and teachers who have inspired, guided and moulded us. Much of the accomplishments in our lives have come

through our association with you.

Aside from enhancing our knowledge, you have provided constant encouragement and advice.

You are all amazing teachers and you deserve the best. You are our sunshine and you have brightened our whole lives.

You are the spark, the inspiration and the guiding candles of our lives. You have sacrificed your selves like "burning candles" and you have enabled us to discover and travel the pathways of life.

You have acted as the "sign posts" of our lives by guiding us and giving us direction in life. You discovered and polished our rough edges and helped us shine like diamonds.

You have been "ladders" and professionally helped countless Josephians to reach the pinnacle of success in their chosen pathways.

Moreover, you have acted as well-equipped ships and thereby taken us ashore thereafter you enabled us to walk our own paths on our own and stood back and continued to help more students ashore.

The teachers of our school have resembled a light house and provided us with a helpful guiding light throughout the journey of our lives.

You have expelled the darkness and ignorance from our lives and personalities and inculcated the right knowledge, skills and attitudes within your students.

You have been bridges that have helped us cross over to the greener pastures of life. You have been great sculptors who have crafted the Josephians into unique people.

We greatly admire and appreciate your dedication, discipline and deter-

mination to your work. Your work with painstaking precision has produced many multi-talented Josephians who are great assets to this world.

As teachers, you enabled students to reach new heights in the fields of education, sports and spiritual glory. We were trained to be efficient and effective in anything that we do and by training us to do so, you have benefited society. Your students have become dynamic, exemplary and visionary leaders.

We learnt to have a passion for life and achieve our goals and visions in life, through everything that the teachers of our school taught us. You are treasure troves. Your knowledge, competency and wisdom are astonishing and we were blessed to have been able to watch you change the lives of the students of our school.

You truly are the pillars of our success and you brought glory to the most noble profession and our hallowed educational institution, by being renowned educators who have transformed our lives. You are our heroes and we salute for your untiring and relentless effort to help us become ideal Josephians.

Everything we have learnt from you all, over the years has guided us and given us strength and will undoubtedly continue to do so throughout our lives. Words are insufficient to express just how much we appreciate your kindness, patience, commitment and devotion to teaching.

We will definitely remember the yeomen services that you have rendered. It is divine grace that we were blessed enough to have teachers of your calibre at our Alma Mater. We are

deeply thankful to your good selves and our gratitude will be lifelong.

As past pupils and current students of St. Joseph's College, we are humbled, honoured and privileged to have each and every one of you as a teacher at our school.

On this quasiquintennial, we wish all of our teachers, success, joy, serenity, peace and good health now and throughout your lives.

May Almighty God bless your good selves, families and your noblest work forever.

(The writer was the former chairman and Editor-in-Chief of the Blue & White Newsletter Committee (1999 - 2000), An editorial board member of the Blue & White Centenary and Millennium Magazine Committee of the Old Boys' Union, St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10 and the Founder President of the Josephian Group of 88').

Opinion

The international perspective on Lanka and the gaps therein

By
Frances
Bulathsinghala



On March 16, an online event was hosted by an international human rights organisation – the Universal Human Rights Council (UHRC–Geneva) and themed Why the UN Resolution is a Necessity?. It was referring to the United Nations Resolution on Sri Lanka. The notice that was circulated pertaining to the event had the following description;

‘Universal Human Rights Council (UHRC) Geneva is hosting the 3rd parallel side event in order to bring awareness to the international community about the Systematic and Progressive Minority Rights violations in Sri Lanka. The Special UN Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief will also speak at the event.’ It was announced that a documentary film titled the Tearful Trail will be screened at this cyber event. This film was about the alleged rights violations in Lanka against the Lankan Muslim community.

Those speaking at the event, included Ahmed Shaheed, former Foreign Minister of the Maldives, who since 2016 has been holding the position of the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief.

Rule of law

Before I get to the views expressed by Dr. Shaheed on how Sri Lanka was such a terrible place for religious freedom, let me say that foremost of all that I was saddened that some Sri Lankans should appeal to the world for a UN Resolution on their home country and want foreigners to judge and comment on their nation which ended 30 years of terror and bloodshed. As reiterated previously by this writer who holds no political affiliation of any sort, the fundamentals of sensible governance of any country should revolve on the rule of law being upheld – for all citizens alike.

Obviously this did not happen under the previous United National Party (UNP) led regime – voted in, in 2015 mainly by the ethnic and religious minorities of Sri Lanka but which saw at least four anti Muslim riots and the unparalleled heinous terrorist attacks on one of Sri Lanka’s most peaceful religious minorities – the Catholics and the Christians. Yet the foreign commentators at Tuesday’s human rights events lobbying for the UN resolution on Lanka seemed to think that the five years before the 2019 November Presidential election had made ‘progressive’ changes to human rights.

I like to think that Dr. Shaheed’s personal religious background did not interfere in creating for his mind any bias when he made his comments repeatedly on dwindling Islamic religious rights in Sri Lanka but strangely did not see it fit to extol the need for Sri Lankan Catholics and Christians to pray to their God without fearing being blown to smithereens.

The Human Rights activists who took part in the event should have briefed Dr. Shaheed that there were hundreds of Lankan Catholics and Christians in Sri Lanka who are religious minorities in the country whose lives were fractured, tortured, ruined beyond repair because of that terrorist bombing. Nearly 300 Lankan Catholics and Christians were killed and over 500 maimed. Catholics and Christians who were spared their lives and limbs from the terror attacks are often wishing that they were dead – their lives will never be the same again and there is no justice for them.

This was a community that never resorted to any religious bias in the country. Why were the rights of these religious minorities not taken up with Dr. Shaheed in a backdrop where Catholics and Christians whose lives were destroyed during the Easter attacks have no rights groups representing them at the UN and certainly no international media interested in their plight – there are stories of parents committing suicide and contemplating suicide; not being able to come to terms with their children’s bodies being blown up in the coordinated terrorist blasts – there are stories of parents whose children were killed now in mental asylums after the terrorist blasts – why do these narratives not get figured internationally?

Easter Sunday bombings

We can echo the words of Tamil National Alliance (TNA) MP Mathiaparanan Abraham Sumanthiran, a Christian, to the Sri Lanka Parliament during the recent debate on the Easter Sunday bombings, that Justice and Mercy are two different things. He said that Sri Lanka’s Catholics and Christians showed exemplary mercy but that they are awaiting justice. What is, however, unfortunate is that Sumanthiran as a panellist at the event Why the UN Reso-



In focus



lution is a Necessity – did not think it fit to share with Dr. Shaheed, the Special UN Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief his emphasis in the strongest possible terms, on the need for justice for Sri Lanka’s religious minorities – the Catholics and the Christians who are fearful of stepping into their churches lest a terrorist unleashes his terrorist mission he falsely believes to be a mis- sive from his God.

It was unfortunate that Dr. Ahmed Shaheed’s attention was not drawn to that marginalised Muslim community in Sri Lanka – the Sufis – who have been for the past four decades – ever since that corrupt ideology – Wahabism rose its head here, been persecuted with a fatwa on their heads. Their houses in Eastern Batticaloa have been repeatedly burnt by Wahabi extremists. Their families socially ostracised from the Muslim community.

They have been publicly denounced as heretics. It would indeed be humane, if Sri Lanka’s human rights activists, especially those of the Islamic faith, invites Dr. Ahmed Shaheed to play out his role as the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief in Kathankudi and after that to see to it that the Fatwa on the Sufi Muslims on Lanka is removed and thereby, ensuring their religious freedom.

Islamic radicalisation

It would also be good if he spends time understanding the All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama (ACJU) and their evolution of change over the past decades. Possibly once that is done Dr. Shaheed may be in a better position to dissect religious freedom in Sri Lanka. It is best that he also meets human rights activists such as Jezima Ismail who will give him a full history of how global changes such as the oil boom in Saudi Arabia and the Iranian revolution impacted on the drastic change of the culture of Sri Lankan Muslims here and how it influenced inter-religious relations in Sri Lanka.

Without admitting that Islamic radicalisation was indeed happening in Sri Lanka, we will not be able to un-

derstand the emergence of groups such as the Bodu Bala Sena (BBS). Only to hound the BBS while unrecognising the full picture connected to religious tension and only blaming the Rajapaksa regime, is not going to help Sri Lanka but distinctly make matters worse.

At the event where the UN Resolution on Sri Lanka was supported, attention was on the recent Lankan announcement that discussions will be taken to consider the ban of the burqa and the full face cover of Muslim women on security grounds. Commenting on this aspect as a panellist representing Sri Lanka was the Australia domiciled economist of Lankan origin and media commentator on Lanka, Dr. Ameer Ali, a scholar of repute.

In his comments at Tuesday’s zoom event, in response to a question by a participant on the announced ban of the face cover, Dr. Ali said that he thought the dress code of Muslim women should be decided by the Muslim community of Sri Lanka and not the Lankan State. One should respect Dr. Ali’s views – he does have a valid point. Yet, it is a subject that one should have given Dr. Ali more time to comment and maybe if so he may possibly have elaborated further.

I now take the liberty to place here the link of my full interview with Dr. Ameer Ali, published in a private Lankan newspaper in 2018. All published materials are public property – that of the Lankan and global readership.

In the panel of experts who spoke was a rights activist who about four years back was sharing in a conversation how that individual feared Islamic fundamentalists in Sri Lanka for the work done exposing some of these elements. However, this side of the coin of truth did not figure in the comments made at this particular human rights event.

Human rights of all

As the foreign representatives, such as Dr. Shaheed, repeatedly claimed, the final objective of the international community was peace in Sri Lanka. If this is the case, they should be concerned not

about the human rights of only some communities but the human rights of all communities in Sri Lanka, including that of the Sinhalese Buddhists and their right to uphold the Sinhala civilisation that was an inheritance of the country for centuries.

As Dr. Ameer Ali said in a public speech in Sri Lanka in 2018 and subsequently to this writer in an interview, it is Buddhist compassion which made Sinhala kings give Lankan lands to Arab traders who wished to stay on in Sri Lanka which is a result why we have the Muslim population of the country today. It is the right of any country to preserve its culture. Upholding Buddhist culture is the human right of the Sinhala Buddhists as a world cultural minority.

Ethnic relations

Without the international community realising this and realising that the damage colonisation did to Sri Lanka and how this is impacting ethnic relations within the country, they will only be systematically making matters more complicated with each passing year. For their part, whatever the Sri Lankan Government should realise that every opportunity should be taken to unite the people and not divide. The cremation of Muslims during the Covid-19 pandemic figured as a key element featured in the event, and used to justify the UN Resolution on Lanka. The crushing of counter views and dissent was also highlighted.

A perfect governance cannot be seen anywhere in the world. None of these Western countries who take leadership in talking of human rights abuse in Sri Lanka have a perfect governance with equality for all, much as they would like it to be portrayed globally as such, but former colonised countries find it even worse to manage their governance because of the divide and rule policies set in by the colonisers.

In the previous articles I had cited that any unrest – any riot – any violence of any sort, building up against any community within a country spells its doom. Such dangers

should be strategically recognised and thwarted at the initial stage as this is the beginning of national insecurity which makes Under the previous UNP regime, there were mysterious burnings of Muslim owned businesses. History will also bear testimony that the 1981 burning of the Jaffna Public library and the 1983 riots were during an UNP regime.

Yet at Tuesday’s UN related event, the foreign representatives described the regime shift that took place in 2019 as one that ended ‘progressive steps’ in the country, creating an impression that the UNP was the saviour of the minorities of Sri Lanka. Following the screening of the film Tearful Trail, an uninformed international viewer could be forgiven for thinking that Sri Lanka was a country of permanent anti Muslim riots 365 days, as footages of these riots dominated the narrative.

There were no footages on the terrorist attacks on Catholic and Christian churches and no connected narrative on the suffering of the Catholics and Christians through this crime. The Easter attacks were covered in the documentary in a passing comment that a terrible attack took place by terrorists. There was no comment on the need to thwart radicalisation.

In the discussion, the proposed crackdown on select places that may be grooming fundamentalism were portrayed as a step planning to ‘close thousands of Islamic religious schools’ but little practical advice was offered how the Government could do this without hurting the religious freedom of Muslims in general.

Since 2019 April, the Muslims of Sri Lanka should have been assisted by all Government and non Government stakeholders to take control of cracking down on religious radicalisation which led to the April 2019 Easter carnage.

After this horrendous crime, there were a couple of events organised by Lankan Muslim organisations I attended shrouded by largely a defensive stance and a keenness to portray the incident as a conspiracy theory.

There was little consideration given to the fact that even if it indeed was a conspiracy of sorts that it took

eight Muslims born and brought up in Sri Lanka to blow themselves up. The response to such a question was that these people who blew themselves up were ‘not Muslims.’

It is true that such terror is an absolute mis-representation of Islam – when the word Islam is linked with the word ‘peace’ but the fact is that those who blew themselves up did so with the (wrong) belief that it was prescribed as an act of faith. It is this that should be worrying to any religious group which is carrying out acts of violence in the name of religion. If Buddhists and Christians are doing this, steps should be taken to correct such a stance.

With regard to the Easter attacks, ideally the ACJU and other Muslim groups should have considered suggesting (initiating) the reforms needed and making detailed and genuine recommendations to the Government, to ensure those such as Zahran do not ever again get to mislead Muslim Lankan youth. This is something all Lankan Muslim human rights activists and all progressive Islamic thinkers should have proactively begun two years ago. Radicalisation as a germ of extremism has no religious boundaries. A genuine attempt at preventing radicalisation means that this is adequately recognised. The fact remains that the regime is democratically elected. It was the will of the Sri Lankan people in 2019. What seemed lacking in last Tuesday’s UN supported initiative to lobby for the Resolution on Sri Lanka is recognising this fact.

It seemed as if the international bias against the Government dominated the narrative and this may only contribute to hardening hearts and further dividing the Lankan people. Despite peace being the elusive claim, the UN saga played out every year seems to have only allowed the further distancing of permanent peace.

Divided vote base

The Geneva-Lanka dynamics every year has expanded the divide between the Sinhalese and others, and has allowed politicians of diverse hues to further politicise the ethnicity card. It has further divided the voter base in Sri Lanka on ethnic lines. It has not allowed Sri Lanka to move on and has not helped Sri Lanka to see that it needs to move on in a sensitive manner; instead it has only made Sri Lanka more and more self-justifying. Human rights defenders should be protected.

The freedom of expression should be protected. These should be taken as important contributions in considering how certain sections of the society are reacting to government policies. The Government, whatever the Government, should also have an active progressive strategy to engage with these groups to ensure that they represent the issues of Lankans in Sri Lanka before these issues get aired out at the international level. However, it is also the responsibility of such people and groups to reflect all sides of the argument and not make human rights a one sided representation that colludes with vested international politics which will always be one that will pit bigger powers against the smaller and where power and domination will be a key factor.

As MP Sumanthiran maintained at the international event on Lanka as described in this article, the seeking of justice by Lankans through foreign entities is because they fail to have confidence that they can obtain it in their home country. However, he may agree that had Velupillai Prabhakaran lived, Sumanthiran himself may have found his life to be threatened and no international entity to turn to for justice.

Myopia

It is known that there is some myopia in the international sphere of justice – such as, for example, when the former LTTE Women’s Wing Leader Subramaniam Sivakamy alias ‘Col’ Thamilini surrendered to the Security Forces in the last phase of the fighting between the LTTE and the Government military in 2009, she found herself facing difficulty in getting the needed protection from international agencies committed to do so. She was told by a prominent Lankan Tamil lawyer who had made a career of talking about Tamil rights, that she had to pay if she was to be legally represented by him.

It is a Marxist-oriented Sinhala lawyer who volunteered to represent Thamilini free of charge, along with another Tamil lawyer who agreed to assist them. Sri Lanka has faced incidents that threaten communal harmony, but in the worst of times, there have been an equal amount of humanity and kindness which does not get featured either in the local or international media, because the media as an entity is generally only mentally conditioned to focus on conflict.

This is one reason for the international community’s ignorance on some of the matters it is trying to understand.



UPHOLDING BUDDHIST CULTURE IS THE HUMAN RIGHT OF THE SINHALA BUDDHISTS AS A WORLD CULTURAL MINORITY. WITHOUT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY REALISING THIS AND REALISING THAT THE DAMAGE COLONISATION DID TO SRI LANKA AND HOW THIS IS IMPACTING ETHNIC RELATIONS WITHIN THE COUNTRY, THEY WILL ONLY BE SYSTEMATICALLY MAKING MATTERS MORE COMPLICATED WITH EACH PASSING YEAR

Whistler's Symphony in White

By
Gwen Herat



Each painter appear differently to the viewer who has the right to sit in judgement as to what he feels. Ask ten people for their opinion and they all will vary. Take a look at Whistler's art; it is all freedom and verve, something that many lack because most of them are so tensed up until the paintings are done which subconsciously reveal in some paintings, for example the colour mix-up.

As with so many of Whistler's paintings, beauty is not only in formal inventions and painterly innovations but in the freedom of expression both in brush and mind. The gorgeous brushstrokes freely used by the artist in Nocturne in Black and Gold is like fireworks set against a darkened night.

He has highlighted only the glow as found in embers, truly a masterpiece in oil and wood, 2312 x 1818 in. 60.3 x 46.6 cm held in the Detroit Institute of Arts. Like falling showers of fire-flakes, art-lovers will realise the magnitude of this art-piece of Whistler. This is just one of his great paintings.

Greek terracotta

He became obsessed with the idea of painting that would combine the grace and simplicity of Greek terracotta statues such as Tarangra figures with stylish designs from orient prints along with artifacts.

They served well his mental capacity. The lightness and delicacy of this technique could not have been more distant to influence the colour artist used in early paintings but not Whistler who had his own colourisation.

He was able to overcome the shortcomings that posed a hazard to other painters of his time. Such was his extraordinary gift. Obviously, he was carried away by Japanese influence, especially the women in their coloured kimonos.

It is clear in some of his paintings though he backed off painting women as a subject. Yet the ones he did paint were more less passive and less decorative and much to his patriotic feel, they were firmly situated in the West.

Yet, they never destroyed the stylistic mannerisms and visual puns. They were more or less evocative and reminiscent of Degas' theater paintings.

Whistler was philosophical too and believed that the only thing that is beautiful is the thing that serves no purpose at all. Beauty, he believed, should stand proud and aloof from the world and its deadliest enemies being evil of utility and progress.



Nocturne in Black and Gold



Symphony in white

Art should exist in its own right, independent of prosaic reality. Was he right? I do not think so judging by his paintings of beautiful women or for that matter, his model who was his mistress.

He is an artist who is most often remembered for his skill in

balancing nuances of greys and blues, silvers and opals and especially white.... Pure clear white. Together they excite the art lovers into ecstasy and wonderment.

He had arranged such formal depth and colour mix that one cannot imagine such beauty in paintings and the wizard he was, Whistler marked his own superiority that in the following years that every single art critic knew his identity.

French Impressionists

In some of his paintings I have seen the effect of afterglow in the sky in his habitual practice of painting a dark background before centrally placing his chosen subject.

Very professional and unique but they all came to him naturally the moment he picked his brush. May be that he appeals to me most because I am essentially a white person.

But Whistler can be gloomy and uninteresting to those who wish bright and sparkling colour and all the greens and burgeon outdoor they cannot expect from him.

As an example, French Impressionists' paintings with their bright prismatic colour and broken brush-work, is seen very distant to them.

I like him best in Symphony in White in which the model is his own beautiful mistress (Jo).

Her delicate beauty is set against a window that captures the mellowed light against a white

WHISTLER WAS ABLE TO OVERCOME THE SHORTCOMINGS THAT POSED A HAZARD TO OTHER PAINTERS OF HIS TIME. SUCH WAS HIS EXTRAORDINARY GIFT. OBVIOUSLY, HE WAS CARRIED AWAY BY JAPANESE INFLUENCE, ESPECIALLY THE WOMEN IN THEIR COLOURED KIMONOS. IT IS CLEAR IN SOME OF HIS PAINTINGS THOUGH HE BACKED OFF PAINTING WOMEN AS A SUBJECT. YET THE ONES HE DID PAINT WERE MORE LESS PASSIVE AND LESS DECORATIVE AND MUCH TO HIS PATRIOTIC FEEL, THEY WERE FIRMLY SITUATED IN THE WEST



James McNeill Whistler

curtain. To relieve the monotony of a single colour, he has placed a strong light to play upon her face to reveal the long tresses of burnished red that brilliantly throw a glow around her face.

One must study the painting closely and deeply to absorb the uniqueness of its mastery. All his paintings have a clear and iconic feel. He has not slipped anywhere in colour, subject or brushwork which sets him apart from the rest.

Symphony in White or better known as the White Girl hangs in the National Gallery of Art and later at Tate Gallery in London, painted in 1864, oil on canvas, 30 x 20in / 76 x 51cm.

James Moneill Whistler was one of the major eccentrics of his time and known as the Prince of his time. He was always regarded as an outsider because of his unorthodox approach to life.

Czar Nicholas

He was the only painter to attend the West Point Military Academy. He spent part of his childhood in Lowell, Massachusetts and later in Russia where his father was employed as a civil engineer and employed by the Czar Nicholas I and when he died unexpectedly, it brought to an end the family's affluent ex-patriot life.

From there he struggled along with his mother to where he became a super artist. Starting from Paris, he went through his painting process to around the world to meet great painters and be tutored under some.

He was born in 1834 and died in London in 1903. Two memorial exhibitions in Boston in 1904 and a Larger Memorial exhibition in London and Paris were tributes to this great artist.

Francophonie Day, which celebrates every year the diversity of the French language and the French-speaking world.

According to the International Organisation of the Francophonie (OIF), there are around 300 million French speakers all over the world

(2018 data), making it the 5th most-spoken language after Mandarin Chinese, English, Spanish and Arabic. It is the only language, with English, to be used across five continents. It is the official language in 32 States and in many international organisations, including the United Nations.

International Francophonie Day

Ten events organised by the diplomatic missions of Canada, France and Switzerland, together with the Alliance Française de Kotte and the French Teachers' Association of Sri Lanka to celebrate International Francophonie Day, commenced on March 13 and will conclude on March 25.

They include a multi-disciplinary offer of movie screenings, concerts and conferences. The Festival opened on an online screening of the Canadian film "Antigone" (2019, 1h49) by Sophie Deraspe, presented by the Canadian High Commission.

March 20 is the International



Pain conditions due to Diabetes

Patients can develop pain in the following forms in relation to diabetes.

- 1 Diabetic nerve pain
- 2 Generalised body aches and pain
- 3 Pain due to the diabetic ulcers
- 4 Phantom limb and stump pain following amputations

Diabetic nerve pain

Diabetic nerve pain is a syndrome that affects people with diabetes, worldwide. It can appear in people with insulin dependent type 1 or maturity onset type 2, diabetes.

This is also known as, "diabetes peripheral neuropathy". It is one of the most common neuropathic pain conditions.

Diabetic nerve pain commonly occurs when a person with diabetes has prolonged spells of high blood sugar levels. The high blood glucose affects the nerves by damaging the blood vessels which supply them.

Smoking and consumption of alcohol are also known to increase the risk of experiencing nerve pain.

Diabetic nerve pain usually occurs in peripheral regions or extremities, such as feet and legs or hands and arms.

Neuropathic foot pain is one out of a number of conditions affecting the feet which are termed as problems of 'diabetic foot'. Sensations in the feet can be less which can lead to damaging the foot, leading to diabetic ulcers.

For this reason, people with diabetes are advised to undergo a foot examination once a year.

A foot exam can help in two ways. One way on which it can help is, by helping to diagnose new problems, such as diabetic neuropathy or circulation issues and it can also help to spot further complications of the foot such as wounds, blisters and a joint disorder known as Charcotarthropathy.

What are the symptoms of diabetic nerve pain?

Diabetic nerve pain symptoms can include:

- Prickling or tingling feelings
- A burning sensation
- Sharp, stabbing or shooting pains in the aforementioned areas.

These can range from mild to extreme. In serious cases the whole area may become numb.

A condition known as dysesthesia can develop, in some people, which affects one's sense of touch causing a tingling or burning sensation and can cause sharp pain when touching objects and surfaces.

How does neuropathic pain affect people with diabetes?

Diabetic nerve pain unfortunately can be very dangerous for people with diabetes.

At an early stage it can impact day to day activities.

One of the dangers of diabetic neuropathy is, if it leads to a foot ulcer (wound), developing a level of high blood sugar and poor circulation can both mean the wound may take longer to heal and be more susceptible to infection, which may result in amputation.

If someone has diabetes and is concerned about diabetes nerve pain, contact a pain specialist to discuss the symptoms or take their advice.

Can diabetic nerve pain be treated?

People suffering from nerve pain will usually be encouraged to make changes to their lifestyle and or their diets, such as giving up or cutting down on alcohol or smoking, getting more exercise and receiving help with controlling their blood sugar levels.

The pain specialist may also offer treatments to reduce the symptoms of pain.

Medications for diabetic nerve pain

Medications which may be offered could include:

- Amitriptyline
- Pregabalin
- Duloxetine
- Nortriptyline
- Imipramine
- Lidocaine
- Tramadol
- Morphine
- Fentanyl patches

Nerve blocks such as sympathetic Lumbar plexus block and radio frequency can help the neuropathic pain in the legs. These are carried out by pain specialists. In England I use to receive referrals from endocrinologists to manage patients' diabetic neuropathy. But in Sri Lanka this is does not happen yet but I am sure things will improve once people become more aware about pain medicine. My challenge is to get the message across to the Sri Lankan public that no one should suffer with pain.

Generalised body aches and pain

This is a common problem amongst diabetics. This happens due to changes in the autonomic nervous system. This leads to extreme fatigability. The treatment is the same as any pain condition.

Pain due to a diabetic ulcer may be a distressing symptom. Generally the ulcers are painless due to the peripheral neuropathy as the nerves do not function well. But dressing or changing clothes can be a distressing and painful action. I prescribe 5% Lidocaine patches to be applied before and after the wound dressings.

Phantom Limb Pain is yet another pain condition linked to Diabetes which I hope to discuss in a separate article.



Jayatilleke de Silva - a fearless Editor

Many knew him as Jayatilleke de Silva, the veteran journalist. For most of us, he was fondly known as Jaye.

As far back as the 1960s, I met Jaye at the Communist Party which was headquartered at Cotta Road, Borella. I came to know his role there. He was assisting the Editor of *Maubima*, the party paper and the other paper that was about to be re-launched as *Atha*.

The pioneer editor, Wijesiri, was gone leaving the paper and the editorial staff at bay. Jaye and a few others, such as Sira or B.A. Siriwardhana, Surat Ambalangoda and Sirilal Kodikara took over the task on to their shoulders. The paper contained quite a number of features. Being a Maths graduate teacher aside, Jaye had a kindling interest in journalism and politics. He left the teaching profession at schools such as Ananda College (my Alma Mater) to take over the two functions.

Jaye's political ideology was very much in sync with Marxism. That said, I recall a dialogue that ensued between

Jaye and myself in the mid-1960s.

"I'm translating *Das Kapital*." "Wonderful," I responded and added: "When do you plan to finish?"

"Not as soon as possible," came the response. Certainly, it took nearly eight long years for Jaye to translate the work into good Sinhala from English. The translation came out in three hefty volumes. Unfortunately, the two volumes did not get the required attention from the Left caucus. I did not see even a single review of the voluminous work appearing in any periodical.

Jaye was fond of writing on the Cuban Revolution and Fidel Castro. He worked on both these profiles in English as well as Sinhala. One of his most admirable areas of interest happened to be folklore and creative interpretations. Once, as the Editor of the *Sunday Observer*, Jaye commissioned me to contribute a series of folktales titled Sunday Parable. When the series ran for more than a year, Jaye wanted me to commence a new series which I titled Tales Once Told.



Once, as the Editor of the *Sunday Observer*, Jaye commissioned me to contribute a series of folktales titled Sunday Parable. When the series ran for more

than a year, Jaye wanted me to commence a new series which I titled Tales Once Told.

As *Daily News* Editor, he wanted me to begin a series that went as Phrase and Fable. He took time off his busy journalistic schedule to translate classics into Sinhala. One good example happened to be Ernest Hemingway's For Whom the Bell Tolls. He gave a striking Sinhala title, *Ghanta Nade Ka Venuvendo*.

According to the publisher concerned, the translation won the hearts of many a Sinhala reader. He wanted to bring out many more translations. But time did not permit him to absorb in those ventures. To the best of my knowledge, Jaye was an avid reader who shifted the attention from the printed page to the Internet.

A group of us attached to the Publication Unit of the State Printing Corporation, under the chairmanship of A. B. C de Silva, designed a series of books to come out as supplementary readers for schoolchildren. We selected the relevant

original works most suited to be translated into Sinhala.

As a result, the original names such as Franz Kafka, D. H. Lawrence, Katherine Mansfield and Rudyard Kipling were cited. Our friend, Jaye, too was chosen as a translator in the committee. Jaye selected D.H. Lawrence's *The Rocking Horse Winner* as he would love to translate. Within a matter of a few days, he handed in his translation. I found it a splendid piece of work that can readily go into print.

His translations read like rewritten original works. His translation of Mark Twain's satirical essays into Sinhala, titled *Vajrayudha*, is a classic example. I felt heart to hear that everything went well with Jaye. His series of column writings in a *Lighter Vein* testifies to his broad outlook as a journalist. He had the knack for encouraging his colleagues as well as amateurs in the field.

This is the Jaye I knew. He was fearless, yet cheerful.

Prof. Sunanda Mahendra

Sri Lanka could intervene in Myanmar crisis

By
Sarath Wijesinghe



The ties between Sri Lanka and Myanmar go back to generations with friendly and cultural bonds on religion and culture.

The cultural, religious and political relationship between Myanmar and Sri Lanka spans around thousand years.

The relationship has been mutually beneficial for both countries on many fronts. With the rise of Asia as the central political and economic force of the world we can make Buddhism the unifying force in Asia as well. We can make the Buddhist way of life a collective reality so that the world, at large, could gain long lasting solutions.

Sinhala bhikkhus resolved conflicts between Sri Lanka and Myanmar on trade during King Parakramabahu (1153-1186) and Alanungsitha (1113-1165).

Myanmar Sanjaraja sought refuge in Sri Lanka in 1167. The Sanjaraja stayed in Sri Lanka for six years. Sanjaraja Uttarajiva after his return to Myanmar was hailed as the first pilgrim from Sri Lanka. Chapata returned to Myanmar along with four other bhikkhus so that they could perform ecclesiastical acts separately.

Maha Kassapa

According to the Burmese chronicle *Hmanan Yasawinkly* (1112-1167CE) the king of Burma visited Sri Lanka and married a daughter of a Sinhalese king and returned with the image of Maha Kassapa together who was highly venerated at the time in Sri Lanka.

Even in the recent past Sri Lanka had close trade ties with Myanmar on the exchange of tea and purchase of paddy among many other trade practices. Practices and customs of both countries are somewhat similar with the influence of bhikkhus in politics that has influenced the electing of governments and what has been termed by the West as the 'Sanga' Saffron Revolution' since the influence is so effective.

Today bhikkhus are in the forefront of the pro-democratic movement in Sri Lanka. These are the traditional, religious and cultural ties apart from trade and business that has bonded the two nations starting from the era of the kings.

In international relations Myanmar is a member of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral and Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) both of which are sub regional international organisations with a population of 1.5 billion people.

Myanmar is a silent member of many groupings as well as a member of UN agencies. They remember with pride of U. Tang a former Secretary General of the United Nations.

Close relations between Sri Lanka and Myanmar continue to date and this gives us the opportunity to offer our good office in whatever assistance that is needed.

Currently Myanmar is going through a difficult patch again with the introduction of military rule which is not attractive to the West

mainly on human rights issues.

Myanmar was popular and liked by all members of BIMISTIC, ASEAN, SAARC and most UN member nations and international organisations but this has now diminished owing to the intervention of the military.

The country has enormous wealth deposits on the ground which the world is aware and awaiting to explore and so one cannot rule out discreet involvements with hidden agendas.

Army influence

Myanmar needs genuine and good friends and the best friend may be Sri Lanka owing to the historic, religious and cultural bonds between the two nations that have remained for thousands of years.

Sri Lanka has a proud history of negotiating previously on many crisis situations in the world.

When India and China had issues Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike offered her good office as leader of the Non Aligned Movement (NAM) to negotiate since Sri Lanka was respected by others as well.

She used her personal goodwill and charm with Indira Gandhi in resolving the Kachchitivu issue and the festering Indian labour issues in the country. On the other hand military rule is not alien to our region.

Bangladesh and Pakistan were both ruled with an iron fist by the military before reverting back to function as democracies.

Military rule in Myanmar which has come under immense world pressure would be difficult to sustain owing to the Covid-19 pandemic and a down turn in its economy thereby making negotiations easier.

Army rule is inevitable but some countries are fortunate to get away from this menace. Pakistan had military rulers but today it is fortunate to have one of the best democratic systems.

THESE ARE THE TRADITIONAL, RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL TIES APART FROM TRADE AND BUSINESS THAT HAS BONDED THE TWO NATIONS STARTING FROM THE ERA OF THE KINGS



Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan who visited Sri Lanka recently behaved like a statesman unlike some leaders of West who made ugly undemocratic remarks on the country.

In the USA many Presidents served in military prior to being elected to office. Thirteen out of 45 US presidents were ex-servicemen. Vladimir Putin of Russia is also a former intelligence officer.

The President, the Secretary of Defence, Customs Chief, many Secretaries including the Foreign Secretary are ex-Army personnel doing an excellent job while maintaining democratic values and this proves that Sri Lanka is the best candidate to use its good office to bring back normalcy and democracy to ailing Myanmar which in need of help.

BIMSTEC Grouping

BIMSTEC has five members from South Asia and two from South East Asia with 1.5 billion people that make up 22 per cent of the world population.

India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand that make up BIMSTEC are like-minded friends who will be meeting in Sri Lanka to discuss matters of mutual interest mainly on the economic front with no political agendas.

The Group is meeting in Sri Lanka under a friendly atmosphere to discuss only economic issues and to resolve them amicably.

It is also advisable to use the good office of the bhikkhus who are always in the forefront since the time of the kings and from time immemorial.

Ground situation

The ground situation in Myanmar is different from the outward appearance since the military has substantial power under the 2008 Constitution that is still in force.

The military represents quarter of the parliament and has powers over oil and gas income and also has important portfolios in the Cabinet.

From 476 MP's 396 belong to the Democratic Party that has an overwhelming majority but 400 sitting MPs who have been democratically elected are currently under house arrest. Protests are widespread in that country and some 184 people have already been killed by the police and Security Forces with another 18,000 in detention.

Maha Sangha

There is resentment all over the country and professionals and academics too have come to the forefront in support of the pro-democracy movement.

What is immediately needed is a drastic constitutional change.

The Maha Sangha in Sri Lanka has played a role in matters of good office and propagation and enhancement of Buddhism and they are the best ambassadors to intervene in the Myanmar crisis.

This will be a new experience for both countries and if both parties use the historic bonds shared between both nations it could be a good start.

There are leading businessmen who have invested in Myanmar with lot of hopes. One must think in terms of economic diplomacy and the other areas such as tourism with tremendous potentials to both countries.

All these together will have a collective effort with new hopes and friendship.

The media too will have a major part to play in these innovative propositions which may be attractive both to the Military government and the people of Myanmar.

The Maha Sangha in Sri Lanka is organised but somewhat misdirected with lack of leadership from the Mahanayakas and it is in need of a leader such as the Dalai Lama who is a symbol of peace, power and a force to reckon with.

We pray this message will reach the Dalai Lama too. We pray and urge Myanmar to be democratic for the good of the world over.

It is also a good idea for the Bar Association in Sri Lanka (BASL) and the Organization of Professionals Association (OPA) to communicate with their counterparts in Myanmar with concrete proposals.

Do it in good faith and trust with the intention of helping our friendly nation and of course ourselves as if and when they do well we too will be benefited.

Urgent need

The urgent need in Myanmar is a drastic constitutional change that has given enormous powers to the military. It also appears that some world forces and powerful nations are aiming at troubled Myanmar to plunder its resources like vultures for personal benefits.

We should render a great service to save and serve our friends who are in need of international assistance. May they be free from trouble soon and prosper as a happy nation again.

Sarath7@hotmail.co.uk
Sarath Wijesinghe President's Counsel, former Ambassador to United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Israel and President of the Ambassadors' Forum

Fleeing Myanmar policemen defy army order to kill protesters



A police officer who fled from Myanmar following a military coup looks out to the mountains from an undisclosed location bordering Myanmar

A group of Myanmar policemen recounted their escape to India after defying the Myanmar army's orders to shoot people who oppose the February 1 coup in the southeast Asian country. While speaking, they raised a three-finger salute — a symbol of resistance to Myanmar's military rulers.

"We cannot hurt our people, that's why we came to Mizoram," said one of the policemen, who hails from the northwestern town of Tedim. Mizoram is a state in India's northeast, and shares a border with Bangladesh and Myanmar. After the Army coup, the policemen were ordered to "shoot people and not just the people, we were told to shoot our own family if they are not on the side of the army," he said. The Associated Press has not been able to independently verify these claims.

Indian villagers in Mizoram have given shelter to 34 police personnel and one firefighter who crossed into India over the last two weeks. They spoke to an AP photojournalist on condition of anonymity because of fears of retribution against family members still in Myanmar.

Back in Myanmar, the three-finger salute, which traces its origins to the Hunger Games books and movies by Suzanne Collins, is being used by youth protesters at massive anti-army demonstrations.

Meanwhile, K. Vanlalvena, a lawmaker from Mizoram state, urged the Indian government not to deport refugees from Myanmar until the return of normalcy there. The lawmaker belongs to the Mizo National Front, an ally of India's governing Bharatiya Janata Party.

Those who escaped spend their time watching local television and doing daily chores. Some have carried mobile phones and are trying to connect to families they were forced to leave behind. At night, all of them sleep on mattresses on the floor of a single room.

One of them told the AP that they were under the command of Myanmar's army.

"We are all policemen working under the Myanmar government. We left our family in Myanmar. We do not know what is happening to our family, but they will face a lot of problems from the army. We came to Mizoram for shelter, we will die if we go back there," he said.

"We cannot reach our parents due to telecommunication problems, but what we heard is they are very scared to go out of their homes ... I'm hoping that one day

we will meet again," he added.

Earlier this month, Myanmar asked India to return the police officers who crossed the border. India shares a 1,643-kilometre (1,020-mile) border with Myanmar, and is home to thousands of refugees from Myanmar in different states.

Last week, Ramlana, president of a Village Council in Mizoram state, a community-based body, said 116 Myanmar nationals crossed the Tiau River and reached Farkawn Village through a stretch where India's paramilitary Assam Rifles personnel were not present. He uses one name.

India's state and federal government officials haven't given an exact number of people from Myanmar who have crossed over to India after the coup.

Last week, India's Home Ministry told four Indian states bordering Myanmar — Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh — to take measures to prevent refugees from entering India except on humanitarian grounds.

The ministry said the states were not authorised to accord refugee status to anyone entering India from Myanmar, as India is not a signatory to the U.N. Refugee Convention of 1951 or its 1967 Protocol.

Myanmar has been ruled by the military for most of its history since gaining independence from Britain in 1948. A gradual move toward democracy in the past decade allowed Aung San Suu Kyi to lead a civilian government beginning in 2016, although the country's generals retained substantial power under a military-drafted constitution.

Her party won last November's election by a landslide, but the military stepped in before Parliament was to convene on February 1, detained Suu Kyi and other government officials and instituted a one-year state of emergency. It contends the vote was tainted by fraud and plans to reinvestigate those allegations before a new election is held.

Reports on Friday said the authorities in Myanmar have arrested a spokesman for ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi's political party as they intensified efforts to choke off the spread of information about growing protests against last month's military takeover. Despite a crackdown that has killed more than 200 demonstrators so far, protesters are back in the streets Friday morning in several cities and towns.

-Independent

Trinity-Antonian big match in May

By
Hafiz
Marikar



The annual big match and the one-day between Trinity College and St. Anthony's College will be played in the month of May and the venue will be Katugastota, followed by the one day game at Asgiriya.

This year's big match game will be the 103rd in the series since 1914 and the 38th one-day game.

This encounter is also the sixth oldest big match in Sri Lanka and out of the 102 games played, the Trinities have won 23 with 11 ending in favour of the Antonians and 68 draws.

Due to a disagreement between the two schools over an age issue the match was not played in 1956 and 1957.

Also, in 2001 the match was not played as Trinity stopped playing mid way during that season due to a disciplinary issue and last year the match was cancelled due to the coronavirus.

The last outright win for the Antonians was in 1992 and Trinity won with Niroshan Dickwell as captain in 2012 after the 1986 win with Thushara Weerasuriya as skipper.

St. Anthony's College are the current holders of the trophy after their first innings win in 2019 as they managed to restrict Trinity College to 173 after posting 298 for the loss of eight wickets.

This encounter is being played for the John Halangoda Memorial Trophy and is awarded to the team which manages to win the match by means of an outright win or a first innings win. But a first innings win will not go into the records as a win to the relevant team. The one-day match winners get the Sir Richard Aluwihare Trophy.

The first encounter was played

at the Bogambara ground in March 1914 where the Antonians won. Trinity won the next match.

From 1918 to 1929, during World War I, the premises of St. Anthony's College (presently St. Sylvester's College) were occupied by the British army. As a result, Antonian cricket was deprived and they lost to Trinity 11 times consecutively.

Without a playground of their own, the Antonians were no match for the Trinities even with the likes of the legendary Jack Anderson in the team.

The post-war period (1929-1947) was inauspicious for the Antonians, as they had a poor run. Trinity during that time had C. Dharmalingam, a left-arm bowler who for two consecutive years nagged the Antonians with his left-arm spin. In 1938 he took 9 for 14 and in 1939 had figures of 6 for 17 and 6 for 31 inclusive of a double hat-trick.

Some of the past records and notable performances were Jack Anderson (St. Anthony's) in 1918 scoring 111 runs which was the first century in the series, Antonian ACM Lafir making 176, the highest individual score and then Lafir and Ronnie Stevens in an opening stand of 266 runs with the former making 176 and the latter 120.

The lowest total is 37 by Trinity in 1951 and St. Anthony's 44 in 1938. In bowling C. Dharmalingam of Trinity in 1939 took a double hat-trick and Lalith Ramanayake scored the fastest 100 in 72 minutes in 1970. Antonian Merrill Dunuville scored the first 100 at Katugastota after the laying of the turf wicket.

Centuries: Jack Anderson (SACK) 111 (1918), MDDT Jayawardena (TCK) 120 (1922), LC de Mel (TCK) 111 (1923), TB Werapitiya (TCK) 100 (1943), TB Werapitiya (TCK) 143 (1944), Ronnie Stevens (TCK) 102 (1952), Ronnie Stevens 120 (1954), ACM Lafir 176 (1954),



SW Seneviratne (SACK) 100 (1958), Charlie Joseph 127 (1960), Jayantissa Ratwatte (TCK) 103 (1960), Franklyn Burke (SACK) 145 (1962), Wasantha Seneviratne (SACK) 110 (1964), MTM Zarook (TCK) 110 (1964), Ralston Burke (SACK) 165 (1965), Randy Sims (SACK) 100 (1969), Merill Dunuville (SACK) 106 (1970), Lalith Ramanayake (TCK) 110 (1970), Niroshan de Silva (TCK) 100 (1971), Premalal de Silva (SACK) 148 (1973), Bernard Perera (SACK) 155 (1976), N. Dambawinne (TCK) 130 (1978), Marlon Vohaght (SACK) 123 (1983), Angelo Wickremaratne (SACK) 144 (1984), Nuwan Kalpage (SACK) 100 (1990), Kaushalya Weeraratne (TCK) 148 (1999), Shameera Wijesooriya (TCK) 114 (2009).

There had been some outstanding bowling performances in the series when Dickey Dunuville snr. took 6 for 10 in 1948. In 1939 that mystery spinner C. Dharmalingam performed the hat-trick in both innings for Trinity. In the first innings, he took 6 for 17 and 6 for 31 in the second and this most probably is a world record. This gave him a match bag of 12 for 48. In 1938 too, he routed the Antonians with the then best bowling analysis of 9 for 74 and this was bettered in the mid-nineties by Trinity's Suranga Fernando who captured all ten wickets in an innings. Eustace Rulach too had fine figures of 5 for 8 in 1951

Recalling memories of the Trinity-Antonian game of 1986, which the Trinities won by seven wickets to break a 35-year hoodoo makes interesting reading. That year the Trinities were led by TP Weerasuriya and the Antonians by Rienzie Perera. This great win for the Trinities would not have been possible if not for the sporty and challenging declaration made by the Antonian skipper Rienzie Perera. He threw the game wide open and the Trinities who accepted the challenge found the going easy during the last stages as the Antonians were a tired lot and ran short of bowlers after the start of the 20 mandatory overs.

Today this sort of declaration is not seen because they go for huge totals to gain first innings points and for individual performances. The winning run, a boundary to the long-on fence, was hit by burly left hander Romesh Jayawardena in the 14th mandatory over.

In this match the Trinity skipper failed to call correctly and St. Anthony's elected to take first lease of a placid Katugastota wicket. The Katugastota boys topped the 50 mark for the loss of just one wicket but with the introduction of the spinners CI Fernando and Selvaratnam Ratnakumaran the Antonians found themselves in trouble and were

dismissed for a paltry 126. Opeper Suresh Peiris 24, Damian Nadaraja 23 with four hits to the ropes, Nimalaka Perera 24 with four fours, Sahib Thariquishad 20, Suresh Alwis 11 in 69 minutes and skipper Rienzie Perera with 14 studded with three fours batted best.

Right arm spinner Selvaratnam Ratnakumaran bowled 23.4 overs, 10 of which were maidens. The Trinities fielded well with stumper Mevan Ballale performing well holding three good catches and also stumping skipper Rienzie Perera. The ever agile Ballale set an example to the rest of his teammates. This was one of the lowest scores made by an Antonian side against Trinity for quite some time.

The Asgiriya boys in reply were off to a sound start but with the score at 28, AK Premasinghe foolishly ran himself out. Wickets fell at regular intervals and Trinity ended the first day at 86 for 6. Mevan Ballale 21, Chaminda Unnanthene 31 not out and Romesh Jayawardena 15 made useful contributions towards Trinity's score. Rienzie Perera returned impressive figures of 4 for 34 in 15 overs, in which three of them were maidens. There were two run-outs in the Trinity innings.

Continuing from 86 for 6, Trinity found themselves in trouble as their overnight batsmen failed and the last four wickets fell for 12 runs within the space of 15 minutes. CI Fernando was run out while Unnanthene who was 31 overnight was in a mighty hurry, that he played a rash stroke to be dismissed for 38 which had five hits to the ropes. Rienzie Perera added two more scalps and finished with figures of 6 for 39 in 17 overs. Trinity were bowled out for 98 in 161 minutes off 41 overs.

St. Anthony's enjoying a first innings lead of 28 runs, were expected to make quick runs and consolidate

their position. Instead they batted without purpose and were 55 for 3 at lunch having batted for 105 minutes and faced 28 overs. At 2.35 p.m. St. Anthony's declared on a score of 160 for 7. Anurudha Seneviratne made a top score of 47 with eight fours. Opeper Suresh Peries made 40 with six fours but batted for 129 minutes facing 101 balls while Rienzie Perera made a breezy 23 which had a six and two fours. The 16-year old Ruwan Kalpage chipped in with an unbeaten 24 which included four hits to the fence and a well-timed six which landed on the Antonian tent.

Ratnakumaran who had a match bag of 6 for 100 was presented with the best bowler's award.

The Trinities set to make 190 to win in 90 minutes and 20 mandatory overs, were given a sound start by Mevan Ballale and SK Premasinghe who put on 93 runs in 100 minutes. Premasinghe was dismissed for 39. Ballale joined by Sujeewa Jayawardena took the score to 144 before Jayawardena was run out for 14. Chaminda Unnanthene joined Ballale who was batting at his best, tried to force the pace and was adjudged run out with his individual score on 81.

Ballale's match winning innings was studded with ten fours and a glorious six which landed on a roof erected behind the Old Antonians SC. Ballale was given a rousing ovation on his way back to the pavilion by the large crowd. Unnanthene, normally an aggressive bat, made 29 which had three fours and two sixes and Romesh Jayawardena 20 saw Trinity achieving their target without further loss. Trinity's 191 for 3 came in 150 minutes off 35.1 overs. The happiest man on this day was Trinity coach JA Shaw Wilson, a product of Royal College who helped the Trinities to break the 35-year-old hoodoo.

Hockey maestro and legend Dennis de Rozairo honoured in book launch

'Just Call me Dennis' a biography of a living sports legend penned by Nilanga Jayawickrema was launched earlier last month at the Burgher Recreation Club amid an august gathering.

It was a memorable sight to see sports hallmarks of yesteryear gathered to reminisce the glory days. The book is a retrospective of hockey in Sri Lanka and a first of its kind in the hockey fraternity of Sri Lanka.

Dennis de Rozairo's involvement with hockey spans six decades of playing the game at the highest level and administration of the sport with a straight stick. Gracing the occasion were special guests, Double International Chandra Schaffer founder of Janashakthi group and Hemaka Amarasuriya former Chairman Singer Sri Lanka.

The day opened with a prayer and two minutes silence for sports friends and associates, which followed a welcome address by Dennis de Rozairo himself, thanking all his tutors, sports colleagues, mentors and associates who were part of the 60 years of glory.

This was followed by the Reading of the Book by Pastor Ramesh Schaffer. Pastor Ramesh picked on some key highlights covering Dennis' preschool and college days at St. Benedict's where he shone as a sportsman showing his prowess for greater things to come and repre-



Dennis de Rozairo autographs his book at the launch as his portrait hangs in the background

senting the Ceylon hockey team as a schoolboy.

His first sports club was the United Youngsters Hockey Club in Kotahena in 1951 and then joined BRC in 1954 as a young robust lad rubbing shoulders with dons of the time and its story walking through the successes of the club in hockey.

Today Dennis serves as Patron of the BRC. Having joined Heath and Company just after leaving school, he commenced his association with

the Mercantile sector representing the MHA in their first overseas tour in 1956.

The Mercantile Hockey Association was formally inaugurated in 1957. Dennis with much dedication and hard work was elected President of the MHA in 1978 and served as its head until 2007 transforming the institution into a robust and benchmark in the sporting annals of the country.

Now at the age of 83 he serves

the MHA as an Honorary Life Member and continues to roll out his gems of advice to the younger generation. This period showed many youngsters representing Sri Lanka from the MHA which won the National Championship on eight occasions and runners-up six times and making it possible to compete in overseas tournaments seven times to give the young lads credible international exposure during his Presidency.

The book supported with many valuable pictures is a masterpiece for hockey enthusiasts. Dennis presented the first copies of the book to those who supported him producing this legacy.

Chandra Schaffer in his address recounted the early days of Ceylon hockey and Dennis' role in its progress while commending him as a solid and dependable player having held the Indian Olympic greats, the likes of Dayan Chand, Balbir Singh and Leslie Claudius when Ceylon played India and to his astounding gift as an immaculate administrator.

Dennis attitude and approach were a motivation to him and to the Mercantile sector in supporting the progress of the sport in the country. Schaffer was a Vice Patron of the MHA.

Hemaka Amarasuriya past Patron of MHA, in his address highlighted the administrative prowess

of Dennis and drawing a parallel, mentioned that he was also a good cricketer and had he taken the route to cricket, today cricket administration would have been the benefactor and at a different level.

However it would have been a loss to hockey said Schaffer.

Dennis placed institution first before self and was a strong disciplinarian, hall marks of great administrators. He wished for the MHA to have its own premises and an opportunity to place all the valuable photographs that is in the custody of him collected over the years as a motivation for the next hockey stars of the country.

Messages by the Vice Patron MHA Deva Ellapola, President BRC Lasith Nanayakara and distinguished Old Boy Felix Dias of St. Benedict's College, were delivered in respect of the great work by Dennis to Sri Lanka sport.

The legacy of a legend. A token of gratitude was presented to Helene de Rozairo by the MHA. The citation for the presentation was made by Vice President MHA Ajith de Silva COO Automotive and Hardware Browns Group who said that behind every successful man is a woman. The token was presented by Vice Patron MHA Taraka Ranwala Senior DGM Operations, Sampath Bank and Secretary MHA Asif Bari Director SRB Logistics. (AN)

Lanka Cavaliers vs Vintage CC

Lanka Cavaliers have arranged a T/20 cricket match against Vintage CC on Saturday March 27 at the Kotalawela Defence University (KDU) ground Ratmalana in memory of their late team-mate Jayalath Aponso.

The Jayalath Aponso Memorial Challenge Trophy is donated by former Antonian and Colts CC cricketer, Anjelo Liyanage, who will also sponsor the match.

Lanka Cavaliers new President, CPP Raj together with Senior Committee Members, Manoj Perera, Nalliah Devarajan, Wasanthala Fernando and Commodore Nishantha de Silva are making elaborate plans to make the event a memorable one.

The Lanka Cavaliers will be represented by; Manoj Perera, (Capt) Riyaz Farook, Renuka Nonis, PK Abeygunasekera, Duminda Pinto, Ravi Subasinghe, Mahesh Wijenayake, Chaminda Rajapaksa, Carman Mapatuna, Brijesh Jeganathan, Sanjaya Attanayake, Susantha de Mel, Sampath Wickramarachchi, Shehan Abeygunasekera, Suranjith Dharmasena and Krishan Dharmasena.

Jayalath Aponso's widow, Devi Aponso will grace the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Mastercard renews World Cup rugby partnership

A deep passion for rugby, its values and the sport's unique ability to unite are behind Mastercard renewing as a Worldwide Partner for Rugby World Cup 2023 in France.

The global payment leader becomes the tournament's preferred card and will support rugby's growth worldwide through its showcase event.

Mastercard has enjoyed a successful and long-standing relationship with Rugby World Cup since 2008, which includes the record-breaking Rugby World Cup 2019 in Japan, the first in Asia that inspired 2.25 million new rugby participants on the continent.

Mastercard will once again provide its innovation and expertise to enhance fan experience at the 10th men's Rugby World Cup in 2023.

National Super League Volleyball Championship 2021



Ceylon Electricity Board, the men's champions of the Munchee National Super League Volleyball Championship 2021 receiving the trophy from the Deputy Speaker of Parliament and President of Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation, Ranjith Siyambalapatiya and Minister of Power and Renewable Energy, Dullas Alahapperuma in the presence of Nalin B. Karunaratne, Chief Executive Officer, Ceylon Biscuits Limited. Also, in the picture are Kanchana Jayaratne, Vice President of the Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation and Anuradha Wijekoon, Secretary to the Ministry of Youth and Sports



The Army women's volleyball team accepting the Munchee National Super League Volleyball Championship 2021 trophy from Nalin B. Karunaratne, Chief Executive Officer of Ceylon Biscuits Limited and Deputy Speaker of Parliament and President of Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation, Ranjith Siyambalapatiya

SPORTS

St. Louis 1904: one of the surprising and desolate games in the history

By
Rear Admiral
Dr. Shemal
Fernando, PhD



116 years later, take a look back at some of the lasting images from the Olympic Games St. Louis 1904. The first Olympics ever to be hosted by the United States kicked off in St. Louis, Missouri on August 29, 1904. The United States won a record 239 medals - the largest ever haul in a single Summer Olympic Games in the 124 year history of the Olympic Games.

The 1904 Summer Olympics, officially known as the Games of the III Olympiad, was celebrated till September 3, 1904, as part of an extended sports program lasting four and half months. After considering Philadelphia and New York, the fledgling IOC originally awarded the 1904 Games to the city of Chicago.

Shortly after, the Committee ran into a problem in the form of St. Louis. The founder of IOC and the Modern Olympic Games, Baron Pierre de Coubertin reluctantly moved the venue to St. Louis. It was the first time that the Olympic Games were held outside Europe. Due to the difficulty of getting to St. Louis in 1904, and European tensions caused by the Russo-Japanese War, only 62 athletes from outside North America participated.

The United States contingent comprised 526 athletes whilst Canada and Germany fielded 56 and 22 respectively. Only 12 countries were represented. A total of 95 events were conducted and some combined the United States national championship with the Olympic championship. The United States secured 78 gold, 82 silver and 79 bronze medals. It was the highest gold medals won by a country until Russia won 80 at Moscow 1980 and the USA 83 at Los Angeles 1984.

At St. Louis 1904, Germany which came in second only brought home 13 medals - 4 gold, 4 silver and 5 bronze medals. Cuba won 4 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze medals to secure the third position whilst Canada came fourth with 4 gold, one silver and one bronze medals.

The Most Successful Athletes

Anton Heida of the United States who won 5 gold medals in Gymnastics in the vault, horizontal bar, pommel horse, team competition and all-around titles and a silver medal in parallel bars, undoubtedly was the most successful athlete at the 1904 Olympic Games.

Marcus Latimer Hurley of the United States who specialized in sprint cycling won 4 gold medals in 1/4 mile, 1/3 mile, 1/2 mile and mile and a bronze in 2 miles race. Later, Hurley served in World War I and was decorated.

One of the most remarkable athletes at St. Louis 1904 was the United States George Louis Eyser who competed with a wooden prosthesis for a left leg, having lost his leg after being run over by a train. Despite his disability, he won 6 medals in total, 3 gold medals (parallel bars, long horse vault and 25-foot rope climbing), 2 silver medals (pommel horse and 4-event all-around), and one bronze medal (horizontal bar). For 104 years until 2008, Eyser was the only athlete with an artificial leg to have competed at the Olympic Games.

Charles Archibald Hahn of the United States became the first athlete to win both 100m and 200m at the same Olympic Games. He won his first event of 60m, benefited from his quick start, making him a favorite for the remaining events. His feat of 21.6 sec in 200m earned him an Olympic record that would stand for 28 years. In his third event of 100m, he again outclassed the field, thus winning 3 gold medals in sprints.

Ray Ewry of the United States won gold medals in Standing Long Jump, Standing High Jump and Standing Triple Jump to secure 6 gold medals



A close photograph of the Marathon runners awaiting the start

in successive Olympics. James Lightbody of the United States won 2590m Steeplechase and 800m and then set a world record in 1500 m. Harry Hillman of the United States won 400m, 200m Hurdles and 400m Hurdles.

Multi-medalist Frank Kugler of Germany won four medals - one silver medal in freestyle wrestling and 3 bronze medals - 2 in weightlifting (Two hand lift and All-around dumb-bell) and one in tug of war (Team competition), making him the only competitor to win medals in 3 different sports disciplines at the same Olympic Games.

Myer Prinstein also of the United States won Long Jump and Triple Jump and remains the only athlete to win both events in a single Olympics. In the Discus Throw, after Americans Martin Sheridan and Ralph Rose had thrown exactly the same distance (39.28 m), the judges gave them both an extra throw. Sheridan won the decider and claimed the gold. The top non-American athlete was Emil Rausch of Germany, winning 3 gold medals in swimming.

16 Sports at St. Louis 1904

The 1904 Olympic Games were the first at which gold, silver and bronze medals were physically awarded to the winners. It featured 16 sports. Athletics program constituted 25 events whilst aquatics and gymnastics included 11 events each.

Modern Olympiads typically last a little over 2 weeks, but the 1904 Games ran for a grueling 146 days. While most of the track and field contests were held in a small window from August 29 to September 3, the rest of the events were sprinkled among several months of World's Fair sports showcases.

A review would later conclude that the 1904 Games officially ran from July 1 to November 23. Swimming and diving were considered 2 disciplines under aquatics. The swimming events were held in a temporary pond near Skinker and Wydown Boulevards, where "lifesaving demonstrations" of unsinkable lifeboats for ocean liners took place.

Archery was the only event in which women were allowed to compete. The competition involved six contestants and 45-year Lida Howell, the undisputed lady archer of the United States, coasted to gold medals in both the Double Columbia and Double National rounds.

Boxing made its Olympic debut and has since featured at every edition except at Stockholm 1912. Women also stepped into the ring but their bouts were considered display events. Amazingly, St. Louis 1904 would be the last time women boxed at the Olympics for 108 years, as the competition was not revived until London



Trainers of Thomas Hicks almost carried him to win the Marathon

2012.

Tug-of-war was a popular event at the Summer Games from 1900 until 1920. Six five-man teams gripped the ropes and the event counted as part of the track and field. Along with hosting one of the few Tug-of-war competitions, the 1904 edition are also famous for conducting the obscure "plunge for distance" diving event.

Basketball, hurling, American football and baseball were featured as demonstration sports. Gaelic football was an unofficial demonstration sport at the 1904 Olympics. Water polo is also mentioned in the game reports for the 1904 Summer Olympics.

Disputed Nationalities of Medalists

The nationalities of some medalists are disputed, as many American competitors were recent immigrants to the United States. In 2009, historians from the International Society of Olympic Historians discovered that cyclist Frank Bizzoni, formerly thought to be an American, and was still an Italian citizen when he competed in 1904, being granted US citizenship in 1917.

The IOC considers Norwegian-American wrestlers Charles Ericksen and Bernhoff Hansen to have competed for the United States; each won a gold medal. In 2012, Norwegian historians, however, found documentation showing that Ericksen did not receive American citizenship until 1905, and that Hansen probably never received American citizenship.

The historians have therefore petitioned the IOC to have the athletes registered as Norwegians. In 2013, it was reported that the Norwegian Olympic Committee had filed a formal application for changing the nationality of the wrestlers in the IOC's medal database.

Francis Gailey competed in 1904 as an Australian, and immigrated to America in 1906. He worked as a banker in California, lived for a time in Ontario, and finally settled in California in 1918. The IOC officially counts his 4 medals for the United

States, although research undertaken by Australian newspapers in 2008-09 showed that he was an Australian citizen at the time.

Gustav Gotthardt Tiefenthaler was born in Switzerland. He wrestled and won a bronze medal in 1904, and the IOC lists him under the United States. The IOC lists French-American Albert Corey as a United States competitor for his marathon silver medal, but was a French immigrant to the United States.

Anthropology Days

Alongside traditional Olympic sports, the 1904 Games included a bizarre and highly controversial event known as "Anthropology Days." As part of the contest, on August 12 and 13, "uncivilized tribes" were recruited and encouraged to try their hand. The event was billed as a display of the tribesmen's natural athletic ability.

This was the first and last time such a competition was held at the Olympic Games. Pierre de Coubertin took disapproving note of the spectacle and made a prescient observation: "As for that outrageous charade, it will of course lose its appeal when black men, red men and yellow men learn to run, jump and throw, and leave the white men behind them."

Fourteen hundred indigenous people from Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, East Asia, Africa, the Middle East, South America and North America were displayed in anthropological exhibits that showed them in their natural habitats. The sporting event itself took place with the participation of about 100 paid indigenous men.

The Strangest ever Marathon

The recorded history of 1904 Games reveals its Marathon as one of the most outrageous events in the Olympic antiquity. Nothing could conceal the hubbub caused by Fred Lorz during the event. That Marathon started and ended in Francis Stadium, which still exists today. David R. Francis, whom the stadium is named, was

at spectators and fellow runners as he passed. Hicks, came under the care of a two-man support crew at the 10-mile mark. He begged them for a drink but they refused, instead sponging out his mouth with warm distilled water.

Seven miles from the finish, his handlers fed him a concoction of strychnine and egg whites - the first recorded instance of drug use in the modern Olympics. Strychnine, in small doses, was commonly used a stimulant, and at the time there were no rules about performance-enhancing drugs. Hicks' team also carried a flask of French brandy. Meanwhile, Lorz, recovered from his cramps, emerged from his 11-mile ride in the automobile. One of Hicks' handlers saw him, but Lorz kept running and finished with a time of just under 3 hours.

The crowd roared and began chanting, "An American won!" Alice Roosevelt, the 20-year daughter of President Theodore Roosevelt, placed a wreath upon Lorz's head and was just about to lower the gold medal around his neck when, one witness reported, "someone called an indignant halt to the proceedings with the charge that Lorz was an impostor." The cheers turned to boos. Lorz smiled and claimed; he finished only for the sake of a "joke."

Hicks, the strychnine coursing through his blood, had grown ashen and limp. When he heard that Lorz had been disqualified he perked up and forced his legs into a trot. His trainers gave him another dose of strychnine and egg whites, this time with some brandy to wash it down. They fetched warm water and soaked his body and head and he appeared to revive and quickened his pace.

Marathon official Charles Lucas wrote, "Over the last 2 miles, Hicks was running mechanically, like a well-oiled piece of machinery. His eyes were dull, lusterless; the ashen color of his face and skin had deepened; his arms appeared as weights well tied down; he could scarcely lift his legs, while his knees were almost stiff. He began hallucinating, believing that the finish line was miles away. He begged and was given more and more brandy. He walked up the first of the last two hills, and then jogged down on the incline."

Swinging into the stadium, he tried to run but was reduced to a graceless shuffle. His trainers carried him over the line, holding him aloft while his feet moved back and forth, and he was declared the winner. It took four doctors and one hour for Hicks to feel well enough just to leave the grounds. He had lost eight pounds during the race, and declared, "Never in my life have I run such a tough course. The terrific hills simply tear a man to pieces."

Footprints by 2 Olympians

Two of the United States athletes of St. Louis 1904 fame stood out and shed some light on an otherwise bleary Olympic Games. An athlete, George Coleman Poage, born in Hannibal, Missouri, won bronze medals in 200m Hurdles and 400m Hurdles to become the first African-American to win Olympic medals.

Dwight Filley Davis, Sr., born in St. Louis, a 3-time Grand Slam tennis champion did a lot for St. Louis. In 1911, he became the Commissioner of St. Louis Park and contributed immensely to develop sports. He was the United States Assistant Secretary of War (1923-1925) and Secretary of War (1925-1929) as a Major General. You may recognize the name from the Davis Cup international tennis competition or the Dwight Davis Tennis Center.

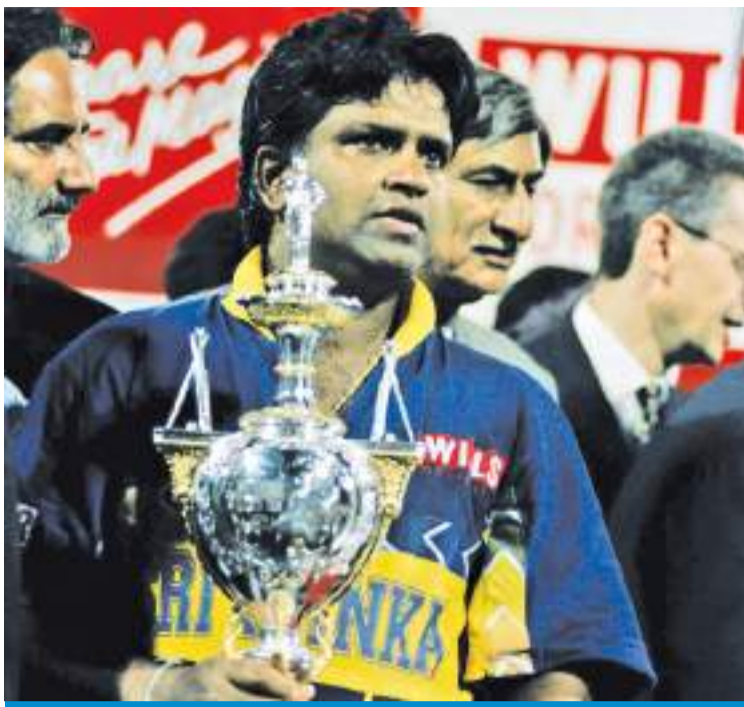
(The author highlights spectrum of sports extravaganza. He is the winner of Presidential Academic Award for Sports in 2017 and 2018 and recipient of National Accolades for Academic pursuits. He possesses a PhD, MPhil and double MSc)



Swimming at St. Louis 1904 Olympics



The start of the 400m at St. Louis 1904 Olympics



When Sri Lanka conquered cricket's Mount Everest

BY ELMO RODRIGOPULLE

It is a memory that is burished in gold in my cricketing memory. For how else can one describe the silver jubilee of the winning of the 1995/96 Wills World Cup final defeating Australia in the final at Lahore, Pakistan.

It was an action packed day at the 'Daily News' Sports Desk. On that memorable night my editor Manik de Silva realizing the importance of that 'Final' presciently expecting a victory, called me in as the Sports Editor and wanted the action grandly displayed on page one. Rarely do sports events make that grade. But this was a Special!

Keeping me company on that night listening to the radio and watching the action on TV and jotting down the details of the exciting action with Sri Lanka heading for a epoch making win was Dinesh Weerawansa who is now the Editor in Chief of the Sunday Observer.

When skipper Arjuna Ranatunga guided a delivery through slips to the third man

boundary to signal a Sri Lankan victory all hell broke loose in Colombo ---and I suspect in other cities too---with drivers tooting their horns relentlessly and the deafening sound of fire crackers. Dinesh sat by my side and dictated the points for the article I had to do as the lead story on page one.

At that time there were no lap tops or computers and I had to hammer the story on a rickety old type writer. Once I finished the story, it was sent to the VDT for setting with Dinesh and I doing the proof reading. We kept to the deadline and I came up with the following headline - SRI LANKA CONQUERS CRICKET'S MOUNT EVEREST.

The next morning Editor Manik de Silva with a broad smile on his face congratulated us for a job well done. That was satisfying.

That page one is now framed and hanging at the Cricket Cafe restaurant down Flower Road and in the history books of Sri Lanka Cricket.

How we and all cricket lovers yearn for those days to be replayed!



The champion Army team at last week's rowing nationals made up of Chinthaka, Senaratne, Bandara and Medonza on their way to the finish (Pix by Nirosh Batepola)

Army emerge surprise rowing champions

It was a surprise to see the rowers from Army emerge overall champions at the National Rowing Championships that was held on March 12 and 13 at the Diyawanna rowing centre in Battaramulla.

They emerged the Intermediate men's champions but the women shared the four gold medals and finished on equal terms and thus a champion's champion team could not be decided on.

Events for the school children in different age groups could not held due to the covid-19 pandemic. Events were worked out smoothly on calm waters during bright weather conditions.

Now the selectors are busy choosing the best rowers to form a pool who will go into training shortly. They will focus on the Asian Games to be held in two years time and winning the gold medal.

President of the Rowing Association Dimuth Gunawardane said that they have two years to train hard so that they can be good enough to win a medal at the Asian Games.

"Most countries train continuously for many years and excel on the day of the event. This is why they are winners at Games of this level. Now we also will be able to feed the rowers with nutritious food and make them strong and ready for the event in two years time," said Gunawardane. (TBR)

RESULTS:

- Intermediate men (Quad)**
1. Army: (AV Dharshana, HM Ratnayake, AS Hettiarachchi 6m 32.12 secs.
 2. KDU 'A': (Uvein Rajapakse, Venin Rajapaksha, Ashan 6m 36.58 secs.
- Women's Intermediate (Quad)**
1. KDU 'A' (Navindi Thisari, Natasha Madushani, Sendaru Perera, Thisuri Yahampath. 8m 11.64 secs.
 2. Army RIS Samaranyake, BMM Perera, GD Godagampola, THS Wahihenge 8m 21.39 secs.
- Men's Intermediate (doubles)**
1. Army 'B' (AV Dharshana, EM Dasanayake, 7m 10.96 secs.
 2. Army 'A' (AS Hettiarachchi, EKS Harshana 7m 20.47 secs.
- Women's Intermediate (scull)**
1. CRC 'A' (Hashini Hettigoda 8m 56.21,
 2. CRC 'B' (Panchali Hewamanna 9m 10.02
 3. Army (RIS Samaranyake 9m 31.75
- Women's Open (pairs)**
1. Army 'A' (SK. Weerakoon, SSA Soorasena 8m 02.36.
 2. CRC 'A' (Ashvini Subasinghe, Anithara Fernando 8m. 08.83.
- Women's Open (double scull)**
1. Army (MB Liyanage, PP Weerasinghe 8m. 00.96
 2. UDC (Nadani Mendis, Ranmalee Nanayakkara 9m 14.08



Dimuth Gunawardane (Rowing Association president)



Rohan Fernando (Ex-Rowing Association president)



Intermediate women's winners Madhushani Natasha, Thisuri Yahampath, Sendura Perera and Navindi Tissari being presented their medals

Musaeus girl goes places in chess

Sanudula Dahamdi of Musaeus College proved herself as the leading player in the under-14 age by winning the Group X of the second Sri Lanka Youth (Under 14) Chess Grand Prix 2021 with a lead of 1 ½ points to all others in both groups at the Chess Federation of Sri Lanka.

She scored a total of 9 ½ points out of a possible 11 games. She won both her games against Pamok Samaranyake and Insara Wickramaratne.

The second Sri Lanka Youth Chess Grand Prix 2021 conducted by the Chess Federation of Sri Lanka with a total number of 24 leading players of the age group in the country is in progress with two round robin events of two groups of 12 players and the winner and the runner up in both groups will meet in the knocked out stage today (21).



Sanudula Dahamdi



SDBK Seneviratne

The Chess Federation has offered Rs. 55,000 in cash.

Dinul Vinsitha Weerasekara of Dharmapala Vidyalaya, Pannipitiya scored eight points out of 11 games in Group X to be placed second. Dinul beat Malisha Weeratunge in the 10th round and drew with MM Nanayakkara to win the Silver medal.

SDBK Seneviratne of Maliyadeva College tied with Brijesh Saravanahavan of Gateway College with eight points each and won the gold medal in Group Y on the better tie breaker. Seneviratne lost to Disara Tennakoon in the 10th round and beat Jayandi Bimansa in the final round to complete his achievement. Brijesh drew both

his games in 10th and 11th rounds with Dinayana Thinuga and Kaviska Gimshan Laksiri respectively to score eight points, but had to be satisfied with the Silver medal on the tie breaker.

Vivash Samarakoon of Royal College who was leading the Group Y of the event in first half of the event managed to win the Bronze medal on the better tie breaker after tying with Gimshan Laksiri of Asoka Vidyalaya scoring seven points each.

Dishal Nimsara Weerasekara of Sri Chandananda Buddhist College Kandy won the third place with 7 ½ points out of 11. Dishal was unfortunate to lose 1 ½ points out of 2 on the last day. He lost his penultimate round game to Insara Wickramarachchi and had to be satisfied with a draw against KSCD Amarathunge in the final game to reach the position. (D.R)

All systems ready for Mayor's Cup hockey

BY TB RAHAMAN

Twelve teams have been selected to participate in the Mayor's Challenge Trophy Hockey Tournament to be held from April 1 to 4 at the Astro turf in Colombo. This tournament is conducted for the first time by the Colombo Municipal Council and is offering cash prizes to the winners.

The dozen teams will be divided into four groups and will be played on a league basis. The two teams that finish on top of each group will play in the quarter-finals. The winners will play in the semi-finals.

The champion team will receive a cash prize of Rs. 100,000, the runners-up Rs. 50,000 and the third placed team Rs. 30,000.

The teams in their respective groups are as follows:

Group A: Old DSS Sports Club, Mastaris SC Matale and BRC

Group B: Kandy HA, Air Force SC and Army SC

Group C: Old Royal SC, Old Nalandians SC and Navy SC

Group D: CH & FC, CMC and Police SC.

Though the Forces teams were leading in hockey they selected the club teams that have performed well during the local tournaments.

These details were revealed at the media briefing held at the BRC auditorium on Thursday (18).

The Opening Ceremony will be held at 7 a.m. on April 1 and the first match will begin at 8 a.m. Six matches will be played on the first two days. The quarter-finals will be played on April 3, the semi-finals and final at 3.30 p.m. on April 4.

The tournament is sponsored by My Cola Beverages who have agreed to sponsor this event for five years and MAF Cargo.

Roshanie Dissanayake the Commissioner of CMC said that they will continue to conduct sports tournaments in the years ahead. She said that they will select sports persons into their Council as they have all facilities to help enhance their skills further. They are also taking steps to improve hockey in the country and will conduct an all island hockey tournament in the near future.

Dissanayake also added that they hope to conduct similar tournaments in athletics, football and 16 other sports in the future as Sri Lanka is full of sports loving people.

Most sports have their own venues and the CMC hope to build a stadium for hockey from one of the 29 venues they have in Colombo.

Damayanthi Dharsha contests VP post at SLA

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Asian Gold medallist Damayanthi Dharsha will contest the post of vice president when Sri Lanka Athletics (SLA) conduct their elections on April 24.

The 200m and 400m champion athlete Dharsha retired from athletics in 2007 and will contest through Track Masters SC.

There are seven posts for vice

presidents and already 14 nominations have been received. Six men and one woman are expected to be elected. Irangani Rupasinghe (University) is the other woman who has sent in her nomination for the vice president's post.

The male candidates vying for the posts of VP are Prasanna Indika (Mercantile), Chandana Ekanayake (Kandy), Anil Weerasinghe (Schools), GLS Perera (Lanka Li-

ons), Lal Chandrakumara (Kurunegala), Gnanasiri Silva (Kalutara), AH Akmal (Trincomalle), HW Nimalasiri (Colombo), Major General Mahinda Mudalige (Galle), Major General Narendra Ranasinghe (Army), S. Thanuraj (Kilinochchi) and Ajith Naragala (Ratnapura).

Current president Major General Palitha Fernando, secretary Prema Pinnawale, treasurer Shantha Lal de Silva and recorder Sa-



Damayanthi Dharsha man Kumara Gunawardena will be uncontested.

With Sri Lanka Athletics (SLA) celebrating the centenary year in 2022 these officials are bound to have a grand ceremony.

TT prodigy aiming for bigger goals

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Promising table tennis player Senura Silva is ambitious to win a gold medal at the South Asian Games and is hard at training.

The 15 year old from Ananda College won the junior National championship in 2018 and 2019 and was adjudged the most outstanding player on both occasions. He was able to win four titles, the under-15, under-18 singles events, under-18 doubles and mixed doubles events.

Senura Silva is born to parents of table tennis fame. His father Indika Prasad was a national runner-up and his mother Deepika Rodrigo was



Senura Silva

a woman's national champion. They are behind the success of their son Senura.

Senura has been watching his parents play from childhood. He began playing at the age of four years.

He is currently ranked third in the men's Open category and is a top ranked junior player.

A Gold medalist at the 2019 South Asian Hopes, Cadet and Junior Table Tennis Championship, Nepal, he represented the Sri Lanka senior national team at the 24th Asian Table Tennis championship in Indonesia in 2019. In addition he was the youngest table tennis competitor at the 2019 South Asian Games held in Kathmandu, Nepal to become the first Anandian to represent Sri Lanka in the sport being a member of the bronze medal winning team.

"My father Indika is my coach and mother Deepika always encourages

me to go forward. I was just eight years old when I won my first local tournament the Western Province event. I first represented Sri Lanka at the junior level at the age of 11 in 2016 and the senior category at the age of 14 in 2019," said Senura.

"I practice about three hours a day. I am confident of achieving my goals with hard work and training. I am grateful to all the support I received, especially from my former Principal Kithsiri Liyanagamage and present Principal S.M. Keerthiratne at Ananda College," said Senura who has received a two-year scholarship from the National Olympic Committee's Crysbro Next Olympic hope project.



Commissioner Roshanie Dissanayake (Centre) receiving the sponsorship cheque from Lion Murad Amirdeen (left) (Director MFA Cargo). Mashanka Liyanage Director of Sports and Recreation is on the right

SPORT

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MARCH 21, 2021

New beginning dawns for school cricketers

By
Dinesh
WeerawansaSINCE 1978
43rdOBSERVER SLT-MOBITEL
SCHOOL CRICKETER
OF THE YEAR 2021

Recognizing talent, inspiring greatness.



Former Sri Lanka opening batsman and ex-Sri Lanka head coach Marvan Atapattu who was adjudged the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year 1990

from school cricket to international cricket.

"During my school days I had been performing well and scoring consistently for Ananda College as a schoolboy cricketer and many considered me as a future Sri Lanka prospect. Although I too had that feeling and thought that I had a chance to play for Sri Lanka, there was no guarantee at that time," he said.

But Atapattu said his crowning glory as the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year 1991 gave him an assurance that he could play for Sri Lanka.

"All those players who had won the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year title before me had gone on to play for Sri Lanka with distinction. Hence, when I won the title, I too knew that I could join that select band, provided I work hard," Atapattu said.

Recalling the early era of his career, Atapattu said he was always considered to be a prospect to play for Sri Lanka.

"I worked harder with a vision and I dedicated myself to achieve that goal. I finally made it to the Sri Lanka team shortly after winning the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year title," the 50-year-old former Sri Lanka opening batsman said.

Young Atapattu was called to make his Test debut against India in the one-off Test in Chandigarh on November 23, 1990 only a few months after winning the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year crown.

But Atapattu had the most inauspicious Test debut collecting only one run in his first three Tests with a pair of ducks in his debut. But once he overcame that bad patch, he came out with some classy innings as a batsman.

In reply to India's first innings total of 288 all out, Sri Lanka were

bowled out for 82 in Atapattu's debut Test. Five Sri Lankan batsmen were out for 'ducks' without troubling the scorers in the first innings. They were Hashan Tillakaratne, Rumesh Ratnayake, Greame Labrooy, Jayananda Warnaweera and debutant Atapattu.

Sri Lanka, made to follow on, were bowled out for 198 runs in the second essay – once again with five batsmen failing to open their accounts – Asanka Gurusinha, Rumesh Ratnayake, Labrooy, Warnaweera and Atapattu.

Despite his failure in the first three Tests of his career, there was no stopping him when he finally found his natural form and rhythm to reach the highest level. In a marathon 90 Tests for Sri Lanka, Atapattu aggregated 5,502 runs at an average of 39.02. His Test career was decorated with 16 centuries, including six double tons and 17 fifties with a career best Test innings of 249.

Unwanted competition in school cricket and pressure to win matches at any cost has prevented schools from producing talented players to feed the national pool, according to Atapattu.

"We often see most school teams go all out to win matches, rather than targeting to produce top cricketers who could play for Sri Lanka. Be it an inter-school match, or at any level of competition for that matter, one team has to win."

"But that does not necessarily mean that the standard of that particular school team has improved. What is important for a school is the number of players they produce to play for Sri Lanka," the veteran cricketer said.

Atapattu sees a huge gap between present day school cricket and international level, compared to his school days. "Now, you can hardly identify a schoolboy cricketer and directly pre-

dict that he would play for Sri Lanka," he said.

He does not find any fault with players but says that the improper guidance and coaching that the players have been forced to undergo and pressurized by undue competition to win matches at any cost, have killed young talent.

"It is fair to put the blame on players. But we must find fault with the wrong guidance and coaching they have received. Old boys, principals, school masters and coaches are only interested in winning matches, rather than producing quality cricketers to play for Sri Lanka. This is where our game has gone wrong at school level," he said.

Players switching schools and coaches trying to 'import' outstanding players from outstation schools to make champion teams have affected school cricket, according to Atapattu, who had played the role of a dependable Test opener for 17 long years until 2007.

"Offering a chance to a top player or two from the outstations could be approved as an inspiration to outstation cricketers. That should be a must," he said.

Reliable former Sri Lanka opener Atapattu, better known for his superb technique as a batsman, said they had a huge respect for coaches during their era.

"I wonder whether the present-day players have the same respect for their coaches. Some teams say they have obtained the services of level one coaches but their ability to produce and offer proper guidance and coaching to the players could be questionable. We have to be careful in making right selections," he said.

Out of 16 centuries scored by Atapattu, six were big double hundreds. He has six Test double-hundreds in his career, a feat bettered only by Sir Don Bradman (12), Wally Hammond and Brian Lara, who have scored seven each.

Meanwhile, the contest for the 43rd Observer-Mobitel Most Popular School Cricketer will commence shortly.

Chairman of Sri Lanka Telecom and SLT Mobitel, Rohan Fernando has always promoted sports activities in Sri Lanka in a big way 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 Thoman ace rower.

The management of Lake House has strongly backed the Mega Show.

The ANCL Chairman, W. Dayaratne PC and its 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.



BY ELMO RODRIGOPULLE

Lankans drowning in the 'river of no return' in L/O cricket?

Sri Lanka's limited over cricket as the perennial saying goes is in 'the river of no return'. We say this after watching our cricketers performing in the T20s and 50-over games against the West Indies concluded in the Caribbean. They were poor opponents in both formats.

Our cricketers in both formats of play seem clueless, not knowing how to play these games and play it in a winning way. For starters their approach was patently faulty. There was no sense of interest, urgency and intensity. They were just going through the motions, and marking the card that they played, and should be paid, I might add.

It is sad when one thinks of the brilliant cricketers who played in the past. They were treats to watch and worthy of admiration and emulation.

In the last two games the Lankans made formidable scores of over 270 which looked winning totals.

In these styles of cricket it is essential that the bowlers bowl wicket to wicket or on one side of the wicket. The bowlers are at the moment seemingly clueless of this necessity and are spraying the ball here, there, everywhere and nowhere and the Windies batsmen who are the hardest hitters of the ball in these games take these purposeless and aimless bowling to the fence or over it with ease as the sixes they hit prove.

Now that the Lankans have gifted the T20 and 50-over series to the Windies, we hope they will at least raise themselves from the canvas that the Windies have boxed and knocked them down and perform better in the two Test series keeping in mind that Test cricket is what the game is all about.

To that obstructing the fielder incident which is still a controversy that took place in the first one-day game where Windies captain Kieron Pollard was made to look the villain for appealing against batsman Dhanushka Gunathilaka obstructing him in making an attempt to run out the none-striker, the writer is convinced that it all happened in the heat of the moment.

To accuse Pollard of appealing is 'not cricket'. He appealed, the on-field umpires referred the incident to the third umpire for a decision. The third umpire after going through many of the replays, ruled the batsman out. And there ends the matter.

Pollard's critics took him to task, saying he was wrong in appealing and that he should have revoked it saying he was not a sport. But the critics did not have the guts to praise Pollard for warning non-striker Ashen Bandara for leaving the crease before he had delivered the ball.

Had Pollard effected the stumping the umpire would have ruled the batsman out. After all if Pollard had run out the batsman he was playing to the rules. He would have been blasted for not playing in the spirit.

As for the writer as long as you play to the rules is what matters and to hell with the spirit. Playing in or to the spirit was hit out of the game and the ground with the introduction of filthy lucre into the game. Today winning is not the thing, it is everything. So let us not lynch Pollard for his action. Let not Sri Lanka make that an excuse for losing the game.

Then what seemed like a comic strip was the acting of Sri Lanka's head coach Mickey Arthur. He seemed to be furious running up and down and only he would be knowing what he was attempting to do. We can understand his anger. A decision has been made and as a coach he should keep his cool and say what he felt after the game.

One recalls the incident where Greg Chappell the Australian captain made his brother Trevor bowl an under arm ball to a New Zealand batsman. Chappell had the stuffings taken out of him for not playing to the spirit. But Chappell was playing to the rules and the ICC was forced to eject that rule from the book.

Football selectors

Football in Sri Lanka is primarily called the poor man's game. Although it is not getting the necessary puff what with dreaded covid-19 still threatening, when it comes to appointing national selectors the Football Federation is an example.

At the time of writing the FFSL is conducting the pre league tournament and the selectors are present watching hawk-eyed to pick talent with international tournaments on the cards.

To name the selectors who are all former top notch players – Asoka Ravindra (chairman), Damoderam Chandrasiri, Naina Mohamed, Mohamed Hassim Deen and Mohammed Zaheer. They sported the country's jersey with pride and deserved their positions.

Outstanding among them is Chandrasiri a goal keeper who was second to none during his time. He played and captained St. Benedict's College and later Old Bens and went on to 'keep' in the Bangladesh Professional League.

In addition he is a double International having represented the school and later the country in basketball. He later coached his school to become Champions in many tournaments. He was a Benedictine sports Legend.

Heading the FFSL and setting an example is another Old Benedictine Anura de Silva who became the second to head this national sports body. The first was Hurley Silveira, a nephew of the famous Lawrence Fernando who kept the game at a high level as coach and administrator in the FFSL and revived football at the famous Ratnam Sports Club.

Anura was a rare player during his time for SBC and Old Bens and the country playing in the most difficult position as centre half. He excelled in his position and reminded the writer of another player who was par excellence in that position, the great Mahinda Aluvihare.

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The inter-school under-19 limited over cricket tournament which began last week will take place with great enthusiasm as sports activities returned to schools after exactly one year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The preliminary round league stage, where a team will play five first round league games in the one-day tournament will conclude on April 9, according to the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association (SLSCA) Secretary JKAS Indrajith.

He said the 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.

After all first round league matches of the division 1, 2 and 3 tournaments conclude on April 9, the final round matches from the quarter finals will begin after the Sinhala and Tamil New Year on April 18.

The final of the Division Two tournament will be played on May 1, followed by the Division One final on May 2. A total of 36 teams are taking part in the Division One tournament while another 35 teams will vie for honours in the Division Two tournament.

Meanwhile, the postponed 42nd Observer-SLT Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year mega awards ceremony will now be held on April 20 after the local health authorities gave a fresh approval to go ahead with the Show.

The health authorities have given their final approval to the Sunday Observer, together with the sponsors Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel, to conduct event after the Sinhala and Tamil New Year which also marks the reopening of the schools for the second term.

The officials of the Sunday Observer and Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel, together with the event organizers, met recently at Lake House to finalize the arrangements.

The re-opening of all schools from late next month for the second term after the Covid-19 pandemic will once again give enjoyable time not only for school cricketers but all students.

Sports in schools, especially cricket, have already commenced and are progressing gradually. Not only the co-curricular activities but also the extra-curricular activity had been completely affected due to Covid-19 and now that the green light is switched on by the authorities, school children are to catch up on their lost time both in studies as well as sports activities.

Needlessly to say that all schoolboys consider the Observer-Mobitel Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year as an unofficial guarantee for a schoolboy to sport the Sri Lanka cap.

Among the many who believe that the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer is the turning point in their lives is former Sri Lanka captain and ex-Sri Lanka national coach Marvan Atapattu who feels that the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer title he won in 1990 is a 'certificate or a guarantee' that he would play for Sri Lanka.

In a recent interview, Atapattu said that winning of the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer title was a turning point in his career that transformed him

British cycling doctor, found guilty, struck off medical register

LONDON (AFP) Former British Cycling and Team Sky chief doctor Richard Freeman was permanently struck off the medical register on Friday after being found guilty of ordering banned testosterone.

The Medical Practitioners Tribunal found last week that Freeman ordered Testogel "knowing or believing" it was to be given to an unnamed rider for doping purposes in 2011.

The long-running tribunal said on Friday that Freeman's behaviour was "fundamentally incompatible with continued registration".

The sanction came a day after it ruled Freeman's fitness to practise was "impaired by reason of his misconduct".

In its decision on sanctions, the tribunal said: "Erasure is the only sufficient sanction which would protect patients, maintain public confidence in the profession and send a clear message to Dr Freeman, the profession and the



Richard Freeman

public that his misconduct constituted behaviour which was incompatible with that of a registered doctor.

"The tribunal therefore determined that Dr Freeman's name be erased from

the medical register." This means he will no longer be able to work as a doctor in the UK.

Freeman, 61, had previously admitted 18 of 22 charges against him but denied the central charge regarding the purpose of the Testogel order.

A central plank of his defence was that he ordered the testosterone to treat former performance director Shane Sutton's erectile dysfunction – something the Australian vehemently denied while giving evidence in 2019.

In its ruling last week the tribunal said it "did not believe he ordered the Testogel for Mr Sutton".

There has been a frenzy of questions about who the drug was intended for and who else might have known about it.

Former Tour de France champion Bradley Wiggins has called for a fresh probe into the scandal, which is a major blow to the reputation of one of Britain's flagship Olympic sports.

Freeman, who was simultaneously employed by British Cycling and Team Sky – now Ineos Grenadiers – between 2009 and 2015, resigned from British Cycling in 2017 because of ill-health. He had already left Team Sky.

He spoke about his shock at last week's verdict that he had doped a rider in an interview with Britain's Mail on Sunday.

"It's unbelievable," he said, referring to the tribunal ruling. "I have never doped a rider in my life. I'm still to see any evidence of who this rider supposedly was." Freeman is also facing two UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) charges regarding the ordering of the testosterone.

The doctor has been at the centre of a number of controversies.

He took delivery of a mystery package at the 2011 Criterium du Dauphine race in France, the contents of which remain unconfirmed despite a UKAD investigation that lasted 14 months.

BUSINESS

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BIZ SNIPPETS

Russian billionaire visits Port City Colombo

Prominent Russian business tycoon Andrey Melnichenko visited Port City Colombo last week. He was accompanied by Sri Lankan-born British politician and former EU Parliamentarian Niranjan Deva Aditya.

Melnichenko is a self-made billionaire with major investments in Switzerland based fertilizer giant EuroChem Group and Russia based coal energy company SUEK.

He was warmly welcomed by Port City Colombo Assistant Managing Directors Yue Yeqing and Thulci Aluwihare with Director Sales and Marketing Yamuna Jayaratne. The delegation was briefed on the Port City Colombo project, its construction progress and future developments by Radhika Ellepola, Country Manager Sales and Investor Relations.

Board of Investment Chairman, Sanjaya Mohottala, Director General Pasan Wanigasekara and corporate sector veteran Rajan Brito were also present.



An oil price 'supercycle' is unlikely

Will crude oil prices continue their recent dramatic boom as the pandemic recovery takes hold? Perhaps not.

The International Energy Agency said Wednesday that it does not expect oil to enter a "supercycle," or extended period during which prices rise well above their long-run trend.

"Oil's sharp rally to near \$70 per barrel has spurred talk of a new supercycle and a looming supply shortfall. Our data and analysis suggest otherwise," the IEA said in its latest monthly report. Some analysts are expecting crude prices to surge near \$100 per barrel as coronavirus lockdowns end and travel resumes. But the IEA, which monitors energy market trends for the world's richest countries, thinks there is too much oil sloshing around global markets for a supercycle to take hold.



Fed leaves rates near zero

The Federal Reserve left interest rates near zero mid last week and said it would continue to use all the tools in its arsenal to support the still bouncing-back US economy.

But it struck a somewhat more hawkish tone in its monetary policy update, saying it is prepared to "adjust the stance of monetary policy as appropriate if risks emerge."

One of these risks could be a spike in inflation, which the Fed expects will move higher, albeit temporarily, in the coming months. Other risks could be public health, labor market and financial market conditions. By December, price increases will be at 2.4%, Fed officials predicted - higher than their December estimate of 1.8% and slightly ahead of the central bank's target of around 2%.



Avoiding money creation

Pruning consumption, borrowings from CB, commercial banks, the way forward -Former senior Central Banker

Money creation could have been avoided had the Government pruned consumption expenditure, stopped borrowings from the Central Bank and commercial banks and promoted revenue earnings from exports and foreign direct investments, said a former senior Central Banker.

Money creation could have been

avoided had the Government increased its revenue base, pruned expenditure, specifically its consumption expenditure and borrowing from the people instead of borrowing from the Central Bank and commercial banks," former Central Bank Deputy Governor Dr. W.A. Wijewardena said.

He said to repay foreign debt immediately, Sri Lanka has no choice other than borrow more from the international markets and in the long run by increasing its foreign exchange earnings via the export of goods and services, attracting remittances and Foreign Direct Investments over and above the country's

foreign exchange payments. "Resorting to the IMF for support is not a substitute for money creation because it is given to the Central Bank to wade through the shortage of foreign exchange in the market," Dr. Wijewardena said, adding that money printing is neither the last nor the first resort but something being

done by modern governments which issue paper money based on fractional reserves held by their central banks. "What we mean by fractional reserves is that unlike in the good old days where money was supported by 100% backing of either gold or foreign exchange reserves, modern Central Banks..."

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World Water Day - 'Valuing Water'

"PREVENTING WATER, SOIL POLLUTION, KEY FOR FOOD SECURITY"

By **Lalin Fernandopulle**



The United Nations celebrates World Water Day on March 22 every year to raise awareness of the global water crisis. The core focus of the observance is to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.

The theme of this year's World Water Day 2021 is 'Valuing Water'. The value of water is about much more than its economic value - water

has enormous and complex value for our households, food, culture, health, education, economics and the integrity of our natural environment.

The Rehabilitation of Degraded Agricultural Land Project (RDALP) of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has launched a series of initiatives to stop water and soil pollution in the central highlands of Sri Lanka, said the National Project Manager Nimal Gunasena.

Water is an essential input for food production and therefore crucial for food security. Water is also an important land resource. All sustainable Land Management (SLM) initia-

tives of the RDALP have mainly focused on soil and water. "We have launched a series of programs in the Kandy, Badulla and Nuwara Eliya districts to stop water and soil pollution, conservation of watersheds and micro catchments and improve ground water recharge," Gunasena said.

He said that soil and water pollution from unsustainable agriculture is the most serious issue. According to studies, inorganic fertiliser use in Welimada is two times higher than the recommended amount. Government incentives such as fertiliser subsidy given to increase food security have encouraged farmers to use more inorganic fertiliser. Now the

government is introducing various programs to reduce inorganic fertiliser use. To support the government's programs RDALP encourages farmers to adopt SLM and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to reduce chemical fertiliser usage and soil pollution, prevent soil erosion and improve soil quality.

FAO has introduced portable soil test kits and site-specific fertiliser recommendation programs and it has supported to cut inorganic fertiliser usage significantly.

With the success of the program FAO also provided 100 soil test kits to the Ministry of Agriculture to further expand soil test-based fertiliser application, he said.

Enlisting SMEs in 'Made in Sri Lanka' portal to boost exports

The volume of exports by small and medium scale enterprises will be increased by enhancing their visibility through the 'Made in Sri Lanka' online portal, said National Enterprise Development Authority (NEDA) Chairman Anushka Gunasinghe at the Western Province Entrepreneurship Awards ceremony 2020 recently. The awards ceremony conducted by NEDA and the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka was held at the BMICH on March 10. "We will enlist the micro, small and medium sector enterprises in the website this year enabling them to showcase their products and services and compete in the global market," Gunasinghe said. Despite the immense contribution made by the SME sector to the economy its exports are yet around 10-12 percent.

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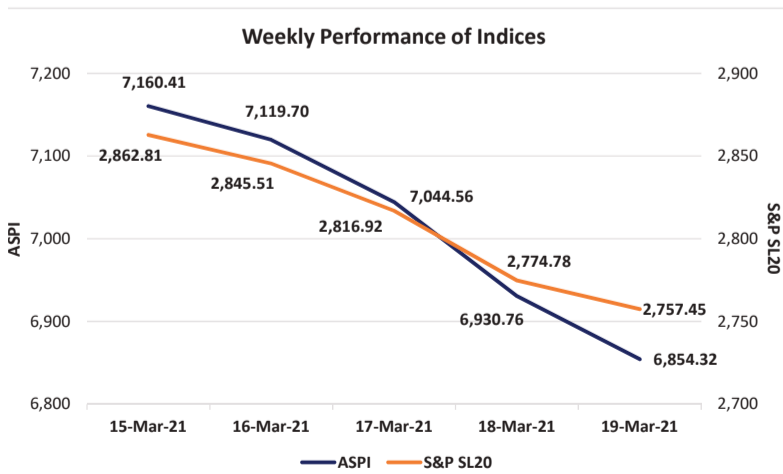
The value of water is about much more than its economic value - water has enormous and complex value for our households, food, culture, health, education, economics and the integrity of the natural environment. Pic: Wimal Karunathilaka

Much potential in migration tourism

BY DIETMAR DOERING

All recent commendable efforts undertaken by Sri Lanka's Tourism authorities to promote and attract more tourism traffic to Sri Lanka are continuously challenged by the ever developing Covid-19 scenario. Covid-19 had emerged to be the prime obstacle to promote traffic of tourists anywhere in the world. Experts envisage that for the next two to three years no significant changes can be expected, contributed by an increasing lack of acceptance for the vaccines, after cases surfaced showing heavy side effects in patients' health only days after being vaccinated. However, a few countries such as the UAE, Sweden, South Africa and some South American countries have...

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EXCHANGE RATES

Mar 15 - Mar 19	US Dollar \$	Euro €	Japanese yen ¥	Pound sterling £	Chinese Yuan ¥
Monday	198.96	238.83	1.8345	278.53	30.834
Tuesday	200.06	239.47	1.8442	278.54	30.977
Wednesday	201.75	240.66	1.8585	281.06	31.237
Thursday	201.50	241.99	1.8585	282.24	31.265
Friday	200.19	238.77	1.8410	278.54	30.887

Daily wage tussle

Up-country People's Front welcomes profit-sharing model

BY P. KRISHNASWAMY

While the tussle between trade unions and the Regional Plantation Companies (RPCs) over the Rs.1,000 wage increase to the plantation workers is perpetuating, one major union



Radhakrishnan

the Up-Country People's Front (UPF) - said it welcomes the 'profit-share system' proposed by the plantation companies. It should be the initial mechanism for the plantation estates transforming as plantation villages and...

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Leveraging on close proximity to maritime silk route

Lanka's potential to mark global transportation presence immense - Hanif Yusoof

Sri Lanka enjoys the geographical advantage of being in close proximity to the maritime silk route and having less congestions and delays compared to regional airports it should leverage on the benefits to mark its presence in the global transport industry, said Expolanka Holdings CEO Hanif Yusoof in an interview with the Sunday Observer Business last week.

He said the right mix of infrastructure development, streamlined processes and industry best practices will enable to achieve the feat soon. Expolanka Holdings, a global diversified conglomerate is looking at expanding its local and international customer offerings this year. The Group specialised in logistics, leisure and

investments performed well withstanding the pandemic maximising on opportunities emerging from the global crisis. "We were able to do well even during the height of the crisis was largely due to our ability to adapt to challenges and maximise on opportunities that arose out of the pandemic," Yusoof said, adding that while the company continues to grow its freight arm of the business, it plans to look at areas such as "We believe that it is vital to be part of a wider section..."

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Hanif

Business

Build mental resilience for physical performance



BIZ TALK with **Kishu Gomes**

Whether you are going into work or working from home, the Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way you work. Fear and anxiety about Covid-19 is still far from over. Emotions are still overwhelming, and workplace stress is pretty much one of the biggest challenges.

How your employees cope with these emotions can affect the well-being of the people you care about, your workplace, and your community.

It is critical that you recognise what stress looks like, take steps to build your resilience and manage job stress, and know how to best manage it for sustained business results.

As the spread and far-reaching impact of Covid-19 still dominates world news, we have all been witnessing and experiencing the parallel spread of worry, anxiety, and instability - seems like there is no

end to it but our lives have to go on. In a crisis situation such as this, our mental state often seems only to exacerbate an already extremely challenging situation, becoming a major obstacle in itself. Why is this and how can we change it?

Mind gets distracted naturally
Even without a constant barrage of bad or worrisome news, your mind's natural tendency is to get distracted. During times of crisis - such as those we are living through now - this tendency is exacerbated, and the mind can become even more hooked by obsessive thinking, and feelings of fear and helplessness.

When your mind gets stuck in this state, a chain reaction begins. Fear begins to narrow your field of vision, and it becomes harder to see the bigger picture and the positive, creative possibilities in front of you. As perspective shrinks, so too does our tendency to connect with others.

To overcome this natural tendency we need to build our mental resilience through mindfulness. Mental resilience is very important to overcome challenges, especially in challenging times like the present, means managing our minds in a way that increases our ability to face a disaster and to manage the real consequences of a disaster not allowing a compounding effect.

Resilience is the skill of noticing our own thoughts, unhooking from the non-constructive ones, and



rebalancing quickly. This skill can be nurtured and trained.

Look out the window

Despair and fear can lead to overreactions. Often, it feels better to be doing something rather than just living with uncomfortable emotions. In the past several months, you all have felt disappointment and frustration with important business

initiatives that have been adversely impacted by Covid-19.

But, have you been trying to meet this frustration with reflection versus immediate reaction. Your mind needed space to unhook from the swirl of bad news and to settle into a more stable position from which good planning and leadership can emerge. Less action and spend-

ing more time looking out your window and reflecting can help. This way you will have clearer answers about how best to move forward, both personally and as a leader.

Compassion

The present climate of fear can also create stigmas and judgments about who is to blame and who is to be avoided, along with a dark, surviv-

In a crisis situation such as this, our mental state often seems only to exacerbate an already extremely challenging situation, becoming a major obstacle in itself. Why is this and how can we change it?

alist "every person for himself or herself" mindset and behaviour. We can easily forget our shared vulnerability and interdependence.

But meaningful connection can occur even from the recommended one meter of social distance between you and your neighbor - and it begins with compassion. Compassion is the intention to be of benefit to others and it starts in the mind.

Practically speaking, compassion starts by asking yourself one question as you go about your day and connect, virtually and in person with others. How can I help this person to have a better day and better performance is the right attitude to have? With that simple question, amazing things begin to happen. The mind expands, the eyes open to who and what is really in front of us, and we see possibilities for ourselves and others that are rich with hope and ripe with opportunity. A resilient mind-set is the solution for resilience in performance - your individual reliance will determine the power of organisational resilience. So get your mind to fight the natural distraction which would at the end win the real war for the business.

DFCC Bank partners with Visa for micro merchant transactions

DFCC Bank partnered with Visa recently to facilitate digitally driven, cost-effective transactions at micro merchant businesses and increase card acceptance among micro merchants in Sri Lanka. This partnership will further strengthen the transaction processing capability for merchants of DFCC Bank with its low transaction costs, while enabling their ability to shift from cash to accepting card payments.

With the Sri Lanka Micro Merchant Program, an initiative by Visa, the Bank can process transactions for merchants at a lower cost. The high merchant discount rates offered to this segment have been the main challenge in getting such Merchants to accept card-based transactions. With this initiative, the

Bank intends to bring the small merchant community into the sphere of digital transformation.

DFCC Bank CEO Lakshman Silva said, "The reduced transaction cost will certainly help these businesses to become more profitable, and the Bank will be empowering Micro Merchants to improve their businesses by having access to digital payment acceptance solutions in order to make this market segment more competitive through the use of digital tools."

Country Manager, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Visa, Anthony Watson, said, "In the wake of the pandemic, there has been an urgent need to support micro and small businesses, something that Visa has committed to, globally."



Exchanging the agreement: Country Manager Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Visa, Anthony Watson (second from left) presents the agreement to CEO DFCC Bank, Lakshman Silva. Director, MS & A Sri Lanka and the Maldives at Visa Worldwide Pte Ltd (first from left) Nalin Dissanayake, Vice President and Head of Cards, DFCC Bank (second from right) Denver Lewis and Manager, Merchant Acquiring, DFCC Bank (first from right) Chrishan Jayamanne look on.

Macktiles invests in state-of-the-art plant

Macktiles, the youngest player in the Sri Lankan tile industry, has taken the initiative to expand by setting up manufacturing facilities to cater to the local demand.

The Company has invested in a state-of-the-art plant from the Italian manufacturing giant SACMI.

"When our new plant is installed, we will be able to supply state of the art highest quality porcelain and ceramic tiles of International quality. Our tiles will be an equivalent to designer tiles that were imported from Italy and Spain in the past," said Head of the manufacturing plant Ranjith Munamalpe, a veteran, tiles technologist with extensive working experience in Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and China. General Manager of Mack-

tiles, Thajitha Perera said, "The encouragement we receive from Hon. Minister Wimal Weerawansa, Minister of Industries and the support by the Ministry of Industries, the Secretary, Directors and other Officers of the Ministry of Industries is a motivation for industrialists like us to achieve self-sufficiency of manufacturing tiles in our country." General Manager, Sales and Marketing of Macktiles, Niroshan Pananwala said, "At present there is a scarcity of tiles in the local market and we are working on our highest capacity to increase our production capacity.

We would also like to inform our valued customers that regardless of the situation, we have not increased our prices for a 2x2 tile."



From left - General Manager Thajitha Perera, Chief Operating Officer Ahmed Shafee, Head of the manufacturing plant Ranjith Munamalpe, General Manager Sales and Marketing, Niroshan Pananwala in the factory.

Pelwatte empowers women-led families

Pelwatte Dairy Industries launched a program recently to empower over 100 women-led families and over 1,200 women employed in the dairy industry, in keeping up with its vision of diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

Pelwatte initiated several projects with World Vision International (WVI) supporting women in rural communities. The projects included training sessions on farm milk collection, automation, digitalisation and agripreneurship activities.

Human Resources Manager at Pelwatte Dairy Industries, Harshan said, "In a vividly male saturated industry, we ensure that Pelwatte remains an equal opportunity employer while looking into ways to fit in at least 25% of females



in our leaderboards and senior management by the end of 2024. Our development initiatives, field officers and our community managers have been truly

supportive in achieving our vision and plans." Pelwatte and WVI donated cattle to women-led families while helping to set

up cattle sheds and fodder production centres. WVI's Dairy Development Project focuses on increasing the quality of milk production and productivity of small-scale dairy farmers. As part of this project, all milk-based industries in the Nuwara Eliya district will be provided with knowledge on increasing productivity by using the latest technologies in milk production.

"From under-representation and a lack of equal pay in business management to restricted access to training, tools and finance for agricultural workers, women continue to face challenges in their workplaces. We will continue to tackle challenges faced by women and ensure that they have equal opportunities as men," he said.

EVERYONE KNOWS HR

Organizations are in a position to recruit talents from all over the world with the current work from home arrangements. It will also facilitate brain gain.



Work from home & global talent

By Janaka Kumarasinghe

SLT-Mobitel introduces all-in-one mobile data plan

SLT-Mobitel launched its newest data proposition, the Mobitel Non-Stop Lokka, for a range of nine most popular social media applications, following the successful introduction of the attractive data packages for YouTube, Social Networking and Instant Messaging.

Devised to provide endless benefits to customers across a range of applications including Facebook, WhatsApp, Viber, IMO, Twitter, Messenger, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube, SLT-Mobitel's all-in-one proposition enables customers to stream, chat and scroll across nine social media and networking platforms and engage to their heart's content. The pack-

age also provides extra 2GB data for other use. SLT-Mobitel strives to constantly provide the best in mobile data and broadband services to their existing and prospective customers. With affordable smartphone solutions and ever-growing demand for value-added data packages, SLT-Mobitel offers a personalised combination of endless data plans which include more social media platforms into the mix, a company spokesman said.

Customers can log on to the SLT-Mobitel Self-Care App to activate the package.

Currently the package is available for pre-paid customers and will be introduced to post-paid customers in the near future.



People issues in pandemic times: Fixing five fallacies



STRATEGIC STRIDES

by

Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri

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Managing people is not as easy as it appears to be, particularly in the pandemic times. It, in fact, has been one of the key managerial challenges. Even though many leaders proclaim that people are their biggest asset, the level of enthusiasm they show when it comes to managing people is questionable. People development initiatives get suppressed because of several fallacies prevailing in the society. Today's column attempts to identify five such key fallacies and to discuss the ways and means of fixing them.

Fixing focus

I have seen many technically

qualified managers are not so confident about getting the best out of their employees. The art and science of managing people is sadly lacking in some of the so-called technical experts. The simple reason is that one can acquire technical capabilities through a formal program but to gain the knowledge and skills with the right attitude towards people is to be learnt the hard way.

"Whether they are corporate professionals, budding entrepreneurs, or they own a home business, most people are looking to achieve more in less time, while earning enough money to live comfortably." That is what Jack Canfield, one of the authors of the popular book "Power of

Focus" said. This book reveals the proven techniques thousands of people have used to attain all the money they wanted while living healthy, happy, and balanced lives. Managing people, particularly in being firm and fair, need to have focus and to fix issues in overcoming fallacies. These fallacies have been in the minds of corporate executives for some time, as difficult to fathom. I would like to call these five Rs referring to results, rationale, resource, reach and range.

Results fallacy

People management initiatives may take time to yield results. Expecting quick results is a fallacy.

It reminds me what Lao Tsu, a Chinese philosopher, said a long time ago. If you want to plan for one year, plant corn. If you want to plan for three years, plant a tree. If you want to plan for ten years, plant people. People development is a long-term affair. You cannot rush sunshine. There was a European CEO whom I knew, who used to yell at his senior colleagues, "Where is my EBITDA?" EBITDA stands for Earnings before interests, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation. Surely, he should have been interested in that, but the issue was that he was only interested in that. People's development went down the drain. The way forward must be convincing the leaders on the nature of people development that require long term commitment with possible investments.

Rationale fallacy

Why should an organisation



invest in people? Is it less important compared to investing in machinery, infrastructure, and equipment? The need to justify people development investments on a comparative basis is a fallacy.

As we know, there are various resources in an organisation. Physical, financial, and informational resources will be in no avail, if we do not have the most precious resource. That is the Human Resource. It is the only resource that has life, with associated dynamism and vitality. If this emphasis is not found in decisions made at the top, there is a fundamental issue on rationale.

There is an interesting link here. People management and people development go hand in hand. When you start managing people, you will identify their developmental needs. Without properly satisfying them, subjected to organisational constraints, fixing people issues will not be a reality.

Resource fallacy

Who should be the resource involved in developing people? Thinking that the HR Department must do it is a fallacy.

To understand this clearly, let us look at the nature of HRM, which is constantly evolving. Having started as

personnel management, it has come a long way to occupy a prominent place in organisational top levels with strategic human resource management.

Among numerous ways of describing HRM, Garry Dessler offers, perhaps the simplest. HRM is all about policies, practices, and processes of performing the people aspect of a management position. It is not confined to a particular department, division, section, or a unit. Every manager has a people role to play. Let us take the case of an acclaimed accountant. He or she must be very good in accounting related technical matters. But without managing the people reporting to him or her, results cannot be achieved. It is a case of knowing the art and science of getting things done through the people, with the people and from the people. That leads to the golden rule in HRM: Every manager is a Human Resource Manager.

Therefore, the sure cure way of developing people is to get functional managers involved in developing their respective employees, aptly guided by a centralised HR initiative.

Reach fallacy

Does everyone in an organisation need the same level of development? Thinking that development should

reach all employees all times is a fallacy.

It is the right person who needs the right type of training in order to do his/her job in the right manner producing the right results. Based on the typical performance measures, high performers, medium performers, and low performers can be segregated. The nature of development needed by these three categories is different. Low performers need coaching to improve. They might get a second chance if they are loyal as advocated by Jack Welch, who earned a reputation as a sensible people developer. Medium performers need to be trained on identified gaps with regards to their knowledge, skills, and attitudes. High performers need leadership training as a matter of priority, as they are the potential successors for higher position holders.

Hence, the reach must be carefully dealt with in order to cater for the deserving employees in their development matters.

Range fallacy

Training is not the panacea for all people's illnesses. People development should go beyond mere training. Just offering training and expecting people to develop is a fallacy. Humans have potential and unleash

ing it must happen in the organisational setting to obtain the desired results. That is the promise. The other side of the coin is the fact that humans are neither rational nor irrational; they are natural, or "a-rational", if I am to coin a term. There is a high degree of unpredictability in human behaviour.

There can be swinging between emotional extremes, be it glad, sad, or mad. Managing people is an art and science in that respect. It needs an appeal to head, with structure, direction, and control. That is being scientific. It also needs an appeal to the heart, with purpose, passion, and positivity. That is being artistic. Hence, a carefully planned set of "head" and "heart" strategies should be on offer. Training should be coupled with coaching, mentoring, and counseling where necessary as a comprehensive range of interventions for people development. Creating a leadership pipeline is one such novel approach. This is a concept (based on a model by Walt Mahler) made popular by leadership consultants Steve Drotter, Jim Noel and Ram Charan. Embarking on such initiatives will demolish the range fallacy.

From fallacies to facts

In fixing people issues with cutting down the five fallacies discussed above should have a central focus on one big R, which is the "renaissance". It essentially refers to a new beginning. Such a new beginning is only possible through an attitudinal change. Fixing people issues demands the respective manager to have a reawakening. Such a revival involves appealing to the hearts and minds of people alike. Proper people management practices essentially including training and development aspects should lead to sustainable results in making an organisation profitably growing with satisfied well-developed employees. The challenge is to act promptly. As Benjamin Franklin, a former US President, insisted, "Well done is better than well said."

Fixing people issues in felling down the fallacies needs a committed approach with clarity from all involved. This is in much relevance during the crucial times of Covid-19 that we are passing through.

FITIS hosts forum with regulators

The Federation of IT industry Sri Lanka (FITIS) hosted its eighth annual 'ICT Open Forum with Regulators', a virtual platform for nine associated regulators this year.

Additional Director General of Customs, I.A.M. Arthnayake, Superintendent of Customs, D.A.D.T.D. Pragnarathne, Director Fiscal Policy of Ministry of Finance, Dr. Kapila Senanayake, CEO of ICTA, Mahinda Herath, Director of Payment and Settlements Department of Central Bank, D. Kumaratunga, Communication Advisor (Technical) of Ministry of Defence, Brig. Ajith Wickramasekera, Commissioner (Tax Policy) of Department of Inland Revenue, A. M. Nafeel, Director, Network of TRC-SL, Helasiri Ratanunga, Director Competition Promotion of Consumer Affairs Authority, Ms. Samantha Karunaratne were the resource persons. Secretary, FITIS Hardware Chapter, Shanaka Fernando moderated the session.

President Hardware Chapter of FITIS, Prabath Wickramarachchi said, "A lot more catching up has to be done in Sri Lanka to improve Sri Lanka's computer literacy (31%),



A speaker at the forum.

digital literacy (46%) and other macroeconomic indicators such as household with internet (30%) and household with email (12%) as stated by the regulator.

The Hardware Chapter could play a leading role to help Sri Lanka improve the domestic productions as well the regulators to support through policy and direction to help attract more FDIs."

Sri Lanka Convention Bureau keen to resume MICE tourism

Launches "Meet in Sri Lanka" series

A Chairperson's Forum on MICE Tourism (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibitions and Events) was held in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Association of Professional Conference, Exhibition and Event Organisers (SLAP-CEO) recently.

The main focus of this forum was to create awareness and educate the industry on how best to cater to the MICE industry needs worldwide with the infrastructure we have and seek the support of the private sector to promote MICE tourism via the bio-bubble.

Presentations were made by SriLankan Airlines, BMICH, Colombo Port City Project and Cinnamon Life to industry stakeholders, overseas missions in Sri Lanka and Sri Lankan missions abroad. The forum also looked at building relationships to attract new technology to develop the industry which will also be a new avenue to attract foreign investment.

"Sri Lanka's aim is not to compete with countries such as Dubai and Singapore, however, to create a niche market where the offering of Sri Lanka is more of a distinct product in terms of location where indi-

viduals can visit Sri Lanka for a conference and then go on a safari in Yala, go whale watching and visit a tea plantation, all in a day if domestic flights are used to travel around the country," said Chairperson of Sri Lanka Tourism, Kimarli Fernando.

She said that Sri Lanka is working with the Indian Government for a travel bubble agreement to host destination weddings in Sri Lanka.

CEO of the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA), Senthil Gopinath, the first Sri Lankan CEO of ICCA, who joined via Zoom said that MICE has faced a lot of challenges in 2020 and the future trends of the MICE industry will have health safety and security on the priority list. Furthermore, he mentioned that artificial intelligence and digital innovation is another vital requirement to secure MICE business apart from face to face networking.

Post pandemic, the regulations of the visit will remain as per the new normal, travelling in the bio bubble. However, Sri Lanka Tourism is now working with the health authorities to recognise vaccinated travellers, who are encouraged to



The panelists at the forum: Board Member, SLAPCEO, Dr. Shafaath Amidon, Head of Worldwide Sales, SriLankan Airlines, Dimuthu Tennakoon, General Manager, SLCB, Krishantha Fernando, Chairperson, Sri Lanka Tourism, Ms. Kimarli Fernando, CEO, BMICH, Sunil Dissanayake, VP Marketing, Cinnamon Life, Dileep Mudadeniya and Director, Sales and Marketing, Colombo Port City, Ms. Yamuna Jayaratne.

take PCR tests upon arrival and then continue to join the community with strict regulations in place.

French Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Eric Lavertu, the Italian Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Rita Manella,

Charge d'Affairs of UAE, Humaid Al Tamimi and First Secretary of the Indian High Commission, Ms. Irina Thakur were among the invitees apart from the MICE industry stakeholders.

SLT-Mobitel completes bus library project, Phase 2

SLT-Mobitel in partnership with Manusath Derana completed the second phase of the ongoing CSR project aimed at transforming decommissioned SLTB buses into full-fledged libraries.

The launch of the second phase took place at the Prime Minister's office recently, where five SLTB buses were released to rural schools.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, Minister of Transport Gamini Lokuge, State Minister of Transport, Dilum Amunugama, Minister of Trade, Marketing Development and Consumer Affairs, Bandula Gunawardane,

Chairman of SLT Group, Rohan Fernando, CEO of SLT, Kiththi Perera, Acting CEO of Mobitel, Chandika Vitharana, CMO of SLT, Prabhath Dahanayake, CMO of Mobitel Shashika Senarath and several officers of SLT and Mobitel were present.

The National Library Board of Sri Lanka and the Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB) were also part of this initiative.

SLT-Mobitel embarked on this national level CSR program to support and empower rural schools by providing quality access to information technology and knowledge. The country's

students and young children are the future of tomorrow and thus, empowering them towards enhancing their literacy and inculcating into them the habit of reading and educating themselves was a factor that SLT-Mobitel strongly believed in. Therefore, providing students, especially from rural areas with access to reading materials through the entities of e-learning and m-learning platforms as well as a fully-equipped mobile library through this concept.

The project will renovate 25 buses and transform them into modern, fully-equipped mobile libraries which

would provide students with reading facilities, access to wi-fi connectivity and other support systems which would give children the opportunity to connect them with the world of limitless information.

These libraries will also act as mobile learning centres which will also equip students with access to revolutionary educational insights and resources. Following the success of the second phase, more decommissioned SLTB buses will also be remodelled and the program will oversee the release of 25 library buses, including the five that were unveiled at the second phase.



The bus library

Business

IT roadmap for Sri Lanka

BY PRABHATH PERERA

During the past decades, information technology has gained its utmost level of success all around the world. Sri Lanka is still struggling to cater to the needs of local and foreign entities. Many IT organisations are making an excellent effort to bring out IT solutions for business needs. Some are successful, while some fail to come up with long-term stable solutions.

When considering IT education and entrepreneurship in Sri Lanka, about ninety percent of the students who pass out of the universities opt to serve an employer other than starting their own business with their own ideas. Some end up making business deals for IT solutions with international companies, and some fail to grab employment opportunities in the area they studied.

Around ten percent of the students who select the path to be an IT employer or an entrepreneur also fail to cater to international business needs, and among them, only 10% of the students will be successful in their business.

To mitigate these kinds of issues, we need to get government parties in direct collaboration to set up rules and regulations for standards when someone starts a business in IT. It is better to work for an employer other than going for a company that will fail. If you invest in a failure, your investments will be lost. Currently, government bodies are reluctant to provide a proper guideline for these.

The reasons for frequent failures are the lack of knowledge on how they should address their customers and how to impress them with their capabilities and fail to protect technical assets they are having (employees), most importantly.

Most promisingly, almost in every case, lack of knowledge plays a significant role here. Either you, your son, your daughter or a relative of yours is an IT undergraduate or a student who passed out of the university still may not have a good understanding about what kind of a



job they should select to get the maximum possible benefit of what they have learned in the university.

For example, if we take a student who has been raised in a village and having completed his or her degree and passed out with a class but still due to lack of contacts and lack of knowledge, he or she might end up joining a company which is underpaid or select a role that will not improve his or her capabilities.

The main reason for the unemployment of IT graduates is the lack of knowledge about the companies operating in Sri Lanka. Candidates

have significantly less understanding of what stream they should select when it comes to their first job. There are many streams one can choose from when you have a general IT degree. Some end up working in a company on a low salary, and they never know that their skills are underestimated. In such cases, recruiters and business owners get the maximum benefit from them.

Many foreign IT organisations operate their HQs in Sri Lanka. For example, if we take Orion City, IT park, there are a few foreign compa-

nies in Sri Lanka. Some graduates get this benefit and try joining one of these companies and gain top salaries and development, which is better for them on the one hand.

By saying that, there are also drawbacks for employees when selecting this kind of workplace. One of the main reasons is that graduates will not get a chance to serve their motherland directly. I have met underpaid people a lot in my ten-year IT career.

A few years ago, when I was working for a company, I met people who had completed their degrees

and did nonwhite collar jobs. I felt distraught when I talked with them and sympathised and asked, "Why do you want to work here like this?" The reply I got from them was that they do not have enough contacts and English knowledge.

These things should not happen in a developing country such as Sri Lanka. There should be a mechanism to make up the mindset of students who pass out of the university. About their value for themselves and the motherland.

If we could use all the technical assets how much money can we

pump into our homeland? When we look at countries such as Singapore, which lagged behind Sri Lanka economically at one time, now uses technological assets to reach the pinnacle of success, making more tourists visit their countries.

One of the main reasons for the lack of knowledge assets in Sri Lanka is migration. People who pass out of the university and have completed three years experience migrate from Sri Lanka.

I think the main reason for this is poor social security and the poor quality of life in Sri Lanka. It is hard for us to find a one-stop solution for these all problems. Nevertheless, at least there are a few things we can do as adults living in Sri Lanka, when raising and educating our children.

One of the major obstacles we have here is that we do not get government support to set up a mechanism other than just going for a traditional internship which is at a low level. Most universities and colleges in Europe and North American countries indirectly practice this mechanism, and graduates can benefit from this opportunity. Unfortunately, in Sri Lanka, graduates never get a chance to go through this mechanism. When will we find a one-stop solution for all of these issues? That's a rhetorical question. Thinking makes the difference in everything.

If we can inculcate in our children's thinking, a positive attitude towards serving our motherland, and possibly if we can change the mindset of graduates who are pass out of the universities with a can-do attitude and make them understand their value, it is easier for us to start finding a solution for this burning issue. A degree holder generally can be considered as an uncut gem that needs to be cut and polished to have functioned at its best. It is our responsibility as adults to make those gems cut and polished.

If we can maintain this positive attitude throughout the Sri Lankan IT industry, it will grow and pump more profits to our motherland.

The writer is a Systems Engineer.

Enlisting SMEs ... Continued from page 25

largely relaxed the stringent measures restrict ing public life enabling foreign tourists to enjoy a holiday.

In comparison, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) records show that in January 2021 only 1,682 tourists arrived in Sri Lanka while a year ago in 2020 - 228,434 international tourists spent their holidays in Sri Lanka, which is 99.3% drop over a year.

The steadily increasing migration patterns of Northern European populations to South Asian regions, typically motivated by social and economic factors and the search for a better climate and a better quality of lifestyle is an opportunity which Sri Lanka should make use of to attract this segment to the country. The trend to take up semi-permanent residence in another coun-

try has further increased with the growing economic problems in Europe and other countries. Sri Lanka could embark on catering to these tourist migrants by offering "Sri Lanka - My Second Home" solutions.

The Government already has put in place an attractive Residence Visa package with their program "Sri Lanka - my Dream Home" which permits applicants of the age group of over 55 to stay in Sri Lanka on a long-term renewable residence visa to become tourist migrants. Sri Lanka's private sector is realising the great potential in moving into a permanent tourism program for foreigners above 55 with ventures to build apartments and condominiums.

Another advantage in permanent tourism relates to a one-time only mar-

keting effort for the sales of the apartments while traditional marketing to promote the hospitality sector in general needs frequent and permanent repetitions with attendance of foreign tourists fairs on a yearly basis. The costs on these marketing efforts are immense and often not rewardable.

'Permanent' tourism refers to being a more settled and denoting a longer-term commitment to the destination, whereas 'tourist' has connotations of a more temporary movement from everyday life to a different location. Second home ownership of an apartment does well include marketing to attract more visitors to Sri Lanka, since the owners are looking for revenues out of renting their own apartments to third parties.

It is now time for the SLTDA to

Much potential... Continued from page 25

"SMEs face many technical and logistical barriers due to its low financial strength which has kept them away from seeking greater visibility through online trade promotional sites," the NEDA chief said. Around 60 industrialists took part in the last NEDA trade exhibition and sought recognition for their products and services. "We want more SMEs to take part in such trade affairs and gain local and global recognition," Gunasinghe said. The awards scheme was designed for Micro, Small, Medium and Large sector entrepreneurs in the fields of Industry and Manufacturing Sector, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Sector and Hospitality and Tourism and other services sectors and

further awards were presented for best practices under 11 thematic areas; Best Environmental Friendly Enterprise, Best Exporter, Best Productive Enterprise, Best Innovative Enterprise, Best Value Added Enterprise, Best Energy Efficient Enterprise, Award for the Entrepreneur - Who has Provided Most Number of Jobs for Females, Award for the Best Woman Entrepreneur, Award for the Best Entrepreneur - Differently abled, Award for the Best Entrepreneur - Recovered from Covid related Business Issues and Award for the Best Entrepreneur - Survived during the Covid-19 pandemic. The National Chamber teamed up again with NEDA to conduct the awards for the fifth year

in succession. The award scheme is designed to distinguish, reward and motivate Sri Lanka's very own entrepreneurs to reach the mantle of achievement and encourage the business community in the Western Province to improve their standards of business practices and achieve a high level of entrepreneurship.

The National Chamber of Commerce and NEDA have been assisting the micro, small, medium and large sectors in the regions for a long time, and this gives special focus towards the upliftment of these sectors in the provinces to develop their businesses and conduct training programs for them, including for differently-abled entrepreneurs.

Up-country... Continued from page 25

... the workers becoming tea or rubber smallholders, having lands on their own under a long-term lease as the source of their income in the long run, UPF Leader Velusamy Radhakrishnan MP said. Despite months-long deliberations and government confirmation through budgetary announcement, the Wages Board decision and gazette notification confirming the Rs.1,000 wage increase, the issue is yet to be resolved making the workers' long wait for the paltry increase even more traumatising. Amid the wage increase issue, a majority of the unions have insisted also on the fringe benefits that the workers were entitled to under the Collective Agreement (CA), but the management companies have stated that they would be compelled to do away with the CA

and cut down on the number of work-days to offset their additional expenditure if the Rs.1,000 wage increase comes into force. The UPF has stated in its proposals to the constituent assembly that the "estate workers and their descendants have to be converted as tea and rubbers small holders as an alternative to large plantation companies. In so doing the landless state of the estate workers could be solved and their income guaranteed. They could also contribute their share to the national income." Some of the RPCs have already started trying the 'profit-share model' and it has been found to be successful, bringing income to the workers considerably higher than what they received under the system "tied to the daily minimum wage formula," reliable plantation sources

said. The idea and the ultimate goal is for the workers to become the tea/rubber smallholders, having their own land under long-term lease basis and engaging in other types of agricultural and economic activities for revenue generation, Radhakrishnan said.

The survival and necessity of trade unions for representing the interests of the plantation community would be reviewed from a different perspective as these goals start materialising in due course, he said. However, the '1000 Movement' agitating for the rights of workers to ensure a decent wage is paid notes that workers are unlikely to get the Rs. 1,000 daily wage as all responsible parties fail to see eye to eye on the main issues of workers who have fallen from the frying pan to the fire die to the rise in the cost of living.

Pruning consumption... Continued from page 25

... keep only a minimum amount of such reserves when they issue new money called Reserve Money or Base Money; but what should concern the public is not this reserve money created by a Central Bank but the total money in the hands of the public made up of the currency issued by the Central Bank and demand, time and savings accounts held by people in commercial banks.

It is this stock of money that chases after goods and services and causes inflation if it is over-supplied. "In Sri Lanka, this stock as at end of 2019 amounted to Rs. 7,624 billion but increased to Rs. 9,532 billion in January 2021. The increase is Rs. 1,908 billion or 25%

during the past 11 months. "This was needed to provide the funding to the Covid-19 affected economy but with the current low interest rates, this can cause high inflation in the future," the former Senior Central Banker said, adding that the gravity of the problem has been that this has been caused by the borrowings of the Government from the Central Bank and commercial banks by Rs. 2,416 billion, much more than the increase in the money supply. The difference has simply gone out of Sri Lanka exerting pressure on the rupee to depreciate in the international markets.

On the impact of the downgrading of the sovereign ratings by rating bodies on non-debt creating

inflows and FDI promotion, Dr. Wijewardena said the country downgrade does not affect the promotion of non-debt investments; they are determined principally whether the country would maintain a proper macroeconomic balance, easy environment for investors to invest their money, observance of rule of law and maintenance of law and order through independent law enforcers like the Police, court system and the Attorney General.

These cannot be established immediately but a firm commitment to them expressed presently and followed vigorously with a time bound action plan will surely help Sri Lanka to attract such investments.

Lanka's potential... Continued from page 25

... of the customer's overall logistics requirements," Yusoof said. Logistics, a large component of Expolanka's business is an industry that is prone to disruptions and challenges that requires a business model that is agile and able to react when times are uncertain.

"The most important contributor towards our success over the past year was in managing yields and leveraging our long-term carrier relationships to facilitate the needs of our global customers," Yusoof said.

"Market conditions were dynamic, capacity was low, supply chains were disrupted and customers had

expectations all which had to be met while the world braved a pandemic. Our teams secured Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) shipments and conducted charter operations and moved away from the traditional cargo services.

"Even today, with some markets returning to normalcy and less demand for PPE and related cargo, our model remains the same, to be ready for upcoming shifts in global trade," Yusoof said.

For the company to do well and support its customers, "we ensured that our teams were able to operate in the best possible working conditions during the last year. Each of the

global and local offices implemented their own health and safety guidelines based on the ground situation and in line with government initiated protocols.

"As an organisation, our focus has always been on the safety and well-being of our employees and all necessary best practices are being followed to ensure timely delivery of services to customers.

Like most companies, we executed our BCP's, established monitoring mechanisms and implemented guidelines across the network," Yusoof said.

Going forward Yusoof said the company has been gradually grow-

ing its Third-Party Logistics (3PL) service offering in certain select markets including Sri Lanka with the aim of repositioning ourselves as a more solution based logistics provider, offering end to end supply chain solutions.

"One of the things that arose from the pandemic is the realisation by customers to use the right partners to manage all aspects of their supply chain and we are exploring opportunities on how we can leverage our existing infrastructure and network to do that," Yusoof said, adding that the company's focus remains on integrated technology with a view to providing more visibility, trans-

parency whilst enabling operational efficiencies internally.

He said automation will play an important role in this journey and are constantly evaluating means of enhancing operations through the use of technology. Expolanka was the first to launch free-port operations under commercial hub guidelines and are actively working with all the authorities to help the country realise its true potential of being a global transshipment hub.

On the leisure sector he said the focus is on stabilising the company during these challenging times, improving our efficiencies to optimise our performance once the

industry returns to normalcy. The changes we have identified are simply directed towards increasing focus on certain operating verticals, enhancing closeness to our customers, new solutions and value added offerings, focusing on experiential and innovative travel solutions, introducing technology to make the customer journey more efficient and memorable while remaining operationally efficient. "The progress we have made with the tourism bubble are all good steps in the right direction and a more concentrated, unified and well thought out approach will definitely help Sri Lanka recover in this industry," Yusoof said.

Domestic tourism's stabilising role

by
Hemantha
Kulatunga



The incapacitating and gruesome impact of Covid-19 on the tourism industry has been a cause for concern for industry stakeholders. The country was deprived of over four billion US Dollars in the year 2020 as a result of the ghastly effect of the pandemic. The livelihood of almost everybody involved in the industry in every capacity was left in the lurch.

The recovery of the world tourism industry eventually is certain. However, the time-line cannot be correctly predicted even with coronavirus vaccines introduced recently to control the infection. Hence, it is uncertain yet when the country will return to complete normalcy. In such a scenario, the promotion of domestic tourism that has not been given due attention by the authorities up to now at the national level is an extremely effective remedy. The local travel industry fraternity can sustain livelihood until everything comes back to normal.

Economic tool

According to the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTTC), domestic tourism accounted for 73% of total travel and tourism spending globally in 2018. Many countries use domestic tourism as a tool to reduce poverty, generate employment, generate income for people, and contribute to overall economic growth. Hence, amid the battle against Covid-19, domestic tourism may serve as a lifeline for industry stakeholders.

With the continuing pandemic threat still raging throughout the world, the health restrictions will be enforced perhaps till the danger completely settles down. Although the forecasts of the Sri Lankan leisure industry experts are entirely optimistic to predict that by late 2022 Sri Lanka will be at one of the top slots as a destination, the related businesses have to survive until then. Therefore, the industry has to concentrate on the domestic tourism market more than ever before.

Until the Easter Sunday attacks in 2019 April, the local travel market was an 'off-season' target for tour opera-



tors. They have offered discounted special promotional packages to local travellers.

The strategy has been successful to keep the occupancy at a reasonable level during the off-season. However, after the Easter Sunday incident, the local leisure industry has mostly survived on domestic tourists, making them identify the domestic market segment as an important sector for the business.

The domestic tourism economy is lucrative in Sri Lanka boosted by the growing trend of domestic travel during long holidays. Holiday stays inside the country are a cost-effective and affordable option for individuals and families. Domestic tourism always is less hassle for travellers as they are familiar with the general terrain, generally minimal language barriers, and no currency problems or food differences.

The qualitative aspects such as knowledge of the socio-cultural environment, less congestion for travelers due to the availability of a wide variety of destinations, the cost-effectiveness of the land transport, and availability

of larger numbers of interested travellers are some of the benefits of domestic tourism.

Nevertheless, a significant negative aspect of domestic tourism is that most often locals travel during long weekends. Domestic tourists rarely take holidays on weekdays, except perhaps during school holidays. As against traditional international tourists whose average travel itinerary is ten days, local travellers stay only a maximum of up to two to four days.

Young generation

The purpose of most domestic travellers is to be away from home in the comforts of a luxury or semi-luxury hotel with facilities such as swimming pools, buffets and restaurants. Many of them usually do not travel out of the hotels for sight-seeing. However, the young generation travellers move out of hotels to explore and experience sites around the area. The operators involved in adventure tourism benefit tremendously from the youth market segment.

The urban population in Sri Lanka as per the Department of

Census and Statistics is over four million. Of this number, a considerable portion belongs to the middle and upper-middle-class classification of society.

This sector of the population can be a lucrative market segment for domestic tourism if an effective promotion can be done.

This segment, usually consisting of professionals, entrepreneurs and civil servants is often engaged heavily in their respective jobs. These usually busy people look forward to travelling out of their homes and relaxing in tourist destinations. Therefore, promoting domestic tourism to this segment with a higher social standing may draw impressive results for the industry.

Domestic MICE tourism is a segment that can have more opportunities locally. Currently, only large organisations concentrate on holding meetings, conferences, or exhibitions in hotels and other similar locations. International companies rarely hold meetings or conferences in Sri Lanka. Therefore, popularising more MICE tourism among local companies, par-

ticularly medium-sized organisations, can be lucrative to the industry.

Motivator

With the right price, entrepreneurs can be easily persuaded to have their annual events and training stints in hotels. It is known that the staff of organisations are not only fond of travelling out of their workplaces occasionally but also the move, without a doubt, is an effective motivator.

Domestic tourism is an important aspect of local economic development in respective destination regions.

The local economy is driven by the combined investment and expenditure of incoming visitors. They use their personal funds to purchase souvenirs, spend nights in local hotels, at restaurants in the area, and sometimes engage in leisure or sports activities. Each of these activities generates revenue for the locals in the area. Almost every community involved in the tourism industry, particularly the vendors who make a living out of tourists, invariably engage themselves with conscious enthusiasm. Almost

These usually busy people look forward to travelling out of their homes and relaxing in tourist destinations. Therefore, promoting domestic tourism to this segment with a higher social standing may draw impressive results for the industry

all local authorities throughout the country currently are aware of the significance of promoting domestic tourism. They attempt to make the facilities and amenities in their areas better realising that the income generated through domestic tourism is essentially important to their constituents in this Covid-19 period.

Seasonal

Even in the absence of Covid-19, international tourism in most of the destinations can be seasonal. When the demand is low during the off-season periods, the infrastructures are usually unoccupied and the tourism fraternity struggles to find work.

Domestic tourism has provided a stabilising role for the tourism industry as the engagement is spread more evenly throughout the year. Therefore, local tourism makes a substantial contribution to the industry's general financial stability and sustainability. The reality is that many of the businesses will survive on the year-round patronage of local tourists although they may be making more profits out of international tourism.

At a time when foreign tourists are keeping away due to the pandemic, domestic tourism is a successful solution to cushion the crisis and to keep destinations going until the situation returns to normal. At least those employed in tourism can earn a livelihood by catering to domestic tourists. Even when the crisis ends, domestic tourism can act as a different revenue earner, if creatively managed.

Domestic tourism not only increases destination value to the locals but also helps to develop the industry as a whole in the long run. Evidence on the contribution of domestic tourism for sustaining overall development and revenue generation is substantial. As Sri Lanka experienced on several recent occasions, particularly, during national crises where foreign tourists stay away, domestic tourism can act as a lifeline for stakeholders. Therefore, for all these reasons, domestic tourism must have long-term promotion plans at the national level, going beyond the existing short-term crisis management.

Free electricity generation project - open for investment

Jagath Wijesekara recently published one of his benchmark research projects done in Sri Lanka, regarding the generation of free electricity by converting gravity and acceleration of road vehicles into static electricity and it is currently attracting global attention.

Wijesekara is a versatile personality living in Sri Lanka as a researcher, developer, author and founder of Premier Ceylon and contributed to society through several innovative research projects and concepts in diversified fields and industries.

His most recent research includes the overall solution for global electricity demand. This research project is a combination of mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and kinetic engineering. Through the combined knowledge of these three fields, a prototype of the working engine is created and tested for application to the project. The concepts that arise through research and the new invention are registered for patent rights under the application Number: 21480 under the National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka.

This research project and its "research methodology" was developed on the following principles of green energy production, maximum utilisation of the available and convertible resources, minimisation of the energy production cost and the simplification of the working mechanism. These main principles were then integrated with the project's main objective of generating free electricity as a global solution for the growing electricity demand and energy crisis.

The engineering terminology of the free energy generation system is the "gravity" and the "acceleration" of the moving road traffic converted into electricity by the designing and development of the specialised electricity generating mechanism by transferring the energy in road vehicles' "gravity and acceleration" into turning of electrical turbines.

There are millions of road vehicles moving all over the world on a daily basis for their own work. The specialised system shall catch up the gravity

The size and capacity of the electricity generation will depend upon the amount of the road vehicles on each roadway and the size of the turbines and system units can be installed at every hundred meter intervals on the roads and/or highways

of such moving vehicles, means weight and the acceleration means the speed, and transferring gravity and acceleration energy into the turbine which makes the turbine spin, generating electricity is an oversimplification of the energy generating mechanism researched and invented by Jagath Wijesekara, in order to explain and bring about the concepts and principles into simple and easily understandable terms.

Therefore, as the engineering mechanism captures the energy of the moving road vehicles into static electricity, the research objective of achieving cost minimisation is well achieved as there is no cost in the generation of electrical power other than the initial installation cost and thereby, the electricity generation for the rest of the project life is totally free.

The prototype electricity generating engine is made and tested with a simplified application methodology that there is either no deep excavation on roadways and highways neither no bridging requirement nor over complicated engineering mechanism inculcated into the invented system.

And in turn, the simplification of the engineering system, in other way round represents the minimisation of the manufacturing cost of such machine and the ease and simplification of installation on the roadways and highways with the minimum employment of time and resources.

The system shall have an energy capturing arm laid across road ways with minimum digging into the road ways and connected to the turbine engine by the left hand side of road ways anywhere in the world and in any numbers that will produce free energy as the vehicles run over by the energy capturing arm.



Jagath Wijesekara

The size and capacity of the electricity generation will depend upon the amount of the road vehicles on each roadway and the size of the turbines and system units can be installed at every hundred meter intervals on the roads and/or highways.

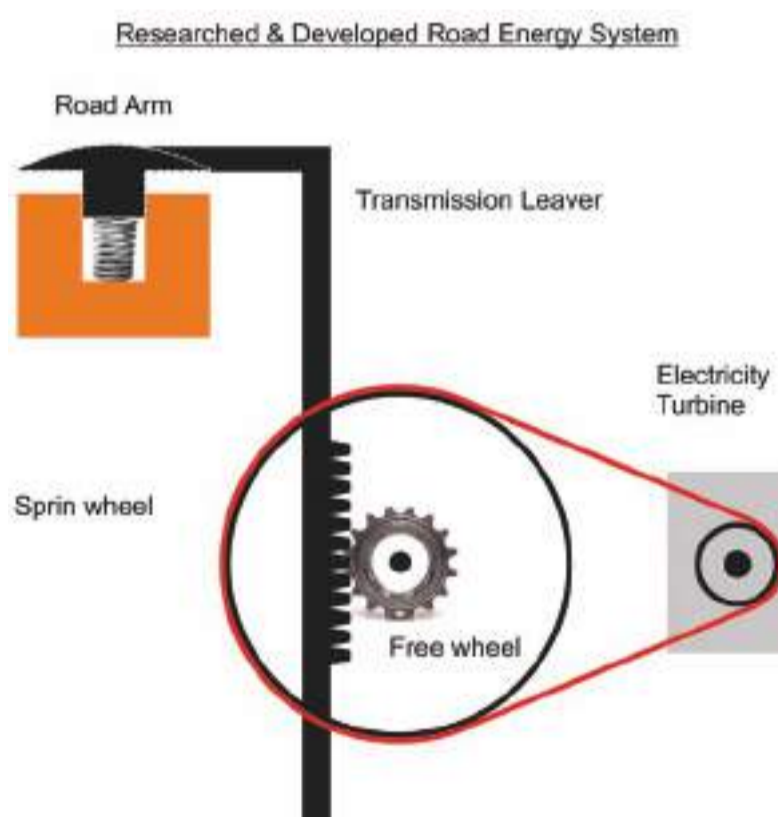
The generated electricity could be transferred direct into the national grids and or stored in a storage device to be used as and when necessary and therefore, the type of energy transmission and the capacity and the frequency of road installation shall depend according to the specific requirements of the local area and or the country, in simple terms.

The system uses no fuel or any direct materialistic energy source for the generation of electricity and therefore, emits no gases and or any production of waste whatsoever and therefore, the system guarantees totally environmental friendly mechanism with guaranteed zero environmental impact in its full life cycle in operation.

The research has invented and developed the prototype working energy generation machine and engineering mechanism and the aforementioned invention has been duly researched, registered and protected with patent rights and the researcher and developer, Jagath Wijesekara is looking forward to the commercial development of the invention and thereby interested investing & development partners are hereby invited.

The invention

The breakdown of the engineering and functional elements:



Researched and developed, the new prototype free electricity generating system by using the gravity and acceleration of road vehicles, is a highly simplified form of converting road vehicle energy into free electricity by transferring energy from the road vehicles to turn the turbines set in the unit by using kinetic electrical engineering principles

Turbine

This self-containing free electricity generating system is developed and integrated into five basic engineering divisions in order to simply the operation, the cost of production and ease of installation on the applied roadways anywhere in the world

Operational elements

A - The road arm

The road arm is the engineering device which will be laid over any road

way all around the world, across the road ways.

This device shall have two components as the "U" shaped housing and a "T" shaped lever laid across the road with a spring system to press as a vehicle passes and to stand up as the tires moves out.

The arm receives the gravity and acceleration energy from moving road vehicles and there by moves down as the tires pass over and stands up after the tyres are passed with the spring system.

With this system the road excavation is limited only to the fixing of the arm, only with minimum road excavation limited to only few inches as the electricity generating turbine is fixed on the left hand side of the road as always.

B - The transferring lever

The transferring lever connected to the "Road Arm" from the left hand

side of the road, receives the energy with the road trust and transfers to the turning mechanism.

C - Turning mechanism

The turning mechanism shall receive the road trust from the transferring lever and shall duly re-transfer to the turning device to turn the electricity generating turbine stationed connected to the turning mechanism.

D - Turbine

The turbine is spinning and generating free electricity as the vehicles pass over the road way continuously.

E - Storage battery or grid connection

The generated electricity shall be stored in a storage battery to be used later or shall be directly connected to the main grid through a regulator.

Generating sequence

1 - A specially designed spring arm laid across the road ways which has a spring system to go down and up as vehicles pass by.

2 - When vehicles pass over, the arm goes down with the gravity and acceleration of such vehicles with a force and stands up as the vehicle passes.

3 - The arm is connected to the energy transferring lever by the left hand side of the road ways.

4 - The transferring lever receives energy from the road arm and moves up and down.

5 - The lever transfers the vehicle gravity and acceleration energy to the turning mechanism.

6 - The turning mechanism spins the turbine engine.

7 - Generated electricity is directly transferred to the main grid or stored in a battery.

Apart from the highway and road application of the energy generation system, the application into the railways is under research and development and as the gravity and acceleration of the locomotive application is relatively high and therefore, the energy production could be well more than the road and highway application.

Continued on page 31

Business

Chilaw Plantations posts Rs 283m PBT in 2020

Chilaw Plantations Limited has posted a profit of Rs. 283 million (PBT) for the year ended December 31, 2020 having recorded a 400% increase against the previous year where the company made a profit of Rs. 64 million (PBT), Chairman and CEO of Chilaw Plantations, Jude Rukantha Perera told Sunday Observer Business.

This profit has been reached after providing Rs. 48 million as performance based incentive to the employees.

This achievement is significant as the profit last year is the highest year on year profit percentage made by any Regional Plantation Companies compared to the previous year. Further, this profit records as the highest profit made by government-owned plantation companies which is another remarkable achievement.

He said the growth in profit was achieved by strategic management

and it was the visionary leadership of the new management and the dedication of the staff and the team work that led to this achievement. He commended the guidance and the assistance received from the State Minister, Minister of plantations and the direction paved by the President for this performance. The company achieved the highest ever cashew crop during the year which was another remarkable achievement.

The coconut section made a remarkable improvement in planting due to proper management methods and the strategic marketing plan adopted throughout the year. The company commenced operating through agents to distribute coconut and other products to the customer directly. This is an ongoing process which will be expanded this year.

"We have increased productivity by cultivating short-term crops having used the available lands under coco-



Chairman Jude Rukantha Perera

nut through potential investors to increase the food supply to the community."

He said the Collective Agreement signed between Ceylon Estate Staff Union having considered considerable salary increases and other fringe benefits to the staff was another historical achievement which enabled the staff to contribute their maximum to the profitability of the Company. An

allocation of Rs. 10 million has been made for the welfare benefits of the worker community this year.

"We have drawn up plans to set up a state of art integrated processing zone to manufacture value added coconut based products this year and a cashew processing factory will also be established to increase the value-added cashew production to generate more income and foreign exchange to the company and country."

This year, irrigation systems, new planting, under planting and various other development programmes have been planned and this will enable Chilaw Plantations to this year a turning point to upgrade the Company to another level.

The company comes under the purview of the State Ministry of Plantations / Coconut, Kithul, Palmyrah and Rubber Cultivation Promotion and Related Industrial Product Manufacturing and Export Diversification.

SLT-Mobitel and CMC facilitate registration for vaccination through eChannelling



SLT-Mobitel has collaborated with the IT Division of the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) to introduce another pioneering initiative through Mobitel's eChannelling service, enabling the convenient registration of persons for the Covid-19 vaccination.

As part of the first phase, senior citizens over the age of 60 years and residing in the city of Colombo can avail themselves of this online facility free.

CEO, Mobitel, Chandika Vitharana said, "As an organisation that is committed towards uplifting the nation and its citizens through cutting edge connectivity solutions, we are delighted to have joined hands with the CMC to see this initiative through. We are specially gratified to be providing our services to the national cause of fighting the pandemic in this manner, and ensuring that members of the public are made aware of the importance of keeping themselves and everyone around them safe - all through the simple click of a button."

"While this facility is currently available in Colombo city limits during Phase 1, we are working on extending the service island wide along with the expansion of the vaccination process," he said.

Citizens over the age of 60 can access the eChannelling website www.echannelling.com, or CMC website www.colombo.mc.gov.lk, or

by using the eChannelling mobile app and click on the 'COVID Vaccination' button which will then lead the user to a page displaying names of participating vaccination centres.

Customers can then select their preferred centre for the vaccination and a preferred time slot and proceed with the reservation by providing personal details such as name, NIC number and mobile number. A one-time password will be sent via SMS to the person's given mobile number, and upon its verification, the reservation is confirmed through an SMS and electronic receipt.

- The vaccinations are available at:
- MOH District 1** and New Bazaar Maternity Home premises - No. 200, Sirimavo Bandaranayake Mv., Colombo 14. Telephone - 2336625
 - MOH District 2A** at Ginthupitiya - No 27, Vivekananda Rd, Colombo 13. Telephone - 2446342
 - MOH District 2B** office - MCH Centre, 73/12, Arnold Ratnayake Mv., Colombo 10. Telephone - 2689833
 - MOH District 3** office - Campbell Park grounds. Telephone - 2691826
 - MOH District 4** office - 75, Kirula Rd, Colombo 5. Telephone - 2582037
 - MOH District 5** Office - 40, Manning Pl., Wellawatte. Telephone - 2588223

Metropolitan mCentres instal air purifiers

The Metropolitan Group has installed Sharp air purifiers with its patented plasma cluster technology in all mCentres across the island to ensure a safe and secure shopping environment for patrons.

"In a time when organisations in any industry are looking at means and options to ensure the safety of their employees and customers, the Sharp range of air purifiers offers an added layer of pro-

tection," said Head of Retail and SMB, Shamaz Hossen. Research by the Sharp Corporation has revealed its air purifying technology as being able to reduce the effectiveness of the airborne novel coronavirus particles, claiming it as a world first. The results were released in September 2020 and conducted in partnership with Nagasaki University.

The Plasmacluster Ion technol-

ogy engineered and patented by Sharp is the recipient of the prestigious Invention Prize at the 2008 National Invention Awards Ceremony held by the Japan Institute of Invention and Innovation (JIIC).

Given the current economic conditions when operations are being scaled down and employees have to work in close confines, or in industries such as hospitality or the medical industry, the Sharp Air

Purifier offers an added layer of protection by removing contaminants such as germs, viruses, dust and mould.

Senior Manager, Marketing, Hasalaka de Silva said, "Unlike basic purifiers that come with air conditioning units, the Plasmacluster Ion technology in Sharp air purifiers will actually act on the harmful novel Coronavirus which other purifiers are not capable of."

Electricity Board launches CEB Care Web Portal

The CEB Care Web Portal was launched recently at the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) headquarters recently.

Minister of Power, Dullas Alahapperuma and the State Minister of Solar, Wind and Hydro Power Generation, Duminda Dissanayake, senior officers of the CEB, including the Chairman of CEB, Vijitha Herath, Vice Chairman of CEB, N.S. Ilangakoon and the General Manager of the CEB, Mrs. N.W.K. Herath were present.

The public can apply for many services such as applying to obtain new service connections, shifting electrical posts and electrical meters, changing electrical meter covers and shifting service connections using the CEB Care Web Portal.

Many other services, including



Minister Dullas Alahapperuma at the launch.

the facility of paying CEB bills, lodging breakdown complaints, planned power outage schedule, real-time outage map service, SMS service and bill calculator could be obtained via the CEB Care Web Portal - ceb.lk.

SLT-Mobitel to provide fibre tech services to Majestic City

SLT-Mobitel has signed an MoU with CT Land Development PLC, the owning company of Majestic City shopping complex to elevate the building's ICT infrastructure.

The MoU signing took place at the SLT head office located in Colombo Fort recently.

With the expansive and revolutionary world of digitalisation taking shape across the world and the nation, it only felt timely that a luxury shopping complex such as Majestic City would adopt the installation of state-of-the-art ICT infrastructure. With Sri Lanka Telecom PLC being denoted as a fixture that has pioneered in the provision of ICT solutions, the company came into agreement with CT Land Development PLC to facilitate the shopping complex with telecommunications services, ultra-fast broadband connectivity provided through fibre technology as well as the next revolution in entertainment television, PEO TV.

Sri Lanka Telecom's objective will be to provide the necessary support and expertise that will enable the implementation of a Smart Building in the heart of the city and one that will no doubt transform ordinary lives and lead them forward towards experiencing a glimpse of a digitally-infused lifestyle.

Director of CT Land Development PLC, Ms. Mignonne Perera said, "In keeping with the importance of embracing digital change and innovation, we recognized Sri Lanka Telecom PLC as the ideal partner towards achieving our goal of digitization and staying relevant in this digital age. We look forward to witnessing the Majestic City in a whole new light."

Chief Executive Officer of SLT, Kiththi Perera said, "As a national fixture that aims to uplift the nation through technology and digital intervention, it is also a role that we, at SLT embraces in terms of providing the



After signing the agreement: (from left) Company Secretary of CT Land Development, Ms. Charuni Gunawardana, Director of CT Land Development, Ms. Mignonne Perera, CEO, SLT, Kiththi Perera, General Manager, Western Province Central of SLT, Chethana Attanayake and Chief Sales and Regional Officer of SLT, Imantha Wijekoon.

best in ICT and telecom solutions to our home-grown business entities. We feel privileged to have had this opportunity where we can work to elevate Majestic City into a smart building and provide solutions that will no doubt turn into an experience that the public will enjoy and appreciate."

Ceylinco Life launches program to support entrepreneurs

Ceylinco Life has launched an entrepreneur development program 'Viyaparika Athwala', which will be conducted islandwide to support the aspirations of business people, in the backdrop of the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Loosely translating to 'A hand to business' the program will consist of a monthly seminar focusing on motivational as well as behavioural aspects that can help entrepreneurs better manage their businesses as well as their work-life balance, the Company said.

The first workshop under this initiative was held in Kandy recently. At the helm of the event was motivational speaker Udaya Devamulla who addressed the audience on goal setting and overcoming obstacles.

Ceylinco Life has planned 12 such programs for the year ahead, all of which will include addresses by key resource personnel on topics such as goal setting, handling obstacles and overcoming problems, living a healthy and active life, health tips, and best practices in health screening.

Ceylinco Life Managing Director

Thushara Ranasinghe said, "Besides promoting a positive and well-balanced approach to business, we hope the program will also encourage entrepreneurs to pursue their ambitions with confidence."

'Viyaparika Athwala' will also provide a platform to create awareness among busy and ambitious entrepreneurs on how life insurance can help them to work towards and achieve goals and dreams, by providing the peace of mind needed to work towards personal and career goals.



Motivational speaker Udaya Devamulla speaking at Ceylinco Life's inaugural 'Viyaparika Athwala' program.

Kangaroo Cabs takes measures to safeguard customers against Covid-19



Kangaroo Cabs (Pvt) Ltd has taken a number of strict measures to ensure customer safety against Covid-19. This includes providing hand sanitisers, touchless thermometers and face masks to each and every driver registered under Kangaroo Cabs.

All drivers at Kangaroo Cabs are advised to strictly follow health guidelines and pay attention to safeguard their valued customers. Cus-

tomers' body temperature is checked and hand sanitization provided before each and every trip. The car is sanitised at the end of every journey to ensure the safety of the next customer and the drivers.

Drivers are advised to wear face masks and follow health guidelines right throughout the journey. Since precautions and safety measures are a top priority at the Kangaroo Cabs.

Serendib Flour Mills marks World Flour Day 2021

Serendib Flour Mills celebrated World Flour Day 2021 yesterday by felicitating their "round-the-clock" workforce who have been working tirelessly since the first lockdown triggered by the pandemic to ensure a steady supply of flour to all of Sri Lanka.

World Flour Day celebrates all types of professionals associated with flour under the motto "White Gold: A tribute to flour heroes all over the world". This day is dedicated to one of the most important foods of human-

kind, a staple that has nourished people every day for millennia, contributing to health, well-being and prosperity.

From the onset of the pandemic Serendib Flour Mills ensured that the adverse situation in the country did not negatively impact the operations of the mill which ran around the clock. The entire SFM workforce, consisting of mill/factory workers and distributors, sales, distribution and technical staff, worked determinedly while also adhering to strict Covid-19 health guidelines. As Serendib Flour Mills

celebrates the second World Flour Day, it glances back at the challenging year behind it to recognise and appreciate the hard work and commitment demonstrated by all its employees during the pandemic. The entire team worked hard around the clock and was determined to ensure that Serendib flour was available around the country. This resulted in families around Sri Lanka having enough flour to turn to home baking to meet their food requirements and even learn new baking skills during the lockdown.



World Flour Day is celebrated on March 20 every year.

STEMUp Educational Foundation expands advisory board

STEMUp Educational Foundation, a non-profit organisation with a focus on furthering Scientific, Technological, Engineering, and Mathematical (STEM) knowledge among Sri Lankan students, has expanded its advisory board by bringing in five experts to take the Foundation's vision forward. The new advisory board

includes: Advisory Leader and COO of PwC Sri Lanka, Channa Manoharan, CEO of Micro:bit Educational Foundation, Gareth Stockdale, - CEO and Director of hSenid and Founder of PIBT, Sampath Jayasundara, Head of Corporate and Vocational Training and General Manager, Corporate Planning of ESOF Metro

Campus, Madhu Fernando and - Co-Founder and General Partner of L&R Holding GmBH & Co-Founder of AI Academy, Lin Gong-Deutschmann.

They will be joining the current members of the Advisory Board that includes: Prasad Piyasena, Yashinka Jayasinghe Alles, Janakie Karunaratne,

Sumudu Wasana, Shamilka Samarasinha and Ravin Tharinda Piyasiri. Director of STEMUp Educational Foundation, Prabhath Mannapperuma said, "We are excited to welcome a new set of brilliant individuals with vast experience in their fields to take the STEMUp Educational Foundation forward. We are confident

that their expertise will help us broaden our horizons and grow in numerous areas. They will work closely with the existing Advisory Board Members and with the STEMUp Directors and a large number of volunteers to achieve our key objective of attracting students of all ages to choose a career in STEM."



Business

H'tota LNG hub: Socar Trading teams up with Pearl Energy

Socar Trading has confirmed that its next LNG development will be at the Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka in partnership with Pearl Energy. The company has indicated its involvement with Pearl Energy's Hambantota LNG Hub, a USD 100 million investment that was recently approved by the Board of Investment, a report filed by Bloomberg stated.

The advantage of the Hambantota LNG Hub is that it can be brought online quickly with gas trucked to existing power plants. Gas demand in emerging Asia is set for bigger gains with this new import terminal.

"Ever since our first LNG to power project in 2017, we had the idea of replicating the LNG-to-Power concept elsewhere," said head of business development and investment at Socar Trading, Togrul Kocharli.

He indicated to Bloomberg Socar's



willingness to add a dedicated power plant during the later stages of the project.

The trading house sees an opportunity to leverage its access to capital, supplies of LNG through its trading business and experience with the Malta project.

Socar handles about one million barrels of crude and products a day and traded about four million tons of LNG

in 2020. That's triple the LNG volumes handled in 2018.

"These are very complex projects. We know how to do it. We've done it before," Ahmadzada said, referring to the company's stake in Malta's half-billion-euro LNG regasification terminal and power station that started operations in 2017. Socar trading is the exclusive fuel supplier to the plant, giving it a long-term outlet, or "short" in trader parlance, for its LNG.

Emerging market countries from Africa and Asia to the Caribbean are eyeing projects to help them move away from a reliance on dirtier fuels such as coal, fuel oil and diesel to generate electricity.

Natural gas is considered a cleaner and reliable alternative though not as environmental-friendly as solar and wind power generation.

Pearl Energy's set to bring Sri Lanka closer to LNG when its floating storage LNG vessel is stationed at the Port of Hambantota by late next year.

Company sources confirmed that they are in talks with the Ministry of Power for the conversion of the Kerawalapitiya power plant to LNG as an 'interim measure' until CEB's own solution for the same is implemented.

Hilton Colombo launches frozen treats at Café Kai

Frozen treats will be the highlight at Café Kai from March 22-31. Guests could indulge in a variety of flavours from Isle of Gelato combined with fresh home-made pancakes, waffles and toppings. The menu consists of five creative sundaes.

LUXURY VEHICLE FOR SALE

Sealed quotations are invited for the following car used by our Chairman (one owner) and maintained by Mercedes Benz.

Mercedes Benz S 350

WP KK-3476 - 3498 CC Petrol

Obsidian black (metallic) body, passion leather seats, Harmon Kardon sound system, night vision, distronic control, suction door closing and low mileage.

Inspection : Stores Manager/Stores Executive,
395 Darley Road, Colombo 10. Tel : 2692207/ 4715267.

Monday to Friday : 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Saturday : 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

A non refundable deposit of Rs. 100/- will be charged for the tender forms which can be collected from the above address.

Sealed quotations indicating 'Luxury Car for Sale' on the top left hand corner of envelope to be submitted on or before 29th March 2021 direct to:



The Managing Director
Hunter & Company PLC
45/75, Narahenpita Road, Colombo 5.
Tel: 0112-081700-4. Fax: 0112-368420.
E-mail: info@hunters.lk

Kingslake to support GRI's next phase of growth

Global Rubber Industries (Pvt) Ltd. has partnered with Kingslake, manufacturing solutions experts, to lay the foundation for its next phase of growth.

By leveraging Kingslake's Advanced Planning and Scheduling (APS) solutions, the manufacturer of specialised tyres hopes to make a significant contribution to the rubber industry, a key export of the country.

With Siemens Opcenter APS, GRI will

have decision-making support for overtime, order prioritisation, split production batches, due date negotiation, and order processing clarity. With the new solution, the company will also have complete visibility and control to support better scheduling decisions. GRI will make better and more strategic its Bill of Materials (BOM) level Planning, Make to Order (MTO) Planning, and Make to Stock (MTS) Planning; all of which are

critical to a tangible enhancement of existing manufacturing processes.

"Work order modifications, time overruns, and material availability issues frequently disrupt the production schedule. GRI is looking to solve these challenges by seamlessly connecting our planners to the shop floor, enabling capacity-based production plans, and real-time schedule changes with Kingslake's experience and scheduling APS

software," said Executive Director of Global Rubber Industries, Ananda Caldera.

CEO of Kingslake, Duleep Fernando said, "Through this partnership with Kingslake, GRI will be able to sequence production orders faster, make production planning more accurate, improve production master plans, and enhance inter-departmental and inter-factory communication."

Getting Started in Shares - Part 7

Buying and selling shares

(Part 6 appeared last week)

Market or Limit order?

A market order is defined as an order to buy or sell a security at the best price or prices prevailing in the market. Whereas a limit order is where the maximum buying price or minimum selling price is specified. A buy limit order can only be executed at the limit price or lower, and a sell limit order can only be executed at the limit price or higher. There is no guarantee of a limit order being executed.

Steps to buying shares

Step 1 - Inform your Stockbroker of the name of the company, price and amount of shares you want to purchase.

Step 2 - The Stockbroker will try and match your order.

Step 3 - Once the order is processed, he will inform you of the shares you were able to purchase at the price you had requested.

After the buying process is complete, you will receive a Bought Note.

Steps to Selling Shares

Step 1 - Inform your Stockbroker about the stock you wish to sell - the name of the company, the price and the number of shares to be sold.

Step 2 - The Stockbroker will try to match your order.

Step 3 - If your order is not matched, he will inform you and negotiate a suitable price. Once the order is matched, it will be processed.



If the Stockbroker sells your shares, you will receive a Sold Note for your transaction.

Many companies have very active markets for their shares with a large portion of shares traded on a daily basis. But there are also companies that have relatively little activity in their shares. The difference between the buy price and the sell price might be quite a bit wider for an illiquid stock than for a liquid stock. If you want to buy a larger quantity of shares of an illiquid stock, you might have to pay more than the current sell price in order to purchase the entire quantity you need.

CDS statement

The CDS statement is a summary of all the transactions that have taken place in your CDS account and shows you the remaining share balance. A monthly and/or quarterly statement is issued to all active account holders while an annual statement is issued to inactive account holders.

Factors to be considered when selecting shares

The types of shares you may come across in the market are based on factors such as return, value, growth

potential and risk. We will now look at more company and industry specific factors that could affect your decision.

Valuation Ratios (also known as Valuation Multiples)

Ratios such as Price Earnings Ratio (P/E), Price to Book Value Ratio (P/BV), Dividend Yield (DY) and Price to Cash Flow Ratio (P/CF) for the share must be looked into. These ratios should always be compared with a relevant benchmark to give meaning analysis.

Attractiveness of the Industry
Different industry sectors display characteristics that may either attract or repel investors. Factors such as market demand and supply for the goods or services produced, competition among industry players, industry specific government regulations and expected growth of the industry and the impact of economic and political stability ought to be considered when investing.

Financial Performance of the Company

It is important that you research and use the wealth of information provided in a company's financial statements and other publications when evaluating a company as a potential investment. While taking into consideration the company's position in the industry.

(To be continued)
Courtesy: The Colombo Stock Exchange

SFG receives accreditation for Product Carbon Footprint verification

Sri Lanka's only internationally accredited Sustainability Validation, Verification and Certification body, The Sustainable Future Group (SFG), marked another milestone recently when it received accreditation from the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) for the conduct of ISO 14067:2018 Product Carbon Footprint Verification.

The accreditation was extended to SFG through IAF Member Institute, the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB).

"With the ever-increasing evidence of the drastic impacts of climate change on the planet, today's constantly evolving consumer is now demanding that companies take greater accountability for the climate impacts of their products," said Director of the Sustainable Future Group, Faris Fausz.



Minister of Trade Dr. Bandula Gunawardena presents the accreditation to Executive Director, The Sustainable Future Group, Faris Fausz. Looking on (from left) are: Director and CEO, Sri Lanka Accreditation Board, Chandrika Thilakarathne, Chairman, Sri Lanka Accreditation Board, Dr. Sampath Wahala and Assistant Manager, Sustainability Assurance and Advisory Services, The Sustainable Future Group, Sajeewa Ranasinghe.

Free electricity generation...

Home power platforms in order to generate relatively smaller amounts of electricity to power domestics is under research with a potential of generating power for the homes by use of the weight of the footsteps of the domestic occupants to pass by specially designed floor tiles as well.

Walkways and jogging tracks is another research and development concept which shall duly use the weight of the footsteps of the general public to pass by specially designed floor tiles and or platforms to turn turbines under-

neath the floor or by the sides of the walkways. New research and development concept will use the weight of the footsteps of the public to pass by specially designed floor tiles to turn the turbines underneath the floor or by the sides of the railway stations, bus stations, shopping malls, schools and any other places deemed suitable under the research.

Gym equipment is also another new concept under research and development and shall duly use suitable gym equipment such as treadmills and total

Continued from page 29

gyms to turn the turbines whilst working out. New research and development concept shall duly use shoe soles to turn miniature turbines while walking to charge phone batteries and any other portable equipment.

Research and development is underway and will use natural wind power and solar power in synchronised integration to turn arms with solar power, when wind is not potent to turn turbines.

Jagath Wijesekara is contactable through Jagathwijesekara71@gmail.com

LB FINANCE PLC

Two Gigantic Auction Sales

70 Nos. Diesel & Petrol Motor Vehicles & Three Wheelers
On Tuesday 23rd March 2021
To Be Held At
Saninro Residencies
No. 07, Ketagewatta Road, Ragama.

Auction #1 : Commencing at 10.00 am

Entrance on the day of auction:- By a non-refundable Ticket of Rs. 2,000.00 & a refundable deposit of Rs. 25,000.00 per person. The gate will be opened at 8.30am for Registration.

Comprising :

MOTOR CARS

WP KM- XXXX TOYOTA BELTA (VITZ) 2007
WP CAK- XXXX SUZUKI WAGON R 2014
WP CAA- XXXX TOYOTA PRIUS 2011
WP KP- XXXX CHEVROLET SPARK 2011
WP CAN- XXXX SUZUKI ALTO LXI 800 2015
WP KP- XXXX TATA NANO 2011
18- XXXX NISSAN BLUEBIRD 1992
WP JL- XXXX NISSAN MARCH 2001
WP CAY- XXXX HONDA N BOX 2017
WP KF- XXXX NISSAN TIIDA 2007
UP HS- XXXX TOYOTA COROLLA 2003
64- XXXX MITSUBISHI 1991

JEEPS

WP HC- XXXX MAHENDRA SCORPIO 2003
NW KG- XXXX MITSUBISHI V9 MONTERO 2007
WP CAM- XXXX NISSAN X-TRAIL 2015
WP CAA- XXXX HONDA VEZEL 2014

VANS

30 SRI XXXX NISSAN CARAVAN 1978
WP HR- XXXX NISSAN SERENA 1998

AND

3 LORRIES, 6 SMALL TRUCKS & 01 TRACTOR

Auction #2 : Commencing at 2.00 Pm

Entrance on the day of auction:- By a non-refundable Ticket of Rs. 1,000.00 & a refundable deposit of Rs. 10,000.00 per person. The gate will be opened at 1.00pm for Registration.

Comprising :- 38 Three Wheelers

Bajaj 2 Stroke & 4 Stroke Three Wheelers & TVS Three Wheeler

Viewing - Sunday 21st March 2021 Onwards at LB Finance Vehicle Yard # 304, Pahala Karagahamuna, Ragama Road, Kadawatha Between 9.00 a.m - 5.00 p.m

Vehicles cannot be inspected on the day of Auction

Visit our web site www.sandslanka.com for visuals of vehicles

Conditions of Sale

- The Auction will be conducted in accordance with the strict guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health, adhering to COVID 19 protocol.
- Prospective buyers will be taken to the auction venue on a first come first serve basis & limited for 150 seats as per the Health Ministry guidelines.
- Payment : Non - refundable initial deposit of 25% in Cash at the fall of the Hammer & Balance 75% & Removal latest by 3:00 pm on **Thursday 25th March 2021** to be paid to LB Finance Vehicle Yard, No.304, Pahala Karagahamuna, Ragama Road, Kadawatha.
- The Management has the right to withdraw any vehicle (s) from the Auction without prior notice.
- The decision of the Auctioneer will be final.

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Advertorial

Solve your credit card debt at Cargills Bank

Are you trapped with your Credit Card debt? Then let Cargills Bank help you with your Financial Planning. Enjoy credit card balance transfers in 30 minutes while enjoying convenient and hassle-free instalment plans for up to 48 months. Cargills Bank guarantees that your Balance Transfer request will be processed within 30 minutes, allowing you to quickly ease your burden and begin enjoying life again. Performing Credit Card balances maintained with any Credit Card Issuer in Sri Lanka under the name of the Customer is eligible to be Transferred to Cargills Bank Credit Card (within the approved credit limit).

When completed, your application will be processed within 30 minutes and you can immediately begin breathing a sigh of relief, as you enjoy flexible payment plans and the ability to focus on your life again.

CEO at Cargills Bank, Senarath Bandara said, "We wish to harness the spirit of progress in every Sri Lankan. As a responsible bank it is our objective to support financial planning for individuals and organizations. As part of that endeavour the bank has taken the initiative to provide a convenient and flexible



CEO Senarath Bandara



AGM Mahesha Amarasuriya

mechanism for individuals to plan their debt. Balance transfer within 30 minutes will empower our customers and provide them with an opportunity to continue with their journey of progress.

As a young bank, we are proud to be able to offer this unique facility that will be truly beneficial to our society." AGM card Services, Mahesha Amarasuriya said, "While a credit card balance transfer scheme is not a new concept, our market analysis allowed us to understand that the key requirement of the customer is convenience and speed. That's why we have designed our facility to be as convenient and seamless as possible.

"Our processes have been streamlined and we assure processing of applications within 30 minutes during business hours.

This is a first for Sri Lanka and unique in the market. Furthermore, by allowing for extended settlement periods, we are providing the flexibility that our customers need to overcome their challenges," she said. Set up in 2014, with a vision to be Sri Lanka's most inclusive bank driven by digital enablement, Cargills Bank is rated AA-(lka) by Fitch Ratings Lanka and is the financial services arm of the Cargills Group, providing a full range of banking and financial services. The Bank has also embraced

the CBSL's vision of a cashless society and was the first to issue and acquire LankaQR transactions in Sri Lanka, driving island-wide technology-based payment solutions. In addition to branches, ATMs and digital channels, Cargills Bank accounts are also accessible through Cargills Food City outlets island-wide and enjoy free cash deposits and withdrawals at any Cargills Food City counter, courtesy of the Cargills Cash Service. Cargills Bank's services include a full range of savings accounts, investment planner accounts, credit & debit cards, consumer loans, agriculture and micro financing, SME & business banking loans and trade facilities.

The Bank also provides a range of flexible and convenient digital banking services, ensuring 24/7 access and absolute convenience. Cargills Bank is headquartered in Kollupitiya, Colombo and maintains branches at Maitland Crescent, Maharagama, Old Moor Street, Wattala, Kandy, Peradeniya, NuwaraEliya, Chillaw, Fort, Rajagiriya, Ratnapura, Thanamalwila, Matarara, Galle, Kurunegala, Kaduruwela, Vavuniya, Chunnakam, Jaffna and Nawalapitiya

Bank of Ceylon Kesbewa branch moves to new location



The Bank of Ceylon Kesbewa branch was relocated to Horana Road, Kesbewa recently to provide more convenience to customers.

The ceremony took place under the patronage of the Bank's Deputy General Manager Sales and Channel Management, Priyal Silva.

The Bank of Ceylon Kesbewa Branch has been providing a dedicated service to the customers of the region through financial assistance to uplift their socio-economic well-being. With the relocation of the branch at its new address, the Bank enhanced convenience of banking to its customers with spacious and more organized ambience and extended digital banking services.

DGM, Retail Banking, Range II, B.K. Gurusinghe, AGM, Western Province South, Mrs W.K.L.B.N. Samanthi, AGM, Provincial Sales Management, Mrs D.R.C.S. Udayakumari and AGM, Offshore Banking, I.S.N. Perera represented the bank's Corporate and Executive Management, officials from the Bank's Western Province South Office and customers were present. Manager of the Kesbewa branch and the staff officiated the event.

BOC Kesbewa is connected with every other BOC branch across the country, hence customers have the privilege of carrying out banking transactions to any part of the country through the Kesbewa branch.

The Branch will offer a wide array of banking services to its customers inclusive of deposit products such as current and local or foreign currency savings/ Fixed Deposit accounts and investment plans and loan products such as housing and personal loans, education loans, Leasing, pawning facilities and special loans schemes such as DiviUdana loan scheme.

Customers can also avail themselves of Debit or Credit cards and international money transfer/remittances services.

Bringing in the digital aspect of banking to every nook and corner in the country, the Bank of Ceylon has strategically developed a number of fin-tech applications to assist its customers.

BOC Smart online banking, B-APP mobile banking and SmartPay QR scan mobile app assists customers to conduct daily banking transactions with convenience.

Maliban displays resilience with double-digit growth

In its battle against Covid-19, Maliban Biscuits displayed strength and resilience while striving to serve its consumers uninterrupted during challenging times. This feat resulted in the organisation's double-digit growth during the year, standing evident to Maliban's continuous efforts to deliver quality products in line with stringent health and safety guidelines.

Earlier last year, the organization was awarded the Covid-19 Safety Management System certification by Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI), being the first food manufacturing company to do so. The certification reflects a well-planned Covid-19 safety management system which is vital for the safety of the company, its employees, customers and other stakeholders. Adapting to the first wave of Covid-19 in the country, Maliban began implementing various proactive measures, starting from basic steps of maintaining social distance, sanitization and daily medical screening of its employees by medical pro-



MD Ms. Kumudika Fernando



CEO Ravi Jayawardena

fessionals. Employees are subject to mandatory sanitization procedures and are provided with extra personal protective equipment to ensure maximum safety within and beyond company premises. Following protocol, screens have been placed in the factory to maintain social distance among staff by segregating the premises into four major zones. Crossing between these zones are strictly controlled to minimize potential cross contamination. Employees are also

provided with face shields, all 3 meals, vitamins C and D, and daily transport - free. Group Chief Executive Officer Ravi Jayawardena said, "With the strength and commitment of the staff at Maliban, who works unitedly as one team to drive the growth of the company, Maliban was able to see a double-digit growth during the past year."

"As a trusted household brand, it is our duty to our employees and consumers that we ensure maximum

safety in all our operations and products. By investing over LKR 20 million per month and following collaboration and inspection by representatives of the Ministry of Health, we have placed countless measures which allow us to continue operations while prioritizing the health and safety of our local community," he said.

Managing Director of Maliban, Mrs. Kumudika Fernando said, "On behalf of Maliban, I extend our immense gratitude towards the key drivers of the business - our employees and our customers, for having faith and believing in us to continue serving the nation."

Maliban's finished goods are stored at three locations - Angulana, Panadura and Ratmalana. These stores operate separately from each other to further minimize the risk of contamination. Subsequently, all employees are educated on health and safety via internal communications, training and demonstrations, to better serve consumers with safe confectionary products.

AIA introduces cloud-based workflow automation

AIA Insurance claimed another industry first in digital transformation with the introduction of cloud-based workflow automation. AIA selected Microsoft Azure Logic Apps to enable the automation of many of its critical workflows.

AIA's CEO Nikhil Advani said, "Our end goal with this particular programme is to ensure efficient, accurate and speedy policy issuance, which in turn will benefit our customers."

AIA's Chief Technology Officer Umesh De Fonseka said, "By using automated workflows, we are streamlining and speeding up internal processes and reducing manual interventions. The solution is extremely user-friendly- it works on any device that has an internet connection and a web browser and can be accessed from anywhere in the world." Director and Chief Officer Legal and Operations for AIA, Cha-



thuriMunaweera said, "At AIA we are constantly looking for ways to improve our processes so that we can offer unmatched convenience to customers. This new Cloud Based Workflow Automation will help us increase efficiency of the onboarding process and improve operations across the enterprise, which in turn will help us manage our customer experiences more effectively."

The end goal is to boost customer loyalty and grow our business."

HNBA Group delivers solid growth in 2020

HNB Assurance PLC (HNBA) and its fully owned subsidiary HNB General Insurance Limited (HNBGI) recorded a Profit After Tax of Rs. 1.175 bn for FY 2020, growing 16% compared to the corresponding period last year, while the Group's Gross Written Premium (GWP) reached Rs. 10.4 bn.

CEO Prasanth Fernando said, "Our teams proved their mettle last year, by maintaining their resolute focus on the end goal, driven by an agile mindset, the thirst for prompt and meticulous execution and being focused on digitalisation; while as an organisation, our philosophy has always been putting people first, be it staff, agents, contract staff and customers. "The management team successfully managed the change



CEO Prasanth Fernando

process with regards to adapting and evolving to the new normal as well as embracing technology that helped us operate in environments within which movement was constrained. The Group was able to surpass the sig-

nificant Rs. 10 bn milestone in GWP with a growth of 5% compared to the corresponding period last year.

"Interest Income of the Group grew 11% to Rs. 2.5 bn in spite of the decreasing interest rate regime that we witnessed, driven by portfolio growth and sound investment strategies. Total assets of the Group increased by 19% to Rs. 31.7 bn while the Total Liabilities of the Group grew by 18% to Rs. 23.5 bn. We continue to be rated A(lka) by Fitch Ratings Lanka for 'National Insurer Financial Strength Rating', our Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) increased from 322% in 2019 to 338% in 2020 for the Life Business. HNBGI's CAR too increased to 256% from 226% in 2019, both well above the minimum regulatory requirements," he said.

Home Lands Skyline opens resort apartments in Athurugiriya

Homelands Skyline is proud to announce that Ariyana Resort Apartments - Athurugiriya is now open.

Ariyana, one of the first resort apartments in Sri Lanka, was introduced by Homelands Skyline, and has redefined apartment living. It is the most successful project handled by Homelands Skyline to date. The initial investment was 3.5 billion Rupees and the complex consists of 344 apartments and offers 50+ facilities. In addition to this apartment complex being completed successfully, it was also completely sold out prior to the expected date of completion!

The inspiring and groundbreaking concept behind Ariyana Resort Apartments displays a fruitful endeavor in bringing out refined residential living experience by dedicating 20% of its land area to the apartment complex; and maintaining 80% in its natural setting. It is further designed. The apartment complex is conveniently located in close proximity to the Highway in



Chairman and Managing Director of Homelands Group - Nalin Herath, Director of Homelands Group - Mrs. Harshani Herath along with people who contributed greatly to the success of the project.

Athurugiriya and close to transport, medical and technological hubs for its residents utmost convenience. This concept apartment offers 50+ facilities that are handpicked to ensure that residents enjoy the ultimate resort

experience, every day. This assortment of facilities within the complex are provided with friendly, efficient service and support a lifestyle that is not only healthy for the body, but also for the soul.

BMICH honours founders

Holds blood donation campaign and alms giving

The BMICH, recently organized a religious event followed by a blood donation campaign in commemoration and honour of its founders Prime Minister S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike and of former Cabinet Minister and Speaker of Parliament Anura Bandaranaike and to invoke blessings and protection of the BMICH, its employees, their families and country from Covid-19.

With well-wishers and BMICH staff signing up, the scope of the blood donation campaign was truly unprecedented.

Importantly, Undoubtedly, this campaign will have a very real and direct impact on a large number of people who are in need," said Sunil Dissanayake, CEO of the BMICH. Chanting of the 'RathanaSuthraya' followed by an



alms giving for Buddhist priests was also held as part of the ceremonies.

BMICH is Sri Lanka's largest purpose-built convention center with ultra-modern facilities. Recently redesigned, renovated and refurbished, BMICH is an integrated

MICE complex with all the facilities needed to host any type of convention, seminar, exhibition, conference or wedding including multi-day international conventions and conferences, a spokesman for BMICH said.

Midas Safety presents medical gloves to Health Ministry

Private-label supplier of hand protection equipment, Midas Safety donated one million medical grade gloves to the value of Rs. 16 million to the Ministry of Health recently.

The donation includes Nitrile Industrial High Risk disposable gloves that offer effective protection against virus contamination and are an essential PPE for medical personnel and

frontline workers in handling Covid-19 patients. These donations are in addition to the other charitable initiatives carried out by Midas Safety through its Corporate Social Responsibility arm. With healthcare workers working relentlessly and selflessly, we realize that we have a responsibility to contribute in tangible ways and this donation is a small token of our appre-

ciation for the work that they do. In the future, Midas Safety will continue in its efforts to aid communities around the world, a company spokesman said.

The company has played a pivotal role in the country's glove manufacturing industry as well in the global export market. The company offers a vast range of products covering all aspects of hand protection.

SPECTRUM

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MARCH 21, 2021

Motivation triggers action

By
Nirosha
Rajapakse



tance to understand the reasons which contribute towards the lack of motivation.

Dreamers

As long as you are struggling without a sense of motivation, you find that your entire life is stagnant where your sub-consciousness would shun your potential of reaching at targets in life.

In that light, motivation, a celebrated noun in the English language comes into your rescue. As stated by Jeffrey S. Nevid in his book of "Essentials of Psychology: Concepts and Applications", motivation is defined as follows; "The term motivation refers to factors that activate, direct, and sustain goal-directed behavior. Motives are the 'whys' of behaviour - the needs or wants that drive behaviour and explain what we do. We don't actually observe a motive; rather, we infer that one exists based on the behaviour we observe".

Motivation could be identified as an innermost desire which compels a person to initiate action. It is also recognised as a reason which prompts to act.

As a teenager or a young adult is required to be motivated, you can apply two strategies where you can either expand the contributory reasons to act or restrict the reasons for not to act in each of these two stages.

When it is required to expand the reasons to act, it is of impor-

tant to understand the reasons which contribute towards the lack of motivation. Young blood is identified as excellent dreamers involved with astounding prospects and potentials which could be converted into tangible achievements. Once the young people are assisted with constructive motivation, it has the potential of illuminating their future prospects while giving an array of hopes to the hopeless.

In this aspect, motivation could be treated as a prevailing push for self-realisation which is also the mandatory ingredient that can fulfill the requirements of a thriving life for which the age is not an obstacle. Motivation stands as a mandatory element in acquiring and enhancing the self-determination and the self-belief.

Unfortunately, most of the young people are more likely to be susceptible to what which aptly be referred to as demotivation Syndrome. Young people can easily be trapped by the sense of fear which can destroy their future. It is understood that the same fear is the root cause which discourages the young people in putting their new thoughts into practice.

It is of paramount significance in assisting the young people to treat failures and setbacks in life as a springboard in the event of change and success. You own a life which is spirited and subjected to persistent changes. It frequently faces with its own unforeseeable eventualities.

Therefore, motivation is a must in fueling the passion in the youth

Energising the youth



where diverse skills, talents as well as the dreams which they perceive could be brought out. It is the motivation which is able to create opportunities and knowledge of the path along which they are supposed to travel. But there involve various forms of motivation.

Potential and opportunities

Young people get the opportunity of rediscovering themselves while comprehending and shunning the

slumbering potentials available with them by means of self-determination and actualisation. You can never facilitate change in yourself until you realise the undeveloped potential and opportunities.

The path towards the change of personal state is shaped up by the motivational processes such as self-determination and actualisation. The more you read motivational literature and also similarly the more you meet the people

THE PATH TOWARDS THE CHANGE OF PERSONAL STATE IS SHAPED BY THE MOTIVATIONAL PROCESSES SUCH AS SELF-DETERMINATION AND ACTUALISATION. THE MORE YOU READ MOTIVATIONAL LITERATURE AND ALSO SIMILARLY THE MORE YOU MEET THE PEOPLE WHO MOTIVATE YOU, MORE PROSPECTS WHICH CAN TRANSFORM MISERABLE CIRCUMSTANCES INTO A PLEASANT SUCCESS MAY PREVAIL

who motivate you, more prospects which can transform miserable circumstances into a pleasant success may prevail. Hence, the quality of life can be improved by motivation while individually taking efforts in becoming a unique person in society.

Unfortunately, you do not find many people believe in themselves. Amid severe circumstances, young people may tend to abandon hopes and dreams. The reason is the fact that some were born and bred with the sense of self-indulgence and never willing to see anything good in life. The others were born and bred with a lot of confidence where they believe that they are steadfast.

The people belonging to these sets live the life as a "win-win" situation. Notwithstanding self-belief should be inculcated. Those who do not have the self-belief currently can have it re-inculcated later in their lives. Motivation has an enormous capacity of assisting the young people being spiritually rather uplifted as much as the sun rises in the eastern sky where a strong sense of confidence is guaranteed despite the

influence of the stiff environmental, economic, social, political and emotional factors.

Fear of failure

Essentially, the young people should be encouraged to take up new challenges. The sense of fear of failure should be eradicated. Fear is just like a wall which differentiates the successful people from the unsuccessful. The fear of failure does not allow your novel thoughts to materialise. It hinders your prospects of a better future.

Albert Einstein said, "If you never failed before, it means you have never tried something new". In that light, fear is considered as one of the biggest barriers in the life of young people which should be eradicated by means of a properly delivered motivation package whereby the courage for success can be motivated among any young people regardless of their individual upbringing.

Motivation gives a strong degree of enthusiastic courage and hopes for the young people who would feel fond of their lives worth living where they will be able to reach at astounding achievements.

Listen to yourself!

By
R.S. Karunaratne



Before going to school, we listened to our parents. When we attended school, we listened to our teachers. If you happen to be an undergraduate, you will listen to your lecturers.

The rest of us have no one else to listen to except ourselves. As teenagers and young adults, we all have constant conversations with ourselves. Such internal dialogues, sometimes called monologues, can take place anywhere anytime. The key to success is to make such monologues work for you.

As a person, you have a bundle of beliefs, facts, opinions about others and yourself. They have been created by internal and external factors. External factors are the events and experiences you have gathered from the outside world. When you look at them, you might feel pain and pleasure. When I made myself a fool in a romantic relationship, I felt some pain. When I cleared my Advanced Levels with flying colours, I felt a sense of happiness.

The fact remains that all those external factors now belong to history. I have no power to change them. However, I can change my internal responses to the external factors. Suppose you have resigned your job without finding a new avenue of income. This is an external event to which you have an internal response.

Your reactions might be: "Hey, I have no regrets over leaving my job, but I have talents to do a new job." Even if you do not get a job immediately, it is a learning experience. You can use it to your advantage. You have learnt a lesson not to leave a job without finding a new one. You thank yourself for being realistic, yet you are not suffering a huge blow to your self-esteem.

Positive thinking

If you are a person given to positive thinking, you will not feel sorry for yourself. As you are young, ambitious and qualified, you can get a job quite easily. But you may have to suffer until you get it. If you happen to be a person given to negative thinking, you might feel that you have come to the end of the road. How to find a job when thousands of unemployed people are clamouring for jobs? You might feel that you are a loser and you have messed up your life.

If you wish to rise above ordinary people, you should be honest to yourself to learn something from your personal history. Before you can step out of the prison of your past, you need to identify and challenge your internal rhetoric. As a leading psychologist has observed, we all look at the world through a set of filters.

Unfortunately, our perceptual filters can be highly sensitive to negative thoughts. You have no control over it because that is human nature. When information flows through your filter, you will have a dialogue with yourself. It is a voice nobody

else will hear. The only advantage is that only you can control it.

I remember the day I tried to repair a winding clock. I removed the parts, oiled them and tried to put them together. Then I realised that I had no technical talents to do so. I heard my internal dialogue screaming: "You have messed up. You have no chance of putting the parts together. Now seek the services of a repairman." That internal dialogue taught me an important lesson - not to meddle with things for which I have no knowledge or experience.

Doubts and anxieties

If you are a person riddled with doubts and anxieties, so too will be your internal dialogue. If you are not smart enough, you are not good enough to do anything.

That means you are bound to fail. It gets the loudest when you try to select a job or life partner. If you think you have got the ideal job, accept it. When you meet your dream girl, accept her.

Internal dialogue is ever present. Nobody can deny it. Sometimes, it can wreak destruction. For instance, you will find yourself in a highly-paid job in a bank. But your inner voice says you should quit and work as a writer.

A writer has to earn his money through hard work. He does not get a regular monthly income or a company maintained vehicle and other perks. However, if you are not happy with your highly-paid job, listen to your inner voice which will say: "Quit and work as a



A POSITIVE INTERNAL DIALOGUE IS NOT A LITANY OF A "FEEL GOOD" MANTRAS. IT IS A RATIONALLY OPTIMISTIC SELF-TALK. IF YOU ARE TASKED WITH A DIFFICULT ASSIGNMENT, TELL YOURSELF: "I'M READY TO DO IT." WHEN YOU HAVE A SELF-TALK, IT SHOULD BE HONEST

writer." If you do not listen to your internal dialogue, you will lead a frustrated life. Your frustration will come from not being true to yourself.

Your internal dialogue will include constant comparisons, fears, worries, anxieties and bouts of pessimism. You may downplay something that you really care. I know

of an English teacher who was a highly talented artist. He used to draw pictures of animals on the whiteboard to explain the meaning of words.

Students complained that he was not teaching English but exhibiting his artistic skills. Strangely, he knew that he was a good artist, but he preferred to earn his living as an

English teacher. He probably did not listen to his inner voice and act accordingly.

Observations

You need to examine your internal dialogue from time to time. Spend a few minutes and write down the observations in your notebook. The contents may include what you have been telling yourself about your looks, ambitions, competence and your self-worth. You will come to grips with reality when you have a self-talk. In a self-talk you are the one who is talking and you are the one who is listening. Nobody is eavesdropping.

Psychologists have demonstrated that our self-thoughts help determine how we perform. For instance, weightlifters can lift more when they hold self-affirming thoughts. Similarly, you can pass any examination if you tell yourself that you can do well. Positive self-talk helps swimmers to swim faster and runner to run like Usain Bolt.

A positive internal dialogue is not a litany of a "feel good" mantras. It is a rationally optimistic self-talk. If you are tasked with a difficult assignment, tell yourself: "I'm ready to do it." When you have a self-talk, it should be honest. There is no need to deceive yourself. If you are too busy to do something, admit it. Remember that it is the busy people who do well in any task assigned to them. An internal dialogue will help you to succeed in life. With all your weaknesses, you are a unique person who is gifted with certain talents. Make use of them to the maximum through self-talk!

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Features

Book review

Meditation, Buddhism and Science

BY ANUSHKA KAHANDAGAMAGE

Meditation has opened up a new avenue to deal with the pathologies created by the modern world. Sri Lanka, primarily being a Buddhist majority country and, simultaneously, on the verge of social calamity due to failed economic and social policies, has many alternative Buddhist groups emerging.

This expansion of Buddhist groups that practise meditation and engaged in sermons is inevitable. Against this background, the book provides a fertile ground for the reader to understand how meditation is socially constructed in a world where 'modern-western science' preoccupies the knowledge paradigm.

The edited volume consists of ten articles, including the introduction. The book's primary logic is based on how meditation takes different shapes in different cultural settings and in relation to 'modern science'. The articles in the volume are provided by experts in sociology, philosophy, religious studies and anthropology.

Historicity

The book starts with historicising meditation. In 1883, part of the Mandalay city in Myanmar was burnt down to ashes due to the third Anglo-Burmese war. One Burmese Buddhist bikkhu, Ledi-Sayadaw, saw his monastery and scholarly work compiled over many years being burnt down. This incident had a significant impact on the emergence of the modern Buddhist movement. The frustrated monk moved to the forest and started meditating, which was a rare practice at that time. These conditions led to an understanding of meditation as a mechanism for preserving Buddhism in the long term. Including women, hundreds of people started meditating.

Meditation was expected to expand and conserve Buddhism. The British colonial administration and policies had affected the form and expansion of meditation at the time.

Meditation has a broader reach globally with distinct configurations, including in Silicon Valley, which is

THE 'DISCOVERY' OF 'BUDDHISM' BY 'MODERN SCIENCE' AS A COLONIAL ADVENTURE RESULTED IN MEDITATION BECOMING A TRANS-CULTURAL PHENOMENON. AS A RESULT, WESTERN SCHOLARS EXTRACTED 'BUDDHIST TEXT' FROM THE CULTURES THEY EMERGED AND PRODUCED A 'PURIFIED' VERSION OF BUDDHISM, WHICH IS UNIVERSAL. AS A RESULT, BUDDHISM EMERGED IN EUROPEAN INTELLECTUAL CIRCLES AS A PHENOMENON BEYOND THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CONDITIONS IN WHICH INITIALLY EMERGED AND EXPANDED

the centre of modern communication technology. Meditation manifesting in entirely different settings and purposes than the original spiritual Buddhist purpose is not unusual today. In that sense, meditation is practised in relatively secular spaces, such as military training camps, universities focused on business studies and multinational companies.

It was initially believed that meditation is not suitable for the laity who live a secular life, where they cannot concentrate on reaching the subtle layers of spiritual realisation. With the advent of the presumption that methods of insight only needed the concentration for a moment, meditation started to expand among the laity and globally.

Trans-cultural phenomenon

The 'discovery' of 'Buddhism' by 'modern science' as a colonial adventure resulted in meditation becoming a trans-cultural phenomenon. As a result, Western scholars extracted 'Buddhist text' from the cultures they emerged and produced a 'purified' version of Buddhism, which is universal. As a result, Buddhism emerged in European intellectual circles as a phenomenon beyond the social and cultural conditions in which initially emerged and expanded. This perspective erased the ancient Buddhist cosmology. Buddhism was constructed as a system of 'self-transformation'.

On the one hand, Western scholars presented Buddhism as an 'exotic philosophy', and on the other hand, Buddhism was experimenting with various forms internally to cope with

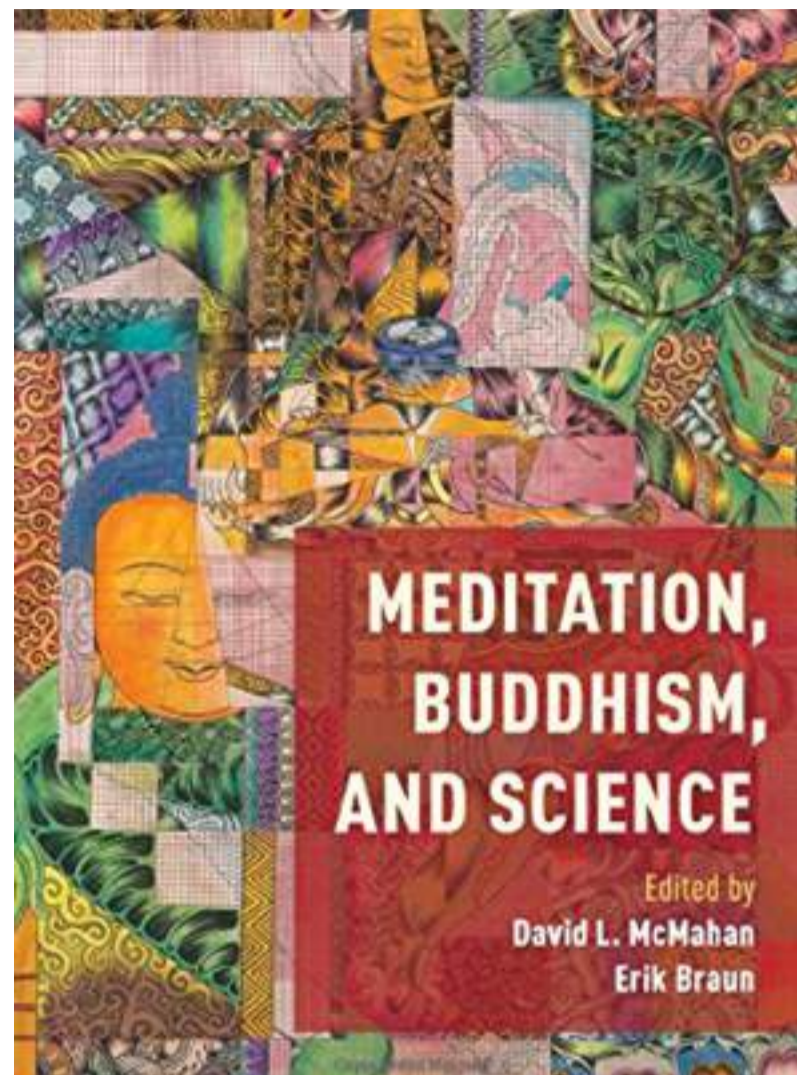
colonial pressure. One of the primary attacks on Buddhism from the colonial missionary enterprise was that Buddhism was incompatible with modern science.

The well-known Panadura Debate held in colonial Ceylon was one of the best examples of this controversy among Buddhists and Christians. One of the main points of the debate was which religion was more compatible with modern science. The introductory chapter, which maps and discusses current trends and the history of meditation, ends with recent backlashes against meditation.

The second chapter, 'How Meditation Works: Theorising the Role of Cultural Context in Buddhist Contemplative Practices' is by David McMahan. It starts with comparing a meditating monk from the beginning of the common era and a contemporary American female professional who practises insight meditation (vipassana).

The chapter's main argument is, that meditation can create different forms of existence depending on the cultures it emerges from, rather than the idea that meditation works in a universal form regardless of time and space. Thus, although the two personalities mentioned in the chapter are engaged in the same meditative practice, the elements they bring to the content and the meditation practice are varied. The author shows how meditation can expand in different social imaginaries with various attractions.

Evan Thomson has written the third chapter under the heading, 'Looping Effects and the Cognitive Science of Mindfulness Meditation'. The chapter discusses how modern science has created 'mindfulness' as a category related to the brain and how



Book: Meditation, Buddhism and Science, 2017
Authors: David McMahan and Erik Braun, Eds
Publishers: Oxford University Press

the contemporary person conceives this idea as the 'truth'. The writer, who is from a background in philosophy, discusses modern science's reductionist approach to engage in experiments by relating any cognitive function to a specific part of the brain.

'Buddhism, Happiness and the Science of Meditation' by William Edelglass is the fourth chapter. The popular discourse is that meditation is a form of keeping a person happy. He discusses the construction of 'the

science of meditation and happiness' and the politics of knowledge it represents.

Edelglass discusses how modern science is interested in measuring happiness rather than searching for what happiness is. As a result, many experiments have attempted to measure happiness and explore the reasons for happiness. According to some scientists, half of happiness is determined through genes and the other half through a person's choices. The author emphasises the complexity of the idea of 'happiness' and how the so-called 'science of meditation and happiness' has promoted a reductionist approach to the subject.

The fifth chapter by William Waldron is titled, 'Reflections on Indian

Buddhist Thought and the Scientific Study of Meditation.' It discusses and compares the modern scientific study of meditation with classical Buddhist thinkers' ideas. The next chapter by Joanna Cook is titled, 'Mind the Gap: Appearance and Reality in Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy.'

The chapter attempts to explore meditative practice's nature based on ethnographic research on mindfulness with a focus on cognitive therapy. The next chapter, 'Wherever You Go, There You Aren't? :Non-Self, Spirits and the Concept of the Person in Thai Buddhist Mindfulness' written by Julia Cassa explores mindfulness-based meanings created by meditation that were proposed by the earlier chapters and shows how these meanings are produced and reproduced in multiple discourses and how meditation becomes a 'reality' in society.

The next chapter by Jeff Wilson is titled, 'Mindfulness Makes You a Way Better Lover: Mindful Sex and the Adaptation of Buddhism to New Cultural Desires' discusses how self-help Gurus have used meditation as a tool of sexual satisfaction and to maintain and sustain a related market. The ninth chapter, 'Mindful but Not Religious: Meditation and Enchantment in the Work of Jon Kabat-Zinn' by Erik Braun, explores how meditation is being extracted from the spiritual world and located in the secular world.

Modern meditation

The last chapter by Robert H. Sharf, 'Is Mindfulness Buddhist? (And Why It Matters)' historicises the practice of mindfulness meditation and argues how modern meditation is different from the earlier Buddhist approaches to meditation. He argues that meditation has always taken the shape of the society in which it emerges and the current conditions of reinventing meditation in different locations is not a completely new occurrence.

Seen in this sense, the book primarily deals with how meditation and mindfulness operate in the world under different social conditions and problematise how modern science captures and analyses the conditions that emerge from meditation and related discourses.

Call to get women involved in key social and economic processes

International Women's Day in Colombo drew the attention of the people to the role of women in the modern world.

Sri Lanka's women activists and influencers of public opinion, founder and Chairperson of Women in Management Dr. Sulochana Seger, Director of the Pharmaceutical Holding Hemas Holdings PLC, first female Group CEO of a public quoted conglomerate in Sri Lanka Kasthuri Chellaraja Wilson, Chairman of the Indira Cancer Trust and a number of other NGOs Dr. Lanka Jayasuriya Dissanayaka and 10-time Sri Lanka chess champion and President of the Anatoly Karpov Chess Club Sangeetha Wijesooriya were the main speakers at the roundtable held by the Russian House in Colombo.

The speakers shared their experiences and examples from life in the implementation of initiatives for the organisation and work of NGOs aimed at involving women in the main social and economic processes in the country, noted the importance of the practice of volunteering, the establishment of networks and mutual support. "The modern world offers women many opportunities and to realise them, women must challenge themselves to make coordinated and progressive efforts," the participants in the discussion said.

The guests were also shown a



Speakers addressing the event



documentary video about the feat of the first woman-cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova and a photo exhibition "Women of Russia".

The representative of Rosstrudnichestvo office, Anastasia Khokhlova stressed the relevance of involving women in the processes of civil society. "I am glad that the Rus-

sian House in Colombo has become a platform for discussing this important topic. I thank the distinguished leaders of public opinion who have joined us today."

"Valentina Tereshkova, the first woman in the world to conquer space, is a Russian. Sri Lanka made the world's first woman

Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike. Such high achievements not only indicate the level of development of society, where the role of women is actualised in strategic contexts, but also demonstrate the strength of spirit and similarity of the mentality of the two peoples," she added.



International Women's Day in Colombo

CFW and One Galle Face launch Retail Week 2021

A new experience themed Wellness, Fashion, Luxury and Culinary interactions

For the second consecutive year, CFW comes together with OGF to curate a first-of-its-kind experiential retail event with an overriding theme "No plastic week" which gives it a responsible and sustainable direction in keeping with the overall theme of circularity in fashion as promoted by Colombo Fashion Week.

The ten-day program will be held from March 28th till 9th April 2021 and focuses on dynamic themes such as Wellness, Fashion, Luxury and Cuisine. This program is based on creative collaborations which brings about engaging retail interactions for guests and patrons; and it will be launched in association with One Galle Face and HSBC Sri Lanka.

The programme is a knowledge and engagement-based experience which includes expert talks on relevant themes and subjects, book readings and workshops, value added retail experiences, a home-grown music event, junior chef program, art workshop for kids, and special events such as wine tasting and F&B demos.

"We are happy to take the Retail week Concept with OGF into a second edition with a strong theme labelled as "No plastic Week". We will create an experiences which are relevant and responsible which will enhance and empower every consumer who walks into the One Galle Face Mall. This new concept of retail is dynamic and goes beyond the "sale format". said Managing Director of CFW Holdings Ajai Vir Singh.

One Galle Face is Colombo's first internationally developed and managed mixed-use development project. One Galle Face Mall is sponsoring a series of initiatives aimed at giving back to shoppers during the festive season. Shoppers spending over Rs. 2,000 between March 19th till 24th will have a chance to 'Spin the Wheel' and win great prizes, while shoppers spending over Rs. 5,000 from March 25th till April 11th will re-

ceive an OGF voucher for Rs. 5,000 to spend within the mall.

There will also be a host of wellness activities, traditional New Year's games, live music and some strong promotions from stores within the Mall.

"We are delighted to be hosting CFW's Retail Week for the second time at One Galle Face Mall. On the build up to Avurudu, we have an action-packed calendar of events and promotions paying tribute to our key themes of Fashion, Wellness, Luxury and Cuisine. I'd like to thank all our co-sponsors and tenants for supporting CFW Retail Week, and helping to make One Galle Face Mall the centre of lifestyle activities in Colombo." said Chris McFall, Commercial Director, Shangri-La Group.

CFW Retail Week will craft knowledge and engagement-based on retail experiences which incorporate talks and other events categorized into dynamic themes. In today's context, it is important that all are sensitised towards the importance of our environment, and hence this interactive retail program has been created to build knowledge and awareness through workshops and talks to engage the audience. The program is also formatted around the idea of a "No Plastic Week"

Wellness themed events will include talks on conquering the mountain by Johann Peries; fitness events such as Animal Flow and holistic events such as yoga sessions.

For fashion enthusiasts, CFW Retail Week offers a batik workshop by fashion designer Sonali Dharmawardena; a talk on Circularity by Managing Director of Colombo Fashion Week; and a specially curated viewing of Careem's Jewellery Ajai Vir Singh.

CFW Retail Week will also include gastronomic experiences such as a Junior Master Chef event for young culinary aficionados; and plenty of F&B specials throughout the One Galle Face Mall for patrons to enjoy.

Sri Lanka's pride: World's biggest Children's Hospital

TEXT AND PICTURES
BY CHAMARI SENANAYAKE

While the whole world often talks about rights and adequate care for children, even the most developed nations around the world cannot hold a candle to the unbelievable free services this tiny developing nation of Sri Lanka provide for its children. Although not many know these facts, Sri Lanka boasts the world's biggest children's hospital, with a bed capacity of over 1,000, more than any other children's hospital in the world, with so many other facilities that are not provided by other nations although internet sites promote far smaller and less advanced children's hospitals as the world's and Asia's biggest hospitals.

Sri Lanka was and is, far ahead in quality healthcare systems since ancient times, thus after becoming a colony to some western nations - finally to the British, Sri Lanka continued to pioneer in Western medical institutions and quality care as well, such as founding Asia's first hospital for women with the generosity of local donors and welfare organisations and later with opening Aisa's first public Children's Hospital, the Lady Ridgeway Hospital, which is now the world's biggest, in every capacity although not promoted in any of the privately funded internet sites, neither acknowledged with due respect by the WHO.

Everything provided

To elaborate in simple terms, the Lady Ridgeway children's hospital in Sri Lanka provides an impressive number of services under one roof, basically, everything. The fact is, no other children's hospital in the world can provide all these services and special units for children, as their patients sometimes have to be transferred to other hospitals for certain services, such as cardiology, psychiatry, organ transplant or even fitting of prosthesis.

While at Lady Ridgeway, every child will have all their needs looked after under one roof, without having to be transferred or taken temporarily to any other medical facility. The impressive part of it is, that starting from basic OPD and accident services that are open 24 hours a day throughout the whole year, it could stretch up to some complicated and high-cost treatments such as organ transplants, but all will be done without the child being subject to a stressful trip in an ambulance to another medical institution.

The Lady Ridgeway hospital offers a staggering 25 units to cater to every medical need of its child patients, such as; plastic surgery, physiotherapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy, orthopaedic surgery and spine and orthopaedic surgeries, dental and orthodontics services, neurology and neurosurgery services and even sports medical services. Al-

though Sri Lanka is a tiny nation with a moderate population, more than one million children are treated each year at the OPD itself, with free immunisation for more than 50,000 children as well.

Caring for mothers

The amazing features go even further, while we all know that most sick children constantly complain and cry, every child should have its own mother or a known guardian present with them at all times, the Lady Ridgeway hospital not only allows these mothers to be there with the patient at all times, it also provides all meals and more than 200 foldable beds for the ever-exhausted mothers who spend sleepless nights next to their sick or dying children.

At the ICU facility, there is a common room for mothers to dine and sleep, and going further, the hospital has provided a rented house next to the hospital, which is maintained by generous donors for mothers of long-term ICU patients to stay as long as needed.

The surprising facts do not end there, as it goes beyond caring, it has six government teachers appointed to provide tuition to students at any level, in some instances going to their beds individually. These teachers are allocated from Nalanda College in Colombo and they teach every subject to the sick children who are missing out on their usual lessons at school, and not surprisingly, the stationary and all other school supplies are provided to all patients who cannot afford them by the hospital too.

I, for one, was not surprised that these facts did not end there, apart from providing three nutritious meals and tea for all their patients and carers or mothers of sick children, The Lady Ridgeway hospital also provides special meals such as soups, fried chicken, fried rice, yoghurt, jelly, cheese and fruits for special diet patients.

Their large and clean kitchen cooks each meal for a staggering number of people of over 1,000 each day including its minor staff and even during this Covid outbreak, these days also they provide meals for about 800 people. Some might not believe that all these meals, supplies, lessons, and other needs are provided completely free to child patients and their mothers by the Sri Lankan Government.

During normal days even the generous donors and welfare associations often visit (before the pandemic) children's wards bringing them an abundance of gifts of toys, stationery, sweets, and fruits, which is customarily a giving nature seen at every hospital in Sri Lanka.

The cases of abused children are treated with utmost care as the hospital has two permanent social workers at all times with more visiting social workers from the University of Colombo. Every child's welfare is looked after by the social care even



One of its entrances to the large hospital

SRI LANKA BOASTS THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, WITH A BED CAPACITY OF OVER 1,000, MORE THAN ANY OTHER CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN THE WORLD, WITH SO MANY OTHER FACILITIES THAT ARE NOT PROVIDED BY OTHER NATIONS

after leaving the hospital at end of treatment.

Foundation and history

The hospital had first started as the Lady Havelock hospital for women and children, during the period 1890-1895 when Sir Arthur Havelock was the Governor of Ceylon. His wife had taken the initiative to start the hospital with him laying the foundation stone January 17, 1895. However, it was the Sinhalese aristocrats and generous welfare organisations that had donated the massive 14-acre land and buildings entirely even through its development in the next many decades. Not surprisingly, in 1895, Alfred Joseph Richard de Soysa, a Cambridge graduate and the second son of one of Sri Lanka's greatest philanthropists, Charles Henry De Soysa built the Chevalier Jusey de Silva ward at the Lady Havelock Hospital for Children.

This was one of its first buildings, which paved the way to great child care in the country, as the Soysa family fondly recalls. At the beginning, it had taken a year to build this Women and Children's hospital which was started with Lady Havelock's vision, but when her husband was succeeded as Governor by Sir Joseph West Ridgeway in 1896, it was Lady Ridgeway who had ceremonially opened the hospital on October 12, 1896 and this

opened a path for it to be renamed later.

Another block was added in 1909 when Sir Henry Edward McCallum, then Governor of Ceylon laid the foundation stone with the former first Lady Ridgeway fund raising from the generous public for this project. On September 27, 1910 at the ceremonial opening, the new section was called the Lady Ridgeway Block for the Children, with the first building for children later taken completely for Castle Street Women's hospital and Lady Havelock's name erased from the hospital.

As per the Britannica, Sri Lanka's D. S. Senanayake assumed duties as the Minister of Health and Local Government in 1951, the Ministry and him had then already adopted plans to progressively reconstruct the hospital, making further developments to it with government funding.

Management and care

The Director of the LRH is an experienced medical practitioner who had joined the field of medical practice in 1992, Dr G Wijesuriya, emphasised a well-known historical fact that even today our generous donors are so willing to give more and more facilities to the hospital for the benefit of sick children. 'Our society is so caring and giving, and we have some donors who constantly ask us what more is needed and I am quite happy that even my consultants take it upon themselves to fundraise when the need arises'.

Among their patrons is the former First Lady and current Prime Minister's wife Shiranthi Rajapaksa who is in constant touch with the hospital and its needs aside being a patron for over a decade. When asked why she holds this particular hospital dearly, she said 'As a pre-school teacher, I have always had a soft spot for children, and I always try to help poor children with any of their indi-

vidual requests, such as buying their prescription medicines and also providing equipment, wall painting or any other need for the hospital for the benefit of all children as well.' As children with thalassemia need blood transfusions all their life, every two or three weeks and face complications such as iron chelation, a bone marrow transplant that could give them a permanent cure or a longer life was also made come true with Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa opening the state-of-the-art Bone marrow transplant unit at Lady Ridgeway last year.

While describing the culture of the Lady Ridgeway hospital, the Director added 'Working with its staff is stress free, as I sometimes feel they all are like children, easy to manage and get the work done, unlike some other medical institutions, I did not find them arrogant or stubborn, so I think of them also like children'.

As everyone is familiar with the hospital being called 'Nona Wattuwa' since olden days, Dr Mahinda Wickremaratchchi of the Quality Management Unit says that it was because at the very beginning of the hospital, there was a very kind and caring female doctor by the name of 'Baby Nona' and as people got used to her, instead of the hospital's full name, they called it 'Nona Wattuwa' and adds that such kindness can make a lasting impression on people such as the hospital does today for the entire nation.

Deputy Director Dr Saman Yapa Bandara explained the mind soothing and knowledge developing local fruit plantation project, 'as most of these children never get the chance to see our own traditional fruit trees that are now seen only in faraway villages or woods, this project of planting fruit trees at every possible place inside the hospital will give them the opportunity to learn about Sri Lanka's own fruits and even learn their English and Botanical names: showing me a few feet high *ambilla*, *sepathilla* and

anoda/soursap fruit trees growing next to their building. 'Not only that, it also attracts birds and other animals and sick children will feel happy seeing them' he added.

Along the way from the entrance towards the hospital, there is a large number of old shady trees that provide eye soothing greenery in the heart of Borella and I saw a large play area with two life size statues of an elephant and its baby that distracts countless sick children, as well as a small 'Butterfly garden' that was filled with rural plants such as 'wara flowers' that attracts butterflies. Both doctors stated that the area get a large number of butterflies during the month of December. One of their administrative assistants, Kavisha Kumari says that working at Lady Ridgeway is stress free and everyone likes their job as it involves helping sick children.

Advanced facilities

The hospital boasts a large number of employees to cater to every need of its child patients, with over 2,000, consist of 91 consultants, 345 medical officers, with 840 nursing officers to assist them. They are organised as medical teams headed by permanent senior consultants who have international experience in their particular speciality. The current director said more plans to improve the hospital in the future, highlighting another special aspect of Sri Lanka's own Children's hospital of its prosthetic and orthotic department having its own workshop that creates and modifies wheel-chairs and prostheses devices that are sometimes worth over Rs 50,000 for an individual patient, and unlike most other hospitals around the world, given entirely free to the child patient to be taken home with them.

Although foreign internet sites nor the WHO website does not give the credit where it is due, Sri Lanka's Lady Ridgeway Hospital for children spends millions of dollars each year to provide lifesaving and high-cost surgeries, treatments, equipment, special supplies, special meals for all its child patients regardless race or background, catering to all its citizens and even services and meals for their mothers entirely free.

Sri Lanka's high quality healthcare system since ancient times as well as the country's modern day unique and advanced free healthcare system to all its citizens from birth till death has made the impossible task possible for even the poorest child to receive millions of rupees costing surgeries and treatments without having to beg anyone, making being born a citizen of Sri Lanka a fortunate coincidence. Incidentally, Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children in Colombo, Sri Lanka is indeed the biggest and best medical facility that the whole world should look up to as it provides everything for its child patients under one roof entirely free and unbelievably easily.

Weekend experiment that will change your life

You probably have more leisure time than you think

BY LAURA VANDERKAM

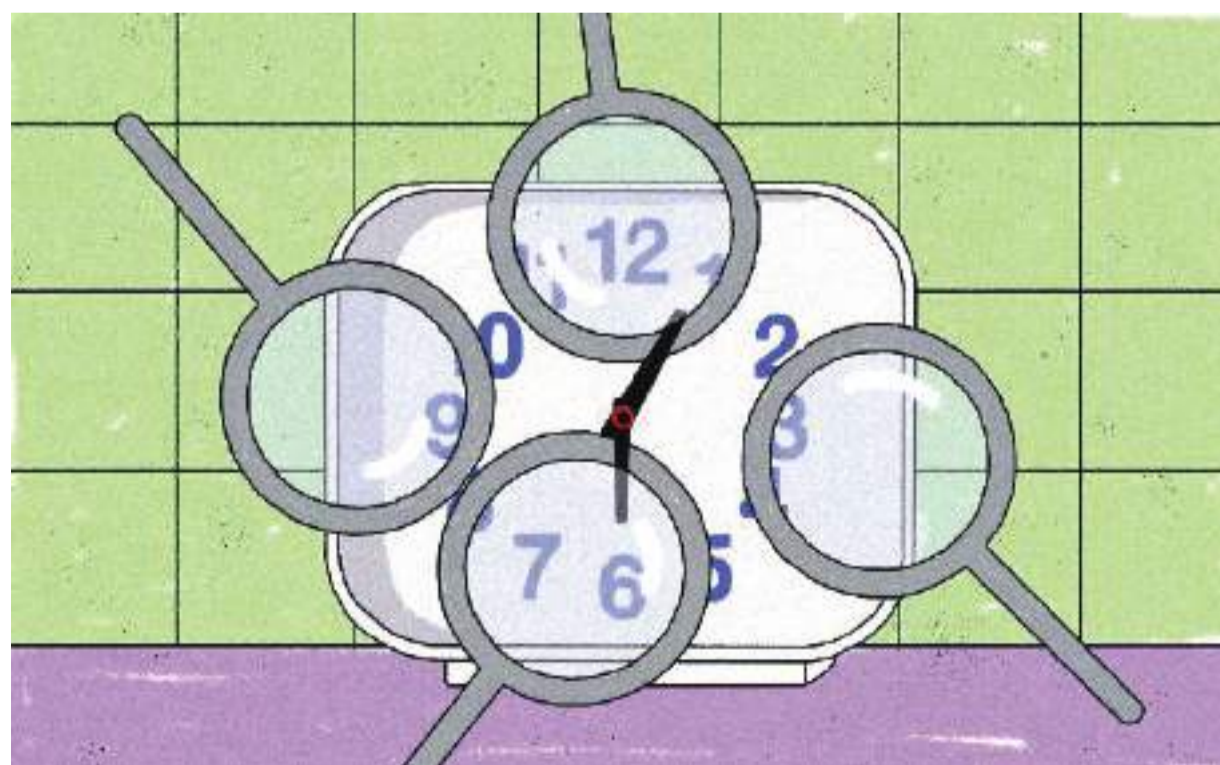
The time between the moment you close your laptop on Friday and the moment your alarm goes off on Monday morning can feel shockingly short. But it isn't. Assuming eight hours of sleep a night, there are 37 waking hours between 5 p.m. Friday and 10 p.m. Sunday. That's nearly the equivalent of a full work week - which seldom feels like it disappears into nothingness, even for people who like their jobs.

But the key difference between weekdays and weekends is that work hours have built-in accountability. We think through how we're going to spend our working hours with certain outcomes in mind. Weekends? Not so much.

I'm not saying you need to plan every minute of your weekends. But having a good sense of where your weekend hours go can help you see their abundance. That, in turn, can help you spend them in a way that makes life feel more fun.

Time-tracking

Yes, I'm talking about time-tracking, at least for a week or two. My perception of my weekends totally changed when I began tracking my time on weekly spreadsheets about six years ago.



My spreadsheets have the days of the week across the top, Monday to Sunday and half-hour blocks down the left side from 5 a.m. to 4:30 a.m. This means that my weeks begin on Mondays at 5 a.m. After a few weeks of tracking, I noticed something curious: As I neared what felt like the end of my work-weeks, there was always a lot of

spreadsheet left.

I soon saw that if the week starts on Monday at 5 a.m., the exact midpoint of the week is 5 p.m. on Thursday. Since I was accustomed to thinking that 5 p.m. on Thursday sounded like the end of the week, this was eye-opening. There was an entire second half of the week that I was mentally discounting.

I have five children, so it's not like my weekends are wide open. Still, the vastness of this time inspired me to ask myself lots of questions: Within the time I was caring for children, were we doing fun family activities or was I just refereeing fights? During nap time, was I doing anything particularly enjoyable or was I pointlessly puttering around?

KNOWING WHAT YOUR TIME LOOKS LIKE AND BEING INTENTIONAL ABOUT HOW YOU'D LIKE TO SPEND IT, DRAMATICALLY INCREASES THE CHANCES THAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO HAVE A WEEKEND THAT FEELS FUN, RELAXING AND MEMORABLE - OR AT LEAST LIKE IT DIDN'T SLIP AWAY WITHOUT YOU NOTICING

Spare time

As I tracked my weekend time on those spreadsheets, I'd see that I might have two to three hours to spare after my children went to bed each night. Knowing that encouraged me to think about how I might use this time - and make sure I always had a good book or a puzzle going so those hours wouldn't disappear into random email checks or tidying toys that would only come out again the next morning.

I know time-tracking doesn't sound like fun, but it's really not that bad. Time-tracking apps are abundant and pretty easy to use, but writing down your schedule in a little notebook works too. I check in with my spreadsheets three times a day, noting what I've done since the last check-in. Each check-in takes about a minute. This means my tracking is the time equivalent of brushing my teeth - an activity I hardly notice taking any time at all.

Besides, you don't need to do this for the rest of your life or even six years like I do. Tracking your time for two or

three weekends will give a good sense of time's rhythms. When you know what the landscape of your time usually looks like, you can create a template that will help shape your time going forward. You might decide that early mornings are good for exercise.

Planning

You might only want to commit to children's activities that happen in the mornings, leaving afternoons open for family adventures. You might decide on social time every Sunday night with a rotating group of friends and relatives, or you might realise you need to put alone time on the calendar.

Knowing what your time looks like and being intentional about how you'd like to spend it, dramatically increases the chances that you'll be able to have a weekend that feels fun, relaxing and memorable - or at least like it didn't slip away without you noticing.

That's a good thing. While leisure time isn't as rare as we make it out to be, it is still precious and much too important to treat mindlessly.

Features

Sherman and Sarah in the maze

SARAH'S BIGAMY



-The
Devastation
Revealed-



BY SANTHOSHYA JAYAMALI SENEVIRATNE

Sarah and Nicolas, the soon-to-wed couple bring Samara across the border to Canada, hidden in their vehicle as she's wrongfully accused of carrying illegal drugs. At the border, they pretend to be married, although they aren't and Sarah is arrested for carrying an ornamental gold pagoda in her handbag. She's bailed out the following day and a court case is filed. She wonders why Nicolas and Samara don't turn up to inquire after her and learns later that they're in a secret affair and they've betrayed her. She attends the court case alone, pays a fine and faces a suspended sentence of six months imprisonment. The following week, she flies to a city far away, finds employment there and settles down. She follows a university course to become a teacher. She coincidentally meets a young man (Sherman) and falls in love with him. He suggests Sarah be his niece's home-visiting tutor and introduces her to his family. She gets negative vibes from his sister Kumberlin, whose husband has faced a tragic death in the past, caused by a sudden heart failure, after learning that his wife has deceived him.

Episode 10

The tuition started as planned. Sarah switched to working less in the restaurant, and she continued to follow university. Sometimes, after the tuition, she slept at Sherman's, and eventually, she moved to his house. The tuition fees were agreed to be paid every three months, and it was happening as agreed.

One evening, after the lesson, Sarah was taking a walk in the garden, and Kumberlin joined her. Quite accidentally, she saw an abandoned area in the yard and she started walking there. She liked the look of it, but it was a challenge - a maze, and she could get lost in it. Kumberlin didn't realise where they were heading. At the very moment, the maze was entered, Sarah was stopped by a loud cry. It was a howl, and she was terrified. She took a brief moment to understand that it came from Kumberlin.

"Oh, Sarah, don't even think of going into that horrible maze! I dread it. You'll be lost there for hours, with no idea of how to get yourself out."

It was a request and Sarah stopped, uttering no word.

"Let's not go into that maze! You should never walk into it by yourself. You may think it's just so simple, but

it's very complicated. You'll never be able to exit by yourself. You'll simply get lost there," she said.

Sarah couldn't really fathom how far she was right. She still didn't know if she was stopped by an authoritative-ness or simply some genuineness. It was safely kept to conclude at a later time.

"Come, I have something to give you." Kumberlin said as they walked back inside, into her bedroom.

She opened a drawer and took a piece of clothing out. It was a skirt, and she held it at Sarah.

"I'm sure this would look wonderful on you." She said and Sarah took it to her hand.

Really speaking, Sarah wasn't interested in acquiring anything that was offered to her, simply because she had her own little wardrobe, and she was pleased with it. Kumberlin thought Sarah needed support and she had to be sympathised with, but her cruelty always thrived, piercing her own feelings of sympathy. It was her misfortune. It could be said that the sympathy she had towards Sarah didn't derive from kindness; instead, it derived from sadism. She scornfully sympathised with Sarah, and unfortunately, Sarah didn't see this reality. Of course, she felt strange and uncomfortable, but

failed to see anything beyond. How could she, being an outsider, perceive anything else when the possessor of such thoughts and considerations was unaware of the working of her own mind?

Sarah unfolded the skirt and had a good look at it. It was a faded, light-blue one. It had lost its shine, probably because it was remarkably old. She could also notice stains of rust here and there. Sarah still stared at it, trying to see the beauty of it and feel the generosity and kindness of Kumberlin, although opposing sentiments were developing within.

"Do you like it?" Kumberlin asked. "Yes, that's beautiful." Sarah replied.

Only a depiction appeared right in front of Sarah as she held it before her eyes, trying to give an assumption. It entered her eyes, allowing her to identify it. Whether it was pretty or ugly was indeed her own assessment and nothing else it was.

"You can have it. Maybe you can wear it tomorrow." Kumberlin suggested.

"Okay," Sarah said. Sarah didn't want to wear it, but she sympathised with Kumberlin. She was softened as usual. There was no way that she could have any tendency to disappoint her. It would have been the same with anyone else, but with Kumberlin there was a great sense of fear and nervousness mingled with it - a fear, again, for no solid reason and for all the reasonable reasons in the world.

Sarah slept in a separate bedroom and when Sherman came home, they took walks outside in the night when the others were asleep. That was once, when she first entered the maze and it so happened with Sherman. They advanced into it. She just followed him, hardly realising that she was in the depth of the maze. Darkness was spreading all around and the tender pair drew themselves close to each other. There was absolutely no significant space between them. They were dotting on each other. Sarah wished the time would stop right there and would never move, ever, but it was moving rapidly - faster than she could imagine.

She could see the twinkles far away in the sky. They whispered at her and she avoided them. It was a magnificent effort to escape from them, but it was a failure. Sarah was lying down on the ground. She knew that Sherman was by her side, but she was completely taken by her shiny friends. She felt that there was no other existence around. She was walking among stars, feeling her insignificance and significance deep inside. It was a happy moment, a happy sensation, and nothing was less or more important in the world.

Suddenly there was a flash of a memory. It was a quick conscious-



ness and she returned to find herself alone in the maze. Where was Sherman now? He was nowhere to be seen. She was frightened. She wasn't afraid of the dark, but she feared the maze. She knew that she had come to its core. There was no doubt that she didn't know her way out. She looked everywhere around to see if she could find Sherman. She started walking back, hoping to find him. The more she walked back, the more she walked into the maze. She felt abandoned.

How could he be so ignorant of her? Did any harm come to Sherman? Did he deliberately leave her to be lost in the maze? Everything was a puzzle now. She had no answer to any question that drew in her mind. She kept walking deeper into the maze until she was extremely tired and fell on the ground.

How unbelievable! Had she been taken that strongly by the worlds that appeared far away in the universe? She began to view them again, realising her own unimportance. And she felt a flash of a light on her face. Distanced from it, she could see Sherman's face.

She stood up swiftly.

"Are you okay Sarah?" Sherman asked, turning off his flashlight.

"Yes."

"What happened? I thought you fainted."

"Oh no. I didn't"

Really, not even Sarah knew much about her precious expeditions of the galaxy. However, it gave Sherman some kind of relief to hear that she was fine. He had gone inside to grab a flashlight when she had her eyes far into the night sky, gazing at it in amazement.

"Do you know how to find the way out of the maze?" He asked.

"No."

"I knew all the time that you didn't." She was engrossed in everything about Sherman as he went on and simply kept shadowing him.

"You only have to come to this point. You know how to identify this place?" He asked.

Sarah listened without uttering a single word.

"It's this wider spot with five exits." Sherman went on explaining.

"There's another good method to identify this. It's simply this discoloured growth."

She looked at the greenery and yes, it was discoloured there. She wondered if it was the ideal method of finding the turn. And then came exactly the right words from Sherman.

"But don't rely on the colour of a tree, Sarah! That can change. Have faith in your mind! It works much better."

Sarah was convinced of her quick conclusion and she kept listening to him.

"So you take this turn when you arrive at this turning point." He said, taking the turn himself.

Sarah trusted him. But far away, she saw the bright objects in the sky. Were they giggling? She didn't enjoy their nervousness.

"So this leads to the second turning point." Sherman said, arriving at it.

She was taken by surprise. So, it was a very complicated maze then? It had two turning points.

"Follow instructions to come to the second climax! You get me, Sarah?" "Yes."

"And at this climax, which is the most crucial, you have to make your decision right as all the turns look almost the same."

Sarah had a quick look at the turns as she listened to the description. And yes, he was right. They all looked alike and she couldn't really identify from where she entered, unless she had thoroughly kept track.

"Are you confused, Sarah?" He asked.

"Yes." She said.

"That's the most striking thing about it. When you come to this open square, you don't know where you came from." He said.

"They all look the same." Sarah confirmed.

"So this is what you have to do," Sherman said, "you don't fully enter, but stand at the entrance!"

"Yes."

"And then you take your turn to the right. Understand?" he asked following the path, "this has many turns but, don't trust any of them! Just walk straight and you'll be directed to the exit." Sherman concluded.

"There're other directions too, but this is the easiest way of coming out of the maze."

They ended up at the exit from where they could have an excellent view of their house.

"So you go in now! I'll follow later." Sherman repeated.

She began to walk herself in and she could hear his whispers before she made her first move.

"I'll visit you tonight."

To be continued next week
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Why women are obsessed with crime

For many, crime is exposure therapy

BY LAURA BARCELLA

In the summer before my sophomore year of high school, a classmate of mine was murdered by a stranger while he was doing yard work on his parents' front lawn. His name was Alain Colaco. While we weren't close, I knew him as ridiculously smart, cute (he was the object of various friends' crushes), and extremely polite.

Not that any of that matters when it comes to senseless acts of violence. Alain was shot six times in the head and chest by a man who later said he "had the urge to do it." The killer, Sean Lee Qualls, was sentenced to 15 years to life.

Murder capital

This was Washington, D.C., in the early 1990s, back when the city was known as the murder capital of the United States. In 1991 alone, there were 485 homicides. Even with my relatively sheltered, upper-middle-class upbringing, I knew multiple people who died horrible, random deaths: My seventh grade science teacher, Fred Parris, was shot to death in a botched robbery on his front stoop. A janitor at my tiny elementary school was caught in the cross fire of a shoot-out near a Maryland 7-Eleven. The parents of a girl a few grades below me were killed with an axe during a home invasion.

As a child, I didn't fully understand how these murders affected me. There were things I absorbed by osmosis: that life was tenuous; that death was everywhere and often horrific; that it might arrive without warning, brought screamingly into one's reality by a total stranger. But I didn't deeply reflect in any meaningful way on what the ever-presence of brutal, random violence might mean.

Instead, I became obsessed with serial killers. I was 15 when Jeffrey Dahmer's trial began in January 1992. It was a gruesome spectacle, unpacking a series of unspeakably lurid crimes, but I watched as much as I was able

to catch on Court TV. I was fixated on deciphering what made Dahmer tick: What could have led this Midwestern child down a path of such extreme, callous cruelty? What could possibly make someone choose to butcher 15 people and then freeze their body parts as souvenirs?

Understanding

Soon, I moved on to other killers, buying any book that I thought might help me understand. I got no concrete answers, of course, but analysing criminal psyches still brought me a morbid satisfaction. Whenever I felt like I'd reached some new insight about what fueled violent compulsions, it made me feel slightly smarter.

And not just smarter: Safer. More prepared.

It's a good time to be someone with my interests. The true-crime space is booming, with podcasts, such as Crime Junkie, documentary series, such as The Staircase, books, movies, websites and more. In fact, I owe my job to the rising obsession with crime: I work as the crime news editor for a national magazine.

Overwhelmingly, as one 2010 study found, the people responsible for this boom are women.

You might find this surprising. But you won't if you're a fan of My Favorite Murder, a podcast hosted by two women that has a thriving Facebook group of mostly women devotees. Or if you watch the true-crime channel Investigation Discovery, one of the most popular cable networks for women, with its lineup of documentaries featuring real-life kidnappings, killings and sexual assaults.

Popularity among women

This holds true in fictionalised crime content as well as true crime. The graphically described and often sexual violence on NBC's massively popular primetime show Law & Order: SVU is also enduringly popular among

women: It was recently renewed for a record-setting 21st season, after consistently leading its prime time slot for all adult women demographics. Of course, there are lifetime movies and their ilk, with lurid titles, such as Mother, May I Sleep With Danger? and Death Clique.

Research has shown that men tend to have higher thresholds of disgust for gore and that they are generally more interested in war stories, another violent genre. But significantly, women tend to fear crime more than men do.

They're not wrong: Life is undeniably more dangerous for women than it is for men. Intimate partner violence, the vast majority of which is directed at women, accounts for 15 percent of all violent crime in the U.S. Black women are about three times more likely to be killed by a partner or ex-partner than other groups. Trans women are especially at risk — in 2019, the level of homicidal violence against trans people, especially people of colour, led some to dub it an "epidemic." The Margaret Atwood quote, "Men are afraid that women will laugh at them, women are afraid that men will kill them" comes to mind.

That's exactly why women flock to true crime, says Amanda Vicary, the lead author of the 2010 study and a psychology professor at Illinois Wesleyan University. "It wasn't until I stepped back and looked at the data as a whole that I realised it's all about survival," Vicary said. For women, Vicary said, crime stories can be a mental dress rehearsal of sorts, a way of unpacking and understanding dangerous situations that haven't yet happened to them.

"A lot of it might be subconscious," she said. "But My Favourite Murder gives tons of tips on safety. I think a lot of women have changed their behaviour after watching shows on Investigation Discovery."

To be clear: No one is saying the onus is on women to prevent themselves from being attacked, nor that safety tips for women are a solution to male aggression. But some find that stockpiling survival tips, such as this is its own

form of anxiety relief — a way of easing, if only slightly, the inescapable stress of being a woman in a brutal world.

For female fans, consuming crime content, real or fictional, can feel like the mental exhale that comes from knowing you've faced your fears and come out the other side. It's almost like exposure therapy, Vicary said — a place to work through our darkest fears about being a target of violence.

"I think it's primarily women consuming true-crime content because women are the victims in many of the stories," agrees Erin Parisi, a Florida-based therapist and a true-crime addict herself. "It's as if women learn vicariously through the experiences of other women and feel as though they're better able to avoid becoming victims themselves."

Parisi considers herself a "Murderino," or a fan of My Favorite Murder, partly because of the show's feminist fusion of crime talk, humour and self-care-tinged survival advice. "I love that they talk about how the way society trains women to act plays a role in how women end up victimised," she said. "The easiest example is when the hosts say things, such as 'F... politeness.' How many women were lured in by Ted Bundy's broken-arm routine... because they didn't want to be rude?" (Bundy often captured his victims by faking a broken arm or leg and asking for help carrying things to his car.)

This sense of looking behind the curtain — of understanding how serial killers (who are usually men) entrap their victims (often women) — also offers up a comforting illusion of control.

Comforting escape

New Jersey-based writer Rachel Kramer Bussel has been reading true crime books since she was a teenager. They used to scare her: "Every stranger was a potential serial killer," she said, "because so often it was the totally 'nice' and normal-seeming person who went on to murder their spouse." But as an

adult, her forays into crime literature have become a comforting escape from her daily anxieties.

"As an adult, I have a lot of anxiety and phobias," she said. "I worry about my personal safety, my home's safety, the safety and health of my family members and loved ones."

By contrast, the crime books Bussel reads feel like a respite from her day-to-day fears, because the stories "don't seem as close to home," she said.

Parisi said there can be psychic benefits to this type of thinking. "When someone uses their anxiety in a way that's productive, that can be really helpful," she said. "Maybe you get an alarm system. Maybe you take self-defence classes."

Of course, if staying safe were truly that simple, the true-crime genre wouldn't be nearly as expansive. But when so little is truly within our control, perhaps it's okay sometimes to engage in some soothing self-delusion.

Internal hard drive

I don't know if I've ever consciously changed my behaviour as a result of something I heard on a podcast or saw on TV. But each time I devour a new story of a real-life victim meeting a gruesome end, or read about another case of horrifying sexual violence, I play out the worst-case scenario with myself at the centre, envisioning both how I might handle it and how I might feel in it. I've built up a formidable internal hard drive of information about misogyny, violence and how the two intersect.

In some ways, crime is the most candid genre when it comes to discussing violence against women. It's one of the only forms of entertainment that honours how scary it can be to exist as a woman today and doesn't minimise the inherent dangers of being, well, anything other than a white cis man.

Nor does crime content gloss over the structural challenges that victims of violence, including sexual violence, can

face when trying to protect themselves. For instance, I know from my years of reading these stories that if I were in an abusive relationship, a restraining order wouldn't necessarily stop my partner from killing me; I would likely need to take more drastic steps to protect myself.

When I spoke last year to criminal behavioural analyst Laura Richards, co-host of the Real Crime Profile podcast, she argued that the consumption of true crime can be a consciously feminist act. For example, in Real Crime Profile and her other work, Richards focuses her stories on the victim's experience, never the criminal's. "We want to correct the narrative," Richards told me in 2018. "The narrative is, most often, about blaming and shaming victims."

Justice

These books, films and podcasts can also feel satisfying because, in certain cases, they're the only place we can experience the high of justice or closure. In real life, things rarely end so neatly: The serial killer is never caught; the rapist gets away with his crime and finds a new victim. But the tidy narrative conclusions of some crime programming can feel like an antidote — especially for people who have been touched in some way by violence themselves.

However, there can be such a thing as too much true crime, Parisi warns, especially if you suffer from severe anxiety, phobias, or past trauma.

"For some who have their trauma, especially of a violent or sexually violent nature, it can be triggering to listen to stories that are similar, or even that don't seem similar on the surface," she said. "For some, it could be like picking a scab off a wound over and over again."

For me and apparently many others, though, consuming crime stories can feel like putting a Band-Aid on an existential wound: not enough to heal what ails, perhaps, but in the moment, a good enough fix.

MONTAGE

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MARCH 21, 2021



Thusitha de Silva:

Revolutionising Sri Lankan Cinema

CINEMA CEYLON IS A SUBSCRIPTION-BASED VIDEO ON DEMAND PLATFORM. IT IS A DIGITAL PLATFORM THAT ENABLES A PERSON LIVING IN ANY COUNTRY TO VIEW AND ENJOY SRI LANKAN MOVIES, PARALLEL TO THEIR DATES OF RELEASE

BY METHLINI HEWAGE

The cinema industry is one that has existed for many years and through the industry, the vision, creativity and imagination of many filmmakers and creators have been brought to life.

Over the years, the industry has created a safe space for society to experience emotion through what is projected to an audience through a film. Films have not only entertained and continue to do so, but also assist society to experience emotions openly.

The industry and the films act as a base for open learning, understanding and discussion of cultures and practices of different societies. Even the topics that would be considered taboo or inappropriate are necessary to be openly discussed.

However, today's rapid technological advancement, increase in the speed of the average person's lifestyle and the overall alteration of most people's thought processes and opinions on technology and films coupled with major issues, such as the Covid-19 pandemic have given rise to certain issues.

Less enthusiasm on films

One main issue that is common to the film industries of many countries, including Sri Lanka is the decrease in the number of people that would choose to watch a film.

The Sri Lankan film industry, although filled with unrecognised talent, is underrated and overlooked also due to comparative inability to easily access Sri Lankan films.

However, the skilled director, Thusitha de Silva chose to challenge this unfortunate fate of Sri Lankan cinema by innovating and bringing to life the, "Cinema Ceylon" concept. Cinema Ceylon is a subscription-based video on demand platform. In other words, it is a digital platform that enables a person living in any country to view and enjoy Sri Lankan movies, parallel to their dates of release.

De Silva told the *Sunday Observer* that, "The main issue the Sri Lankan cinema faces is the decline of the audience. Due to changes that have happened for a time within the education system and the culture in our country, the opinion that art and culture are not important parts of society is widespread. The fact that our audience lives busy lives and do not get the opportunity to visit movie theatres, has created a negative impact on the Sri Lankan film industry."

He said that the Cinema Ceylon platform was created as Sri Lankan platforms must also develop parallel to the other foreign platforms. The team behind the origin of this platform aims at collecting a higher amount of revenue for the produc-



Thusitha de Silva

tion of Sri Lankan films to encourage the industry.

Sri Lankans living abroad

De Silva said that the target audience of the platform is the Sri Lankans living abroad who are interested in Sri Lankan films but are unable to access Sri Lankan films and are unable to watch them parallel to their release on a credible platform. Although it is a subscription-based platform which requires the users to pay for the access to films, the amount that has to be paid by viewers is relatively less but with a higher number of viewers, the platform would allow the Sri Lankan producers to earn a revenue that would help and encourage their production which would uplift Sri Lanka's film industry.

"We also hope to introduce a new platform that targets the younger generation of innovative and talented artists. The youth

have great ideas that will carry our film industry far and will develop it. Especially during the Covid-19 pandemic which has halted the production of many movies, we need to make use of the incredible potential of the country's youth to help the local film industry."

When asked about what prompted him to spearhead the project, de Silva said, "The reason for us to begin the project was the situation of Sri Lankan cinema. It seems as if though people have given up watching Sri Lankan cinema. Through research that we did, we realised that the majority of people is not willing to watch films, especially the locally produced films. We want to try to improve this and increase the overall theatre experience of the Sri Lankan population."

As the demand for the "theatre experience" declines globally, cinema industries that are not promoted or do not make an attempt to continue developing along with the rapidly changing and developing technology, societies are more likely to fall behind. Regarding this pressing issue, the director said, "We need to save Sri Lankan cinema."

Challenges

De Silva said that the launching and carrying out a project, such as Cinema Ceylon has always been a dream of his. He said, "We faced a lot of challenges when launching the project because we were new to this and the concept itself is new to the country. We had to configure our way through certain things. However, the team we have at our company, Cinema Ceylon World Service (Pvt) Ltd is a capable and good team. I believe that we will face the challenges we experience

in the future together as a team."

"I spoke to the leading film makers and prominent figures in the field. The thing that encouraged me the most is the fact that almost all of these leading figures were impressed and enthusiastic about our idea for Cinema Ceylon and were supportive. This really encouraged me to take the project as far as I could," he said.

Behind every successful project is a team that works tirelessly. He said, "Our team including our editors, especially our digital marketing consultant who encouraged me greatly and played a great role in bringing this project to life. Without them, I would not have been able to achieve this. Our foreign promoters supported us by promoting the concept in their countries. Although I introduced the concept, I would not have been able to achieve it if the team did not contribute greatly. Our project was launched on January 29. Since then, we have had a great response from Sri Lankan cinema."

The Director said that he pursued the project, purely out of his love for the Sri Lankan cinematic field which he has been involved in for about 40 years, while reminiscing over his days as a young student in university.

"Cinema is a cultural tool," he said, adding that, "It is of paramount importance that we dedicate energy and time to help and develop the local cinematic industry to carry Sri Lanka's unique culture out to the world."

New projects

Responding to the question as to how the Cinema Ceylon platform will contribute to exposing the Sri Lankan cinema to the rest of the world, de Silva said that the



movies that are available through the platform include English subtitles. He hopes to include subtitles of different languages to appeal to the global community. "We are looking forward to the new projects we have planned. We have gotten a promising proposal for a German-Sri Lankan joint production. We hope to see it through in the near future," he said.

Another way in which Cinema Ceylon hopes to shine the light on the beauty of Sri Lanka to the rest of the world, is by introducing a documentary section on their platform with a focus on the country's incredible natural allure.

De Silva said, "One of the main changes we should make is the themes used. Sri Lankan films are based on conventional themes although we as a country have so much that we can share through film. Not only do we have a rich history and incredible stories to tell, but we are a multi-ethnic country so our overall culture is enriched by all ethnic groups. Cinema Ceylon, as a Sri Lankan platform, will also promote films of all ethnic groups and societies of our country as Sri Lanka includes all of us."

He said, "It is important that we spread the message about the new Cinema Ceylon platform. Through subscribing to and helping the growth of this project, we can reach the true great potential of Sri Lankan Cinema together."



Art News

Art Talk Live

The online event, Art Talk Live: Reframing Japonisme will be held on March, 22 at 10.00 p.m. UTC+05:30 - 10:30 PM UTC+05:30.

The fable of the 19th-century European "discovery" of Japanese prints and their catalytic effect on Impressionist painting is by now comfortably worn, threadbare even. But what were painters in Europe actually encountering?

In this talk, curator Rachel Saunders will take



a close look at a major new acquisition that shines a distinctly different light on European interest in "Japanese art" and the ways in which this new category was constructed in Japan itself.

Led by Rachel Saunders, Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Curator of Asian Art, Division of Asian and Mediterranean Art, this talk is part of a series inspired by ReFrame, a museum-wide initiative to reimagine the function, role and future of the university art museum. These talks examine difficult histories, foreground untold stories and experiment with new approaches to the collections of the Harvard Art Museums, reflecting the concerns of our world today.

This talk will take place online via Zoom. Free admission, but registration is required. To register, complete this online form: <https://bit.ly/2ZN8U9s>.

ASIDES at Escondite

Villa Escondite will host screenings on art and related topics, every Thursday at 6.30 pm. Titled 'ASIDES at Escondite', there will be screenings, talks and documentaries. Entrance is Free.

Check FB page, 'Villa Escondite' for the program schedule.

ASIDES
AT ESCONDITE



Art and Wine

An exclusive wine sipping and painting evening for adults organised by Gallery Four Life Art Gallery, will be held on March 26, from 7.00p.m. and 9.00p.m.

Features



Poignant photos of Frida Kahlo

German-born French photographer Gisèle Freund (1908-2000) offers a rare look at Frida Kahlo in intimate snapshots taken of the celebrated artist during some of the last years of her life.

Freund, who fled Nazi Germany in 1933 and later became known as one of the greatest portrait photographers in history, met the legendary couple Kahlo and Diego Rivera when she embarked on a two-week trip to Mexico in 1950.

A fortnight gradually turned into two years that Freund spent living in the home of Kahlo and Rivera. During that time, Freund captured hundreds of photos documenting the couple's private lives as well as the rich culture of Mexico.

Renowned painter

The powerful photos, many of which have never been published before the release of the book *Frida Kahlo: The Gisèle Freund Photographs in March*, honour the beauty and talent of Kahlo. Although she became ill in the years before her death,

THE POWERFUL PHOTOS, MANY OF WHICH HAVE NEVER BEEN PUBLISHED BEFORE THE RELEASE OF THE BOOK FRIDA KAHLO: THE GISÈLE FREUND PHOTOGRAPHS IN MARCH, HONOUR THE BEAUTY AND TALENT OF KAHLO. ALTHOUGH SHE BECAME ILL IN THE YEARS BEFORE HER DEATH, THE RENOWNED PAINTER WAS STILL FILLED WITH VIBRANT PASSION AND ENERGY

the renowned painter was still filled with vibrant passion and energy.

As Freund's poignant images show, Kahlo loved to spend time painting and wandering through her garden with her pet dogs, even when she became weaker and later confined to a wheelchair. A charismatic and unforgettable figure to the very end, Kahlo will forever be remembered for her grace and artistic gifts.



English Theatre returns to the Wendt with 'ART'

Produced by Lihan Mendis and lighting design by Ryan Holsinger, the Broken Leg Theatre Company's tenth anniversary production, 'Art' by Yasmina Reza will be staged on March 25, 26 and 27 at 8pm at the Lionel Wendt Theatre with two matinees at 5pm on Friday and Saturday.

Yasmina Reza's 'Art' is a Tony and Olivier award winning play for which she won high praise when it debuted in her native Paris. Following the success of the play, it has since been translated into 30 languages with Christopher Hampton taking credit for the English version.

Reza is rumoured to have been slightly troubled by the ease with which the play was slotted into the comedy genre, given the eventually fraught relationships of the play's protagonists. However, the travails of the three friends are described in Reza's characteristic wit and incisiveness resulting in a hilarious unravelling and potential rekindling of friendships.

The play revolves around three male friends, Marc, Ian and Shehan (the play has been slightly altered to suit local audiences). Shehan buys a 'white' painting. Marc hates it. Ian isn't sure. The polarisation that ensues is an

excellent introspection into the 'with us or against us' attitude that exists in many of today's disagreements.

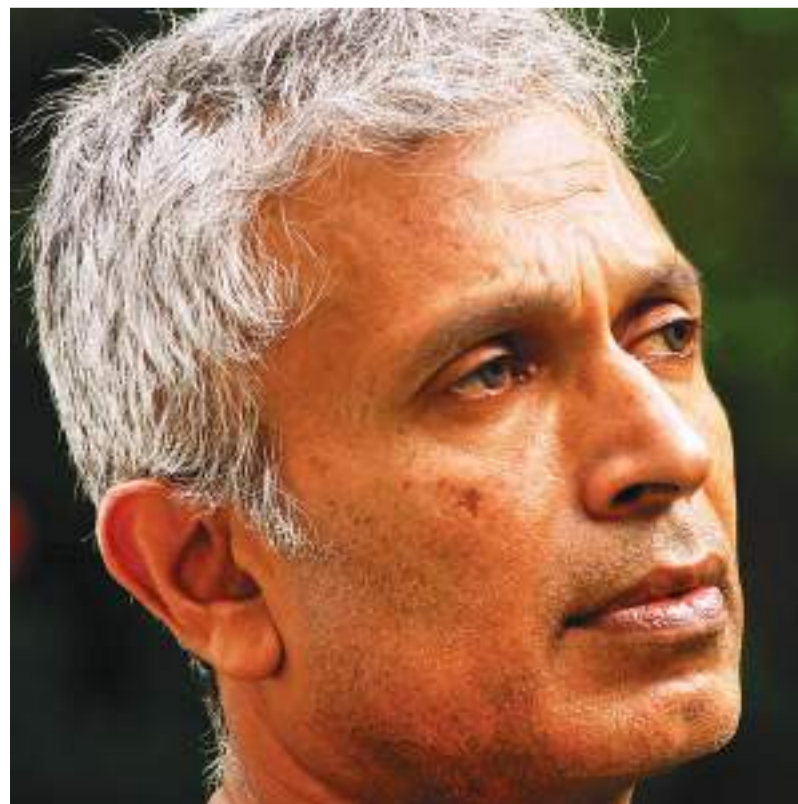
The conversation which begins in a critique of the painting expands into witty repartee that establishes the insecurities and foibles of the characters, of themselves and also in their interactions with each other.

Steve De La Zilwa's visual brilliance as director and interpretation coupled with Reza's script in the hands of the thespians Shanaka Amarasinghe, Chamat Arambewela and Lihan Mendis will add lustre as 'Art' goes on the boards at the Wendt.



'Art' by Yasmina Reza, directed by Steve de la Zilwa will be performed by (L - R): Lihan Mendis, Shanaka Amarasinghe and Chamat Arambewela. (Photo credit: Ruvin de Silva)

The launch of *The Unmarriageable Man*



Ashok Ferrey's first book in five years, *The Unmarriageable Man*, will be launched at Sarasavi Bookshop, One Galle Face Mall, Colombo 3, on Saturday March 27 at 4.30 pm.

When his Sri Lankan father dies, Sanjay de Silva decides to visit Eng-

THE UNMARRIAGEABLE MAN IS ABOUT GRIEF: HOW EACH OF US COPE IN OUR INIMITABLE WAY, OFTEN RUNNING DIRECTLY AGAINST THE GRAIN OF RECEIVED WISDOM. HOW, AS SANJAY IS ABOUT TO FIND OUT, 'GRIEF IS ONLY THE TRANSMUTATION OF LOVE, OF THE SAME CHEMICAL COMPOSITION - LIQUID, UNDISTILLED - THE ONE INEVITABLY TURNING TO THE OTHER LIKE ICE TO WATER

land - for no other reason than that his father has always prevented him from doing so. It is 1980. Sanjay arrives in London to find that real estate has become the national obsession, the Tulip Fever of the age. He meets and falls in love with Janine, old enough to be his mother, infamous within the acid-tongued Sri Lankan community as a hooker of the highest class, with royal clients.

Sanjay becomes the only Asian builder in one of London's most violent parts, Brixton - where the black inhabitants are fast being replaced by young white yuppies, where every girl looks like Princess Diana though not every boy looks like Prince Charles. But all is not well with that first house he buys. At night there are voices.

At its deepest level, *The Unmarriageable Man* is about grief: how each of us copes in our inimitable way, often running directly against the grain of received wisdom. How, as Sanjay is about to find out, 'grief is only the transmutation of love, of the same chemical composition - liquid, undistilled - the one inevitably turning to the other like ice to water.'

Locked Down Thoughts launched



Senior Lecturer and Pediatrician, Faculty of Medicine, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Manori Gamage launched 'Poetry Collection of Thoughts Not Locked' at the Surgical Society Auditorium under the patronage of Prof. Praneeth Abeysondera recently.

Author Mahinda Prasad Masimbula delivered the keynote address. She wrote these poems about the events occurred during travel restrictions in Sri Lanka from March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



Down Syndrome: Early intervention reduces disabilities

By Carol Aloysius



Today, March 21 health officials will shine their spotlight on a subject that has up to now been sidelined on account of the fact that the number of those afflicted by Down's Syndrome reportedly the commonest chromosome abnormality in humans, are relatively low. The *Sunday Observer* spoke to Head of Rehabilitation Services, MJF Charitable Foundation, Dr Gopi Kitnasamy who has hands on experience in dealing with Down's Syndrome patients, especially, children who, he says, can suffer from many mental and physical disabilities, including speech disorders, gait and other associated problems if they are not treated in their early growing stage.

Excerpts

Q. On March 21 the world's leading experts on Down Syndrome will come together to shine their torch on a subject that still continues to baffle doctors despite many advances in the field. As many still don't understand what Down's Syndrome (DS) is tell us what exactly is Down's syndrome?

A: Down Syndrome or Down's syndrome, also known as trisomy 21, is a chromosomal condition caused by the presence of all or part of a third copy of chromosome 21. Down syndrome is the most common chromosome abnormality in humans. This extra chromosome changes the normal development of the body and brain. It is typically associated with a delay in cognitive ability and physical growth and a set of facial characteristics.

Q. How is Down syndrome diagnosed?

A: There are two categories of tests for Down syndrome that can be performed before a baby is born: screening tests and diagnostic tests. Prenatal screens estimate the chance of the fetus having Down syndrome. These tests do not tell you for sure whether your fetus has Down syndrome; they only provide a probability.

Diagnostic tests, on the other hand, can provide a definitive diagnosis with almost 100 percent accuracy. Down syndrome is usually identified at birth by the presence of certain physical traits, low muscle tone, a single deep crease across the palm of the hand, a slightly flattened facial profile and an upward slant to the eyes. Because these features may be present in babies without Down syndrome, a chromosomal analysis is done to confirm the diagnosis.

Q. How does DS affect the bones and joints?

A: Almost all of the conditions that affect the bones and joints of people with Down syndrome arise from the abnormal collagen found in DS. Collagen is the major protein that makes up ligaments, tendons, cartilage, bone and the support structure of the skin. One of the types of collagen (type VI) is encoded by a gene found on the 21 chromosome. The resulting effect in people with DS is increased laxity, or looseness of the ligaments that attach bone to bone and muscle to bone.

Q. What are the problems associated with Down Syndrome?

A: The combination of this ligamentous laxity and low muscle tone contribute to orthopaedic problems in people with DS. Motor function in people with DS is characterised by hypotonia and hyper flexibility, which results in an increased risk of joint dislocation and retarded motor skills. Hypotonia, decreased muscle tone, has a negative effect on the proprioceptive feedback from muscle and joint sensory structures and can have a detrimental effect on the efficiency of co-contractions and postural reactions. People with DS have more joint mobility than the average. The enlarged joint mobility may contribute to the lack of posture control. Together with the failure of co-contraction, it will affect the joint stability.

Q. You referred to several musculoskeletal problems that persons with DS are likely to suffer from. What are the most common and which part of the body is most affected?

A: The most common musculoskeletal problems in Down syndrome are: Atlantoaxial instability, i.e. looseness between the first and second vertebrae of the neck, Scoliosis, which is the curvature of the spine to the side. Five to eight percent of children with DS will develop abnormalities of the hip. Hip dislocation may or may not be associated with malformation of the acetabulum. The dislocation appears to be due to a combination of laxity of the connective tissue that normally keeps the hip together along with the low muscle tone found in DS. Instability of the kneecap has been estimated to occur in close to 20 percent of people with DS. Flat foot is seen in the vast majority of them. In mild cases, the heel is in a neutral position. In severe cases, the heel rotates so that the person is walking on the inside of the heel.

Q. Do these problems affect their walking?

A: Normal gait or walking is very important. Ligamentous laxity, hypotonia and weakness in the legs lead to lower extremity posturing with hip ab-



duction and external rotation, hyper-extension of the knees and pronation and eversion of the feet. Children with DS typically learn to walk with their feet wide apart, their knees stiff and their feet turned out.

Q. Why?

A: They do so because hypotonia, ligamentous laxity and weakness make their legs less stable. Locking their knees, widening their base and rotating their feet outward are all strategies to increase stability. The problem, however, is that this is an inefficient gait pattern for walking. The weight is being borne on the medial (inside) borders of the feet, and the feet are designed to have the weight borne on the outside borders. If this pattern is allowed to continue, problems will develop with the knees and the feet. Walking will become painful, and endurance will be decreased.

Q. Since your specialty is Physiotherapy, tell us how Physiotherapy helps these children?

A: The goal of Physiotherapy for children with DS is not to accelerate their rate of gross motor development as is commonly assumed. The goal is to improve the near normal gross motor development and minimise the development of abnormal compensatory movement and posture patterns that children with DS are prone to develop. Early Physiotherapy interventions with the multidisciplinary team approach make a decisive difference in the long-term functional outcome of the child with DS. The gross motor development is the first learning task that the child with DS encounters and provides parents with the first opportunity to explore how their child learns. There is increasing evidence that children with DS have a unique learning style.

Facilitating the development of optimal motor movement patterns and maintaining correct and good postures are an important part of the Physiotherapy. Children often develop adaptations that help them achieve movement but can lead to musculo-

skeletal injuries over the long term. Physiotherapy helps prevent these non-ideal patterns from developing and prevent developing other musculoskeletal problems. Physiotherapy should begin teaching the child with DS the proper standing posture when he or she is still very young. With appropriate Physiotherapy interventions, gait problems can be minimised or avoided.

Q. How else can Physiotherapy help them?

A: Trunk position or spinal posture is another important consideration for Physiotherapy. Ligamentous laxity, hypotonia and decreased strength in the trunk encourage the development of kyphosis or Scoliosis, which is often first seen when the child is learning to sit. Children with DS typically learn to sit with a posterior pelvic tilt, trunk rounded and the head resting back on the shoulders. They never learn to actively move their pelvis into a vertical (upright) position, and therefore, cannot hold their head and trunk over it. If this posture is allowed to persist, it will ultimately result in impaired breathing and a decreased ability to rotate the trunk.

Q. On rehabilitation, a question paramount in most parents' and caregivers' mind is what their specific role is in the rehabilitation process of, especially, young children with DS?

A: A family-centered or focused approach is considered the best practice in Paediatric rehabilitation. Understanding how children with DS learn is crucial for parents who wish to facilitate the development of gross motor skills as well as facilitating success in other areas of life including language, education and the development of social skills.

Q. What is early intervention and why is it important?

A: The first years of life are a critical time in a child's development. All young children go through

DOWN SYNDROME IS THE COMMONEST CHROMOSOME ABNORMALITY IN HUMANS. CHILDREN WITH DS ESPECIALLY FACE DELAYS IN CERTAIN AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT. HENCE EARLY INTERVENTION SHOULD BEGIN ANYTIME AFTER BIRTH, BUT THE SOONER IT STARTS, THE BETTER

ago during the Covid-19 lockdown. How have disabled children and their families benefited from this new App up to now?

A: During the Covid-19 lockdown, we introduced tele-therapy and education services for the students at our centres. After seeing the benefits of it, we decided to expand the service to the children in all districts of Sri Lanka. The Disability Screening app aims to share knowledge, therapies and services for people with disability, especially, children in regions where access to transport, regular therapy and other services are limited. The app includes guided disability and development screening, referral services to connect them with Paediatricians and other experts, early identification and intervention and tele-therapeutic, educational and rehabilitation assistance, allowing caregivers to monitor progress with guidance from MJF Charitable Foundation's multidisciplinary team. The app is available for android and I-phones and is free to download on the Google Play and App Stores.

Q. Any contact number?

A: The families can connect with us via our helpline 0777 116 116 for useful information and guidance to support their children.

Q. What is your message to the parents?

A: Accept the truth, learn and understand more about your child's condition, focus on early interventions, be part of the intervention program, foster your child's intellectual development. Education is very important, encourage your child to be independent, be patient, positive and hopeful.

Talk to other parents of children with DS for encouragement and reassurance. Often, other parents can help you look beyond your baby's diagnosis and delight in the joys of parenthood. They have been through what you are going through and can be an invaluable source of support.



Dr. Gopi Kitnasamy

the most rapid and developmentally significant changes during this time. Children with Down syndrome typically face delays in certain areas of development, so early intervention is highly recommended. It should begin any time after birth, but the sooner it starts, the better. Early intervention is a systematic program of therapy, exercises and activities designed to address developmental delays that may be experienced by children with DS or other developmental disabilities. It is offered by the multidisciplinary team who teaches parents how to interact with their infant or toddler, how to meet their child's specific needs and how to enhance development.

Q. I understand that the MJF Charitable Foundation of which you are the Head of Rehabilitation Services runs a program for DS children and their families. Tell us about it.

A: At our centres for children with developmental disorders, we provide an early intervention program which is important to enhance the development of infants and toddlers with DS and to help families understand and meet the needs of their children, therapeutic and educational services and vocational training programs. These services are provided by a qualified and experienced multidisciplinary team.

Q. A Dis-Ability App was launched by the MJF foundation a few months

Family Time Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14			13					14		
15			16					17		
18			18					20		
	21					22				
23	24			25	26			27	28	29
30			31					32		
33			34					35		
			36					37		
	38	39				40	41		42	43
44				45				46		
47				48				49		
50				51				52		

DOWN

1. A freelancer may work on it
2. "Bye," in Abruzzi
3. Courageous and daring
4. (K) Room renter
5. Metals-in-the-rough
6. Certain type of tide
7. Horrible city mentioned in the Bible
8. Elevated open grassland in southern Africa
9. (K) Canal in New York
10. Cover with a layer of gold
11. (K) Word attached to "one" or "where"
19. (K) Take a nice break
20. Home in the sticks?
23. Seek redress legally
24. Hostel work environment?
25. Dashboard gauge
26. (K) Aardvark snack
27. Formed a boundary of
28. (K) ___ Direction (Harry Styles' band)
29. (K) Solicit responses
31. Send forth
32. Checklist entry
36. Completely submerged
37. (K) Things touched in double plays
38. (K) It helps one remember something
39. (K) Correct, as a paragraph
40. (K) Perform a performance alone
41. (K) Evaluation
42. NASA launch cancellation (2 words)
43. (K) Easy things to multiply by
44. (K) Help signal at sea

ACROSS

1. (K) With "fi," a fantasy film type
4. (K) ___ Kong
8. Chevy of old
12. (K) Needle
13. (K) It's black and white and dipped in milk
14. "___ go braghi!"
15. (K) You do this daily
16. (K) Liberty or 76ers, for example
17. (K) Easter flower
18. Exchanged messages
21. (K) A lamprey is one
22. No longer actively working, briefly
23. (K) Safely drinks a hot drink
25. Scullers use them
27. (K) Type of constricting snake
30. Organization with 193 members (2 words)
33. (K) Wrap up or conclude
34. (K) Thing attracted to a flame
35. Long, difficult hike
36. (K) Something an archer will take
37. (K) Thing made daily
38. It features Mark and John (2 words)
44. (K) Bubbly refreshment
45. (K) Ten things with nails
46. Sudoku line of nine
47. Elevator innovator
48. (K) "So what ___ is new?"
49. Heady thing that can be bruised or massaged
50. Abel's brother
51. (K) Reacts to weather and water, as wood, over time
52. (K) Spanish couple?

Sudoku 9

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.

			7					
		8		9		6	4	
	4		6					2
3				2	8			
		9	5		6	2		
		2	7					5
8					4		3	
1	5		8			9		
					5			

Can you find the answer to this riddle within the solved puzzle?

Riddle:
Digits in steps?

Last week answer:
26-D) Ion

Last week solution

2	5	3	9	4	8	7	1	6
7	9	8	1	6	5	3	2	4
6	4	1	7	3	2	5	9	8
8	7	9	6	1	3	2	4	5
4	2	6	5	8	9	1	7	3
3	1	5	4	2	7	8	6	9
1	6	7	8	5	4	9	3	2
9	8	2	3	7	6	4	5	1
5	3	4	2	9	1	6	8	7

C	A	S	L	E	S	R	O	W
V	E	F	H	E	I	X	O	N
E	R	A	H	A	H	L	D	U
H	U	I	S	A	H	U	L	D
T	O	P	O	C	A	R	T	A
Q	B	E	T	C	I	R	T	A
R	C	L	A	T	I	D	S	I
H	C	T	I	S	N	T	A	H
S	E	C	A	M	E	R	G	
U	O	B	E	T	I	M	L	E
C	A	R	L	R	O	D	E	R
S	L	A	V	W	E	F	H	I
T	R	A	L	L	E	S	T	A

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

Feature



Entrance to the Maha Vihara



The reclining Buddha statue in the cave shrine at the temple



Bo-tree with massive stone wall



Murals at the cave shrine belonging to the Kandyan period



Sasseruwa

Tracing back to the original Avukana statue

—Text & Pix by—
Mahil Wijesinghe

I first came to know Sasseruwa in the early 1980s through the now defunct *Isura* - a monthly Sinhala magazine, published by the then Land, Land Development and Mahaweli Development Ministry, to educate the people on Mahaweli development projects.

The colourful magazine was much sought after by me as a student. In one issue, it featured the restoration of a tank of the Sasseruwa temple with a photograph of the Buddha statue in the Mahaweli 'H' System in Meegalewa. Now, visiting this place after four decades, I recalled the memories of my student days.

Colossus

The most awe-inspiring is the Buddha statue at Sasseruwa or Resvehera where the first colossus stands majestically amid the dense jungle in a corner of Kurunegala bordering the Anuradhapura district. Travelling from Kalawewa and turning in at the Avukana road, we reached the Sasseruwa temple after about an hour's drive. We proceeded along the tarred road to the temple which was lined either side by jungle, shrub and lush green paddy fields or dotted here and there with small houses. Passing a shady tree-lined pathway and a tank full of red lotus blooms, where village children pick flowers to sell to pilgrims, we stepped on to the temple premises.

The temple is in an elephant infested area called Meegalewa, on the boundary of the Mahaweli system-H, overlooking the mighty tank, Kalawewa. Gaining importance after the Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Yapahuwa periods, the Sasseruwa rock temple has a history dating back to the period of King Walagambahu. It is famous for the DethispalaRuha Bodhi planted here.

Legend has it that *Budu Res* (Rays of light) emanated from the Buddha statue when the Bo-tree was planted. The centuries old huge Bo-tree at the site shades the front of the shrine cave. A 10-feet tall stone wall with four platforms is around the Bo-tree. This is rare feature in Sri Lanka's temples.

Sasseruwa is significant in many ways. One is the main shrine cave containing an image of the reclining Buddha statue where the original robe, which covered it, is still visible at certain places. This is the only Buddha statue of a rock temple where a pilgrim could walk right around it in veneration.

Avukana

The other unique feature is the 42' tall colossus which stands majes-

tically on the top of the rock boulder amid a forest canopy. It was carved out of a rock outcrop, resembling the famous statue at Avukana.

History reveals that the benevolent tank builder King Dhatusena, who built the mighty reservoir called Kalawewa, wanted the Supreme Being to overlook his mundane efforts. He wanted to build the image of the Buddha as big as his work on the bank of Kalawewa. Then, the Avukana Buddha statue was commissioned to be built. As legend goes Sasseruwa was the first place chosen to build the colossus Avukana Buddha.

As the work progressed, the monarch had a suspicion about the strength of the rock. He, therefore, abandoned the site and chose another at Avukana, close to Kalawewa. However, the sculptor continued his work and created a masterpiece of the Buddha image at Sasseruwa. He sculpted the most beautiful image out of the rock. He sent his pupil to do the monarch's bidding. The Avukana Buddha statue at Kalawewa is slightly taller than the original at Sasseruwa.

There are over 80 rock caves scattered around the rocky mountain of Sasseruwa, which had provided shelter to monastic bhikkhus in the past, according to chronicles. Today, most of these caves are home to wild animals.

Antique value

The wall paintings in the cave shrine of the Sasseruwa temple seem to belong to the Kandyan period. A flight of steps lead to the Poya Geya where a *Makara Thorana* (Dragon arch) decorates its entrance.

The furniture in the temple has immense antique value. A bed, ancient and still intact, made of Ma Vev-el (Cane) which is said to have been donated to the temple by a carpenter, was placed in a corner of the shrine room in the cave.

On one side of the temple is a small rock enclosure said to be the Pattini Devala where lie a replica of the Goddess' symbol and an anklet. There is a belief among the villagers that a cobra had guarded the temple. The villagers say that a 14-foot and seven-inch discarded snake outer skin had been found in the rock cave shrine in 1980.

The Archaeological Department had undertaken construction work on the roof of the shrine rooms and also renovated some faded wall paintings in the caves. The ancient preaching hall in the temple has been damaged by rain water dripping from the roof.

The development work on the temple was initiated with the accelerated Mahaweli development program, which commenced in the early 80s, resulting in the Sasseruwa temple premises belonging to Mahaweli system-H, becoming a religious site for pilgrims who visit the Avukana statue, just 12 kilometres away from Sasseruwa.



THE WALL PAINTINGS IN THE CAVE SHRINE OF THE SASSERUWA TEMPLE SEEM TO BELONG TO THE KANDYAN PERIOD. A FLIGHT OF STEPS LEAD TO THE POYA GEYA WHERE A MAKARA THORANA DECORATES ITS ENTRANCE. THE FURNITURE IN THE TEMPLE HAS IMMENSE ANTIQUE VALUE



The dagaba in the backdrop of a rocky mountain

Garfield

YOU HAVE REACHED THE VETERINARY OFFICE OF DOCTOR LIZ WILSON. IF THIS CALL IS AN EMERGENCY, PRESS SIX.

IF YOU WISH TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, PRESS TWO. FOR BILLING, PRESS THREE. FOR OFFICE HOURS, PRESS FOUR.

FOR DIRECTIONS, PRESS FIVE. TO SPEAK WITH THE RECEPTIONIST, PRESS ONE. PARA ESPANOL, PRESIONE SIETE.

TO LEAVE A VOICEMAIL FOR DOCTOR WILSON, BEGIN SPEAKING AFTER THE BEEP. PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAME, THE DATE AND TIME YOU CALLED, A NUMBER YOU CAN BE REACHED AT AND A BRIEF MESSAGE.

YOU HAVE...ONE...NEW VOICEMAIL MESSAGE.

DOONESBURY
by G.B. Trudeau

BP BP BP BP BP BP BP BP

LETTERS! YOU WANT 'EM - WE READ 'EM!

SO LET'S GET RIGHT TO IT!

MR. TELLERSON, LINDSEY, SHEPHERD, WILLIAM, BEAR, TONY, GROSSMAN, KRISTEN, WELLS, KENNY, PERRY, AND ON AND ON! NONE WILL EVER RECOVER THEIR DOG NAMES!

SNOOORRRRE

"BEAR AND HISTORY" ISN'T KIND TO THE MAN WHO HOLDS MUSKIELO'S ARCHIE. ALL BEST, TED CALV.

BOB. SOME OF THESE OLD LETTERS REALLY TAKE YOU BACK!

DEAR MA, YOU GUYS SHOULD DO SOME HUNKERLONRY ON ALL THE FORMERLY RESPECTED PEOPLE WHO SOLD THEIR REPUTATIONS BY KISSING UP TO TUMPL REGARDS, BETSY P.

NOT A BAD IDEA, BOBE. IF ONLY WE HAD THE ROOM.

TRUE THAT. IT'S QUITE A LIST.

DON'T FORGET ALAN PERSHWITZ! ONCE A SERIOUS LEGAL SCHOLAR, NOW A TOTAL JOKE!

I'M NOT A JOKE!

SURE, YOU'RE IN A COMIC STRIP.

YEAH, THAT'S AFTER BOOK.

OBSERVER EDUCATION

MARCH 21, 2021



THE 16TH CONVOCATION OF THE COLLEGE...

PAGE 42



"STATE AND PRIVATE SECTORS..."

PAGE 44



RESIDENTIAL ENGLISH CAMP...

PAGE 46



EXCITING PROGRAMS ON HOSPITALITY FOR...

PAGE 47

UCL International Foundation year (UIFY)

GUARANTEES ENTRY TO TOP 100 UK DEGREE IN SRI LANKA OR IN REPUTED UNIVERSITIES

Established with the vision of providing quality higher education for Sri Lankan students from top globally ranked universities, Universal College Lanka (UCL) has a proven track-record with its internationally recognised Foundation programmes for students after O/L's (local or Edexcel/Cambridge) who wish to fast track to a degree programme locally or internationally. Upon successful completion of the UCL International Foundation Year (UIFY) programme, students aspiring to pursue their Higher Education dreams right here in Sri Lanka can follow 4-year British Degree programmes from the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), a Top 100 UK University or study overseas in other reputed Universities in the UK, Canada, USA, New Zealand, Ireland, Scotland among other countries.

Established in 1976, NCC Education is a UK-based awarding body, whose qualifications are recognized and accepted by universities internationally. With Centres in over forty countries, four international offices and academic managers worldwide, NCC Education strives to employ the latest technologies for learning, assessment, and support. NCC Education is regulated, and quality assured by Ofqual (the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation in England and Northern Ireland). NCC Education's Higher Education portfolio includes Business, IT, Engineering and Science Foundation qualifications for early school leavers.



Dr. Dhananjay Kulkarni
Dean of Academic Affairs

Speaking about the rationale and prospects of a Foundation Program for students, Dr. Dhananjay Kulkarni, Dean - UCL stated, "Modern communication technologies have collapsed distance and time, while Globalisation has condensed the barriers and borders. World has changed its ways and means slowly but surely where the speed has been adopted in to each of our lifestyles and to every activity. Even if there's no need to hurry, 'faster' has become the normative way we do things today. This impatience may be attributed to our busier lifestyles. In a world with such fast-paced lifestyles, one's success depends on how you set yourself apart, start early and equip yourself with the skills needed in the industry.

In catering to this requirement of speed, the higher education industry has designed pathway programmes and similar fast-track programmes. Many renowned Universities across the Globe have introduced fast-track Foundation programmes to allow for accelerated entry into Undergradu-

ate studies, especially from the UK Universities".



Nayani Costa
Head Of Marketing - British Programmes

UCL's Head of Marketing Ms. Nayani Costa stated that UIFY provides the opportunity for expanding the opportunities for Sri Lankan students to gain international exposure and be qualified with a globally recognised Degree programme both internationally and locally. UCL has exclusively partnered with the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) UCL to offer quality education to local students. UCLan is the 8th largest University in the UK and it had been helping over 100,000 students from all walks of life to make the most of their potential and succeed in their life ambitions. At present, UCLan has a staff and student community approaching 38,000. In terms of overall student numbers, UCLan rests comfortably within the UK's top 10 modern universities. The University has students and researchers from over 100 countries and has successfully established

partnerships with 125 international institutions.



Thepul Ginige
Programme Co-ordinator - UIFY UCLan Software Engineering

for UIFY said "Our International Foundation Year is a globally recognized qualification, and it provides the pathway for students to develop the skills and knowledge required to commence their undergraduate studies in selected disciplines at UCL - Business and Software Engineering. With the successful completion of the UIFY, students can directly enter to the 1st year of a Degree programme awarded by the University of Central Lancashire, UK. The students will be able to pursue and complete all four years of the degree at our modern UCL campus in Rajagiriya".

What do students learn in the UIFY?

The programme emphasizes on developing competencies in the English Language & Communication Skills with the focus of preparing students for higher studies in specialized disciplines such as Computing and Business.

• English Language Skills

The module aims to improve skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking, hence, enables the student to acquire a broad range of knowledge which can be used to confidently and effectively communicate in English.

• Communication Skills

Equips the student with the essential skills needed in studying for a degree program. The student will learn the basic skills necessary to carry out independent research, write academic papers and to present their work in a formal setting.

• Analytical & Problem Solving Skills


Builds upon the existing knowledge of the student in the area of mathematics whilst introducing new topics appropriate across a range of academic disciplines.

• Subject specific Skills (Electives based on chosen stream)

These modules will form the basis for the destination degree. The UIFY offers specialization subjects in Computing and Business

While explaining the delivery model and which type of prospective students were likely to benefit, Thepul Ginige stated, "A University Foundation, as the name itself implies is a pre-university qualification which is ideally suitable for students wanting to begin and speed up their Higher Education with the O/L qualification. It is a stepping stone which provides you the basis needed to succeed in University Education, especially, for students who have already identified their education and career aspirations early in consultation with their parents and mentors."

(Continued on page 47)



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Advertorial



Procession of GIC Graduates



Procession of DLT Diplomates

The 16th Convocation of the College of Chemical Sciences, Institute of Chemistry Ceylon

The 16th convocation of the 37th batch of GIC (Graduateship in Chemistry) graduates and the 45th batch of DLTC (Diploma in Laboratory Technology in Chemistry) diplomates, was held on the March, 15 2021 at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall.

The convocation was declared open by Prof. Sagarika Ekanayake, President of the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon, followed by the conferment of designations and certificates to 130 Graduate Chemists, 6 Advanced Diplomates in Chemistry, and 88 Diplomates in Laboratory Technology in Chemistry. Students recognised for their excellent performances in both GIC and DLTC programmes, were felicitated. The Shireen Jayasuriya Memorial Gold Medal for the Best performance in all parts of the Graduateship Examination and the Dr. R. O. B. Wijesekera Felicitation fund award for the Best All Rounder of the GIC program was awarded to P. L. Y. V. Alwis. The Dr. G. C. N. Jayasuriya Award for the First in batch of the DLTC program was awarded to Ms. A. M. S. S. S. Aasiya.

The Convocation Address was delivered by the Chief Guest, Prof. Sarath Amunugama, President of the Royal Institute, P. L. Y. V. Alwis and Ms. A. M. S. S. S. Aasiya, the valedictorians of the GIC and DLTC programmes respectively, also addressed the gathering, expressing words of wisdom and gratitude from the experience garnered throughout the course of their study at their alma mater.

The ceremony was graced by Prof. Sujatha Hewage (Dean of College of Chemical Sciences), E. G. Somapala (Director of DLT Programme), N. I. N. S. Nadarasa (Registrar) and other distinguished academics.

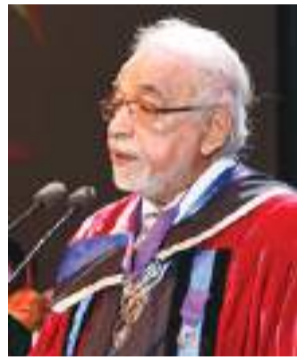
The much anticipated ceremony was finally held in true grandeur, amidst many an obstacle, fulfilling the long awaited dream of the graduates and diplomates of 2019.



Address by the President



Chief Guest Procession



Chief Guest Delivering the speech



Prof Sujatha Hewage Reading out the names of the Graduates.



Valedictory speech by Mr.Yasiru Vindula Alwis



Valedictory Speech by the Diplomat (Ms. A.M.S.S.S Aasiya)



Juniors of the College of Chemical Sciences leading the procession



Graduate (Ms. Hasini Koshila Medagedara) receiving her medal from the president

Five best Platforms for Premium and free Online Courses, plus one Invaluable Learning App

BY DAVE JOHNSON FORBES

Online learning is becoming the rule rather than the exception. Here are the best online learning courses and tools.

Everyone daydreams about taking a class at the local community college to pick up a new skill or to learn about a subject just for the love of learning. But it often stays a daydream because who has the time or energy to go to class after a long day of work? That's why online learning has become so popular—there are a slew of online learning courses out there which can help you master everything from a second language to sleight of hand to Native American culture.

The best online learning courses offer a variety of curriculum with credentialed or qualified instructors at affordable prices. And there are so many options to choose from. Here are the best online learning courses, plus a bonus: the definitive online learning tool that you can use to master the arts of math and science.

- Best Online Course Catalog: Udemy
- Best Language Learning App: Rosetta Stone
- Best Free Language Learning App: Duolingo
- Best Creative and Graphic Design Courses: Skillshare
- Best Learning Platform for Kids: Kahn Academy
- Best Expert and Celebrity Instructors: MasterClass
- Best Credentialed Instructors: The Great Courses Plus
- Best Online College Courses: Coursera
- Best Math and Science Help: Wolfram Alpha

1. Best Online Course Catalog Udemy

Udemy is an online learning site that offers about 130,000 online courses for both individuals and businesses. For individuals, there's no subscription model; you pay for each class you take, and prices vary quite a bit, ranging from as little as \$50 to more than \$150 each. But classes are frequently marked down such that a \$140 class might routinely be available for as little as \$15. There's also a business plan available, which is only

a good deal if your employees make frequent use of the courses, since it's \$360 per person per year.

The range of courses is absolutely enormous, with categories that include coding, business, finance, IT, office productivity, personal development, design, marketing, lifestyle, photography, music, academics, and health and fitness. If you're honing your programming skills, you'll find classes on machine learning, all major languages and software testing. There are courses on business skills like entrepreneurship, business law and practical e-commerce classes on tools like Amazon FBA and Shopify.

Not surprisingly, Udemy works with a lot of instructors, and anyone with a desire to teach can sign up and create a syllabus. The site has some guidelines instructors must follow to ensure course quality, but the site has no specific requirements for who may become an instructor and offer classes, which means course quality—and instructor competence—will vary from class to class.

2. Best Language Learning App Rosetta Stone

Rosetta Stone has been around a very long time—it launched in 1992, though obviously it wasn't an online service at the time—and has developed a reputation as a superb language course. Nonetheless, Rosetta Stone is a demanding program. It immerses you in language and doesn't always provide clear definitions for new vocabulary, preferring to have you build your knowledge through context. That's not for everyone, but fans of the program often return to focus on yet another language.

There are a total of 23 languages you can learn in Rosetta Stone: Arabic, Mandarin, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Farsi, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish (both Latin American and European), Swedish, Tagalog, Turkish and Vietnamese.

And you don't need to choose; while the three-month plan (\$36 total) only unlocks a single language, any of the other subscription plans gives you unlimited access to all of Rosetta Stone's languages. You can get a year for \$8 per month or a lifetime sub-

scription for \$199. Keep an eye out for discounts; Rosetta Stone frequently reduces prices, making the lifetime plan a good deal, especially if you plan to tackle more than one language.

3. Best Free Language Learning App Duolingo

Looking for some online language lessons but you're not sufficiently motivated to subscribe to a course like Rosetta Stone? Duolingo might be the learning solution you're looking for. First and foremost, it's completely free—both the website and mobile app are ad-supported. If you want to remove the ads, though, you can pay \$7 per month. Even that is something of a bargain, though.

Duolingo offers no fewer than 36 languages. Of those 36, 34 are “real” languages: Arabic, Chinese, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Esperanto, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hawaiian, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Indonesian, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Navajo, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Scottish Gaelic, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, and Welsh. If the real world isn't enough for you, you can also pick up Star Trek's Klingon and Game of Thrones' High Valyrian.

4. Best Multi-Platform Language Learning App Babbel

Babbel is an interesting language learning platform that combines communicative didactics, cognitivism, behaviorism and constructivism in its lessons for faster learning that will stick with you. Your efficiency and proficiency are helped along by progressive lessons, an interlinking framework to help keep you on track when building up to more difficult lessons. Refresh your Spanish or learn Italian, Russian and Swedish with the help of Babbel.

Babbel provides two options when you sign up—either a live option that provides you access to classes with a teacher or an app subscription, where you get unlimited access to lessons for all languages, levels and time commitments. For a limited time, you can save 50% on your first subscription.

5. Best Creative And Graphic Design Courses Skillshare

Skillshare has a catalog of about 27,000 classes (plus another 2,000 free classes), but unlike some online learning sites, it leans hard into creative topics. The site is broadly divided into three main categories:

1. Create: populated with courses on animation, creative writing, film & video, fine art, graphic design, illustration, music, photography, UI design and web development.
2. Build: business analytics, entrepreneurship, leadership & management and marketing.
3. Thrive: lifestyle and productivity.

If you want to learn how to animate in After Effects, learn about composition and color use in street photography or learn responsive web design fundamentals, this is the site for you. Even many of the Build and Thrive topics seem aimed at creatives.

There's a course on productivity tips for artists and “Art from Your Heart: How to Art Journal for Wellness and Balance.” And the classes on how to start a business and Microsoft Excel Bootcamp are skills any freelance artist needs to know. That said, there's also content on the site that doesn't fit into any of Skillshare's three categories, which you'll probably only find by random searches, like a slew of cooking classes and some stargazing and astronomy classes.

You can get a sampling of Skillshare with the site's free lessons, but the real meat of the site is unlocked with a Premium membership, which lets you access an unlimited number of courses. Skillshare Premium costs \$32 per month, or you can save \$216 over the course of the year by getting an annual subscription for \$168.

Some of Skillshare's courses are built and presented by individuals. Skillshare doesn't vet the instructors, but does enforce course guidelines. While what you'll find in these classes is of somewhat uneven quality, Skillshare also creates high-quality classes called Skillshare Originals. These classes generally have high production values and are taught by noted experts or celebrity instructors.



Save water before it's too late..

FROM TRANQUILITY TO TURBULENCE

By Vasana Abeynayake



“IF THERE IS MAGIC ON THIS PLANET, IT IS CONTAINED IN WATER”

— LOREN EISELEY

Water is the most expressive element in nature which responds to every mood from tranquility to turbulence. We understand the importance only when it's scarce. Water is the driving force of all nature. World Water Day is celebrated on March 22 every year around the world with a variety of events of educational, theatrical, musical or lobbying in nature. The day is used to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

The theme of World Water Day 2021 is valuing water. This focus will extend beyond issues of pricing to include the environmental, social, and cultural value people place on water. The value of water is about much more than its price. Water has enormous and complex value for our households, food, culture, health, education, economics and the integrity of our natural environment. If we overlook any of these values, we risk mismanaging this finite, irreplaceable resource. The aim of Sustainable Development Goals is to ensure water and sanitation for all.

Without a comprehensive understanding of water's true, multi-dimensional value, we will be unable to safeguard this critical resource for the benefit of everyone.

Water, that magical substance from which all life springs forth, is essential to the very existence of every life form on earth. The role of water in the living organism has not changed since life's first creation in salt water billions of years ago. The only sure sign of life on another planet would be evidence of the presence of water. Water is very nearly the indispensable nutrient to all forms of life. Understanding how this most precious of substances is organized in the body is basic to a full appreciation of the metabolism of health and disease.

Water is the elixir of life that without it we could live for only a few days. The human body is 75% water, while the brain alone is comprised of 85% water.

Water also regulates body temperature, aids digestion, works to keep the muscles and skin toned and assists in weight loss. One of the most remarkable facts about water is that it carries silt to far-off places where it is finally deposited. The land where silt is deposited is usually very fertile. The silt that mixes with the salt water of the sea precipitates rapidly. The colour of the water changes successively from the muddy red or brown to yellow and green and finally to the blue of the deep sea. These vary-

ing shades are also fascinating.

Water is the basic of all life. Every animal and plant contains water in its body. Water is essential for its body. Moisture in the soil is equally important for the life and growth of plant and trees. The conservation and utilization of water is fundamental for human welfare. At present streams and rivers wastefully empty themselves into the sea. It is clear that the adoption of techniques preventing soil erosion would help to conserve and keep the water where it is wanted. It is an essential component of survival on Earth. Existence would not have been possible in the absence of water. Just like air, water is equally an essential element. All the life forms on the Earth's surface; animals, plants, insects and human beings require water for consumption and other purposes in the functioning of their daily lives. Fresh and potable water is necessary for use and survival.

Apart from drinking, water can be consumed for other purposes. Water that is not potable is used for washing, cooking and cleaning. Water is also extensively used for agricultural purposes such as farming, harvest and irrigation.

Water resources are being massively destroyed in the past few years. On the face of global warming and a rising world population, it is very crucial to save water as much as possible. While some of the countries have water resources in abundance to provide to their people, many places all across the globe are faced with an immense lack of enough water resources. Natural causes can be attributed to this scarcity; scanty rainfall and soil contamination of the groundwater.

Human-made factors contribute majorly to the rapid utilization of water resources; Industrialisation and urbanisation play a significant negative role in creating a scarcity of water. The land development and other processes utilize a considerable portion of the groundwater and also contaminate the rest of it.

The need to conserve and save water is essential and everyone should be aware of it. To avoid a shortage of water, everyone should participate equally and refrain from misusing and over-using water resources whenever and wherever possible. Currently, the most dangerous threat that the Earth faces is the shortage of freshwater. Water conservation minimizes its wastage. Conserving water means using it wisely, being mindful of every drop.

Reduced water wastage can help ensure that people continue to enjoy the benefits of pure and clean water. As the world's Water Day is round the corner it's a must to remember that no one can know the infinite importance of a tiny drop of water better than a thirsty bird or a little ant or a man of desert. Coincidentally, according to Benjamin Franklin “When the well is dry, we will know the worth of water.



NO ONE CAN KNOW THE INFINITE IMPORTANCE OF A TINY DROP OF WATER BETTER THAN A THIRSTY BIRD OR A LITTLE ANT OR A MAN OF DESERT





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- ▶ Undergo job-specific training with 100% scholarship followed by apprenticeship.
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- ▶ Pursue a BSc (Hons) / BIT (University of Moratuwa) degree from Horizon Campus while working at HCL. Get education funding for your degree course fee from HCL.

Eligibility

- ▶ Year of passing GCE A-Level should be 2010 or later.
- ▶ Should have minimum 'S' grade in 3 core subjects and in English.
- ▶ Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.



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“State and Private Sectors togetherness important to fulfill objectives of the country”

– MINISTER OF EDUCATION, PROF. G.L. PEIRIS



Education Minister G.L. Peiris handing over a mask to a student who was present at the Ministry watched by a teacher.

Minister of Education Professor G.L. Peiris said that the association and participation of the private sector and the state sector is very important to meet the future objectives of our country. Minister said so while speaking at the occasion where Brandix, a leading apparel institution donating 1.5 million Face Masks worth Rs. 6.8 million to be distributed among school children that was held at the Auditorium of the Ministry of Education.

Speaking further, the Minister said, “They deserve our gratitude regarding such a contribution at a pandemic situation of this nature. We should appreciate that Brandix has decided to contribute in the development of ‘water and education’ for children jointly with the government. This is also a good example to other Private Sector Institutions. I wish to state that it is our responsibility and the duty of all of us to contribute for the well being of the children,

who are considered as the future of the country. I am happy to state that main recipients of these donations will be the students of rural schools and schools in difficult areas. Steps will be taken to distribute these face masks to 5,824 schools throughout the island.

Secretary to the Ministry of Education, Professor Kapila C.K. Perera, Ministry Media Secretary Buddhika Wickramadara, Mrs. Anusha Alles representing Brandix, graced this occasion.



Minister of Education Prof. G. I. Peiris, Secretary Ministry of Education Kapila C.K. Perera and Ministry media Secretary B. Wicramadara receiving the donation of 1-5 million Masks from Brandix representative Mrs. Anusha Alles.

“Due attention not paid for nearly 20 years regarding school syllabuses of this country”

– Minister of Education, Professor G.L. Peiris



Minister of Education pointed out that the contents of present school syllabuses do not match with the present economic requirements and job opportunities and the modernization of the syllabuses through the new educational reform process introduced by this government will take priority. Minister made these comments during his observation tour of the new buildings that are constructed at Rahula College,

Matara and Mahinda Rajapakse Vidyalaya in Matara.

Minister, who pointed out that not only the school syllabuses but also the University courses do not match the modern job market, he said that steps would be taken through educational reforms to include new knowledge in subjects such as information technology and computer technology.

Minister who spoke further said, Past Pupils Associations that are in schools today are very strong by now and the modernization of these syllabuses are carried out with the ideas or opinions, support and participation of all of them and of others in-

cluding the citizens, teachers, religious leaders and the digital platform to obtain the ideas of all these people were commenced in March this year.

Further, the Minister pointed out that the programme to build the national schools will be commenced in April this year under first stage 123 national schools and under the second stage 673 national schools will be started.

Minister also pointed out that the Chairmen of the District Development Committees have been entrusted with the creation of schools for this programme and the request of many at the Village Development Programme initiated by His Excellency the President is

that a National School be given to their areas and the Minister also spoke about the conditions and qualifications that have been submitted regarding upgrading schools to National School level.

Minister also pointed out that the buildings given to Rahula College Matara are not only for the school purposes but should be looked after by the whole community of Matara to fulfill their requirements.

Speaker of the present parliament of Sri Lanka Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, Minister Dullas Alahapperuma, Kanachana Wijesekera, Ministry Media Secretary Buddhika Wickramadara were present at that occasion.



Bishop's College

No. 15, Boyd Place, Colombo 03.

ADMISSIONS London A/Level - 2021

Calling Applications for the following vacancies pending O/Level results.

- London A/Level - Science/Arts/Commerce

Copies of progress reports of Grades 10 & 11 should be submitted along with the application.

Application forms will be available at the school office on the 23rd & 24th of March 2021 from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon.

Closing date: 31st March 2021

Entrance: Boyd Place

Please refer the website for further details.

VICE PRINCIPAL



University of Sri Jayewardenepura

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 Jayewardenepura. 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 Jayewardenepura 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 Jayewardenepura
Tel: 011-2758905
Email: ndevpura@sci.sjp.ac.lk

Faculty of Graduate Studies, USJ
Mrs. Manjula: 011-2881555

Registrar,
University of Sri Jayewardenepura



University of Sri Jayewardenepura

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 Jayewardenepura. 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

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Advertorial



Five-days residential English Camp for the second-year undergraduates of the Department of Accountancy and Finance, Faculty of Management Studies, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, was conducted from March 9th to 13th 2021 at the University premises in Belihuloya with the assistance of the AHEAD Grants provided by the UGC. Five English camp resource persons made the experience remarkable by conducting a variety of sessions throughout the days.

The history of the residential English Education camp in Sri Lanka goes back to 1997. This concept began with a core of dedicated Peace Corps Education Volunteers from the USA over a decade ago in 1996



together with the Ministry of Education with the financial support by Serendib English Camp Foundation, a Sri Lanka based organization created for English Education development in the country with the kind patronage of Tucker McCravy Jr. The first-ever Sri Lankan planned

and executed camp was held at Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka in 1997.

The Department of Accountancy and Finance of SUSL conducted this camp for the Second Year Financial Management and Banking and Insurance undergraduates with the support of five language experts specialized in conducting English Language camps for more than twenty four years. The Organizing Committee comprised of the lecturers in the department contributed immensely around the clock on all five days to develop undergraduates' communication skills while enhancing their confidence and job-related soft skills.

Prof. Udaya Ratnayake, Vice-chancellor of the SUSL, graced the inauguration and pointed out the importance of conducting English camps for the first-year students of each faculty of the University. Addressing the gathering, Dean, Prof. Athula Gnanapala, emphasized the need for maximum utility of the programme by each student with high enthusiasm. Dr. Dunusinghe,



Head, Department of Accountancy and Finance, appreciated lecturers' efforts in organizing such an event. The undergraduates who participated in the camp stated that the camp helped them to learn English with a lot of fun and the activities done tremendously contributed in developing their confidence and communicative competence while stressing the importance of conducting such camps for the undergraduates at the entrance to the University.

The camp covered diversified sessions in which students learn English with lots of fun. There was a zoom session with Tucker McCravy, Founder of English Camps in Sri Lanka who joined from Cambodia, and Cambell, a resource person of English camps who joined from New York. Undergraduates interacted with them with high spirits. The closing ceremony with a talent show on March, 13, 2021 was a clear witness for undergraduates' improvement of their communication skills with solid confidence.

The camp covered diversified

SPECIAL NOTICE



External Degrees and Extension Courses Unit

**UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYEWARDENEPURA
SRI LANKA**

EXTERNAL DEGREE EXAMINATIONS

The External Degree Examinations, which were due to be conducted commencing from November 2020 by the External Degrees and Extension Courses Unit and had to be postponed indefinitely due to the Covid-19 pandemic which is prevalent in the island, will now be conducted from March, 2021, onwards.

Accordingly, the B.A. (General) External Degree 1 Examination (Old Syllabus) will be held as stated below.

Examination	Holding Dates
B.A. (General) External Degree 1 Examination (Old Syllabus)	30.03.2021, 31.03.2021
	01.04.2021, 03.04.2021
	04.04.2021, 05.04.2021
	06.04.2021, 07.04.2021
	08.04.2021, 09.04.2021

The time tables relevant to the above stated Examinations, details relevant to other Examinations to be conducted in the coming period of time and special notices on conducting of Examinations on the exceptional health conditions in the island, can be obtained from our official website : www.external.sjp.ac.lk

**Registrar,
Sri Jayewardenepura University**



Calling of applications for the Lighting Training of The Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation

Applications are being called from eligible Sri Lankan citizens to undergo one year period of training in lighting of field programmes of the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation.

Educational Qualifications : Passed in G.C.E. (O/L) Examination in 6 subjects with 4 credit passes and passed all subjects in G.C.E (A/L) Examination in Science / Mathematics stream including Physics. (Except General common test)

Trainee Allowance : A monthly trainee allowance of Rs. 12,000/- will be paid during the period of traineeship.

Age : Between 18 and 24 years.

N.B. : 10 eligible applicants with interest in television programme lighting will be selected through interviews for the training. The applications should be submitted under registered mail, with the mentioning of 'Lighting Training' to the following address before 05.04.2021.

**Director General
Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation
Independence Square
Colombo 07**

**Telephone : 011-2698187
Website : www.rupavahini.lk**

Exciting Programs on Hospitality for Promising Careers from Win-Stone Hotel School

The education sector in Sri Lanka as well as globally suffered immensely with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and many Educational Institutes found ways to continue conducting their educational programs remotely. When it comes to the hospitality sector in Sri Lanka, Win-Stone Hotel School was the first in the country to conduct lectures online for their students and ensured that their students' learning process continued smoothly without any hindrance. This was one of the most recent highlights for the hotel school, which is located at 287/2C, Stanley Thilakarathne Mawatha, Jubilee Post, Nugegoda. Apart from that, Win-Stone Hotel School had swiftly managed to begin operations and continue with their programs.

Win-stone was founded by Iyanthi Goonewardene, who is the Institute's Managing Director and also happens to be the nation's first female Executive Chef. Win-Stone Hotel School offers a range of National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) courses and are affiliated with a number of foreign Institutes in countries such as Australia, New Zealand and Canada. These partnerships enable Sri Lankan students either enrol and complete their programs locally or they can opt to complete their fundamental programs in Sri Lanka and travel abroad for the final leg of their respective programs.

Another advantage that comes to show Win-Stone Hotel School's commitment to the nation, is by way of helping to prevent an outflow of foreign currency, so students can also save a large amount of money since programs that would otherwise cost somewhere in the range of \$13,000 AUD, would cost \$3,000 AUD when



Iyanthi Goonewardene

done in Sri Lanka. At Win-Stone, which currently offer courses to over 250 students, offers certificate level courses in aspects of cookery and bakery etc. The Institute also offers a one-year diploma course and ad-

vanced diplomas that can be completed in one year and eight months.

The advantage of pursuing a qualification through Win-Stone is that students can receive a more interactive learning approach due to the level of attention each student receives and the class limits they set, with attending to a class of no more than 25 students in one sitting to help maintain standards. Hotel school students can therefore, also be able to complete a course such as the advanced diploma, which would be completed at a stretch, thus helping the student to become qualified swiftly and easily experience a smooth transition to a career of their choice with the Institute's support. Win-Stone Hotel School also has a recruitment arm which supports graduate students apply for jobs aboard some of the world's most popular cruise ships

and companies such as AIDA, P&O Cruises, Princess Cruises and Costa Cruises.

Win-Stone Hotel School was first initiated by Iyanthi Goonewardene at the height of the war and at the time, the school's founder was able to apply for a grant and receive funds from the Asian Development Board (ADB) to further advance the school's goals of offering prospective students with a learning opportunity in an industry that was gaining momentum gradually at the time. Ms. Iyanthi shared her views about the successful journey that the school has had so far and what she thinks about the future of the industry.

She said, "We are very optimistic about the future of the industry and believe that we Sri Lankans, are very resilient. Even during a pandemic, we managed to get past the bigger

hurdles and I am sure that things for the industry will get back to normal very soon". She also encouraged more young women to join the industry and assured that no matter what misconceptions parents might have about the industry, it is a very satisfying profession to be in and the work environment is very well-protected. She acknowledged that when compared to the past, more women

are joining the workforce and that is a very positive thing. She also expressed her gratitude to Win-Stone Hotel School Director, Jagath Perera who influenced her goal of starting the school, when she noticed a lack of awareness about the industry and work involved. For more information about the school and their programs, visit <https://www.thewin-stonegroup.com/>

The future of work came faster than we thought

COVID-19 ACCELERATED EXISTING WORKPLACE TRENDS AND CREATED MANY NEW CHALLENGES. SO WHERE ARE WE NOW – AND WHAT'S NEXT?

In 30 seconds:

- The pandemic accelerated the blurring of work/home boundaries
- Companies should invest now to address the growing issues of unemployment and inequality
- Leaders must engage people in conversations about the choices and trade-offs they face
- This is an opportunity for us all to co-create the future of work

My passion has been the future of work – so I guess in that sense my time has come. I began more than a decade ago by launching, at my advisory group HSM, The Future of Work Research consortium, which has since brought together executives from more than 100 multinationals across the globe to debate and imagine the future.

I followed this up in 2011 with the publication of *The Shift: The Future of Work is Already Here*, and five years ago developed an elective at London Business School (LBS) on the future of work. It has been a topic that has been very much on my mind.

The pre-Covid world of work

Over the decade that followed were a number of standout headlines. The accelerating rate of technological innovation which will sweep aside tasks that can be easily automated – leaving an emphasis on human skills from emotional empathy to cognitive judgement

and decision-making. The extraordinary increases in life expectancy – up to two years per decade – accompanied by the substantial decrease in family size, together creating a demographic transition of a rapidly aging population. The globalisation of the world's manufacturing and supply networks and, more recently, of talent pools with a constant move from rural to urban centres. The speed with which women have entered the labour market, occasionally assuming leadership positions and creating dual-career families where traditional parental roles are being renegotiated. And, overhanging much of this, an increasing need to accelerate the energy transition. Looking back at *The Shift* I feel that I was on track with some of my ideas – the speed of technology, the impact of the family – but what I failed to foresee at that time was the speed with which inequality would rise. And, of course, the word "pandemic" was missing from the index. From 2014 I teamed up with my LBS colleague Andrew Scott (a macroeconomist) to explore what these changes would mean for individuals, corporations and governments. Together we wrote two books – *The 100-Year Life: Living and Working in*

An Age of Longevity (published in 2016) and *The New Long Life: A Framework for Flourishing in a Changing World* (published in 2020). By this time, much was already in play. The plan of life was moving from three stages of full-time education, work and retirement to something more like a multi-stage model requiring a great deal more flexibility, individual choice and navigation. At the same time, basic stereotypes – about ageing and the malleability of age, about parental roles and responsibilities, and about working practices – were being questioned. Inevitably, the idea of "lifelong learning and exploring" was becoming a desirable if not crucial outcome.

Along came Covid

Enter the pandemic. This both ac-

celerated these established trends and brought into sharp relief important new issues and judgement calls. To understand and recall this trajectory, I've kept a diary from the beginning of lockdown – which for me was Tuesday 17 March.

On that first day, the standout events were two rapid-response virtual meetings convened with my fellow stewards of the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Council for The Future of Work and Education and a wider group of experts.

On the call were representatives from government, civil society, companies and academia. As one senior executive based in China remarked, "I used to travel a lot from Hong Kong to Beijing.

UCL International Foundation...



Gihan Silva
Chief Executive Officer

Gihan Silva, CEO of UCL said, "UIFY is the only internationally recognised and accepted UK Foundation programme offered in Sri Lanka which provides the widest choice of pathways to reputed Universities internationally.

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UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

Department of Demography

STUDY PROGRAMMES IN DEMOGRAPHY - 2021 (English Medium)

1. MPhil / PhD in Demography - 2021

The doctoral degree programme is aimed at meeting the academic and professional needs of those who are engaged in population and socio-economic planning, research and consultancy, higher levels of teaching and training, administration and management, and advocacy and policy making.

The initial registration is for the MPhil with the provision for upgrading to PhD studies on the basis of performance during the first year of studies. This is a fulltime research Degree and shall be awarded on the basis of thesis and an oral examination. The thesis will be prepared under the guidance of one or more supervisor/s appointed by the University.

In order to enhance capacity of carrying out research, the selected candidates shall be required to attend course work on Demography / Population and Social Research Methods scheduled for Saturdays during the first semester.

Admission requirements :

- First or Second Class (Upper) Division in the Special Degree in Demography or related field from a recognized University. **OR**
- Master's Degree in Demography or in a related field from a recognized University **OR**
- Any other postgraduate qualifications recognized by the University as equivalent to (ii) above.

A good knowledge of English and adequate computer literacy is essential. Working experience and research experience in the relevant field are considered as additional qualifications.

Duration : 3 years by research

Course Fee : Rs. 450,000.00 - Payable in 3 annual installments

Please credit your application fee of Rs. 1,500.00 to University of Colombo main collection account, under the Ref. No. **304071300000** University of Colombo at any People's Bank Branch.

For more information, please contact the Course Coordinator.

Coordinator : Dr Manori K. Weerathunga **Phone :** 0764868829
Email : manori.demo@gmail.com

Closing date of applications : **19th April 2021**

2. Masters in Demography (MADEM) - 2021

This programme is aimed at providing theoretical and analytical competence in demographic aspects. The course of study targets those who are already engaged in the field of Demography / Population Studies, Economics, Sociology, Geography, Statistics, Planning or related disciplines, but other interested persons too are encouraged to apply.

Admission requirements :

No candidate shall be considered for admission to the MADEM programme, unless she/he has the following requirements as per Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework (SLQF) 2015.

- A Bachelor's Degree with at least a Second Class Pass from a recognized University / Institution in Demography / Population Studies ; **OR**
- A Bachelor's Degree in Demography / Population Studies or any other related discipline, with a minimum of two years of experience in a related field ; **OR**
- Postgraduate Diploma (SLQF 8) in Demography/Population Studies from a recognized University / Institution or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Arts and the Senate of the University of Colombo ; **OR**
- Any other professional qualification from a recognized professional body acceptable to the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Arts and the Senate of the University of Colombo with a minimum of three years learning/work experience in Demography/Population Studies ; **OR**
- Completion of NVQ Level 7 (Equivalent to Bachelor's Degree in SLQF) with relevant work in the field of Demography/Population Studies as determined by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Arts and the Senate of the University of Colombo. **AND**
- A good knowledge of English Language and satisfactory performance at a selection test and/or an interview. Each application under Clause (vi) shall be considered on its GPA.

Duration : One year by coursework

Course Fee : Rs. 120,000.00 - Payable in 2 instalments

Please credit your application fee of Rs. 1,000.00 to University of Colombo main collection account, under the Ref. No. **304071400009** University of Colombo at any People's Bank Branch.

For more information, please contact the Course Coordinator.

Coordinator : Dr Manori K. Weerathunga **Phone :** 076-4868829
Email : manori.demo@gmail.com

Closing date of applications : **19th April 2021.**

Registrar
University of Colombo

Advertorial



Central Campus Colombo and Imperial College battle on at the RBCC Sri Lanka final

This year, amid many challenges that have arisen around the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Red Bull has defied the odds and taken the necessary health and safety precautions to ensure a true sporting tradition lives on. As such, Red Bull has once more hosted the ninth edition of Red Bull Campus Cricket (RBCC), giving young, aspiring sportsmen the ideal opportunity to represent their campus and country on an international field.

The first leg of the local tournament got off the mark this March, held at the BRC grounds in Colombo, culminating in an exciting semifinals on the 13th of March, with finals held on the 14th. The tournament has seen the participation of 12 college-level Sri Lankan teams, namely Central Campus Colombo, Kotelawala Defense University (KDU), ESOF, Royal Institute of Colombo, Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology, Imperial College, Sri Lanka Institute of Management, SAEGIS, ICON Business School, Sri Lanka Technological Campus, ACBT, and ICBT Campus.

Battling their way to the semi-finals was the Central Campus Colombo (CCC) team, who triumphed over SAEGIS in the quarter-finals, winning by 9 runs. At the semi-finals stage,



they played against SLIM, who had defeated the SLIIT team in the quarter-finals, winning by 5 wickets. Of the two talented teams, CCC emerged victorious, winning by a whopping 8 wickets.

Heshan Dhanushka emerged as the star player for CCC, bringing home 55 runs, closely followed by Chamindu Wijesinghe, and Deshan Fernando, who took one of the team's two wickets in 17 deliveries. Meanwhile, Kanishka Uggalpaya emerged

as the star player from SLIM, scoring 51 of their 124 runs during the semi-final match.

As the day drew to a close, the highly anticipated second semi-final was held, between Imperial College and ESOF. The Imperial College team fought their way to the semis by defeating the ACBT team, followed by the KDU team during the quarter-finals, winning by 2 wickets. Meanwhile, ESOF made its way to the semis by triumphing over SLTC, and



was awarded a walk-over by the ICBT team during the quarter-finals.

The second semi-final match resulted in a victory for Imperial College, who won by 5 wickets, as ESOF was bowled out in 19.5 overs. Sajith Priyal emerged as the star player for Imperial College, having scored 53 runs. Other noteworthy players of this match included Pawantha Weerasinghe, who scored 32 runs and Neranjana Wanniarachchi, who took 2 wickets in 22 deliveries.



ESOF's star players include Raminda Wijesooriya and Kavindu Irosh, who both secured 31 runs each, along with Pawantha Weerasinghe and Ayesha Harshana, who both took 3 wickets each.

As such, in a highly unanticipated twist, the semifinals saw two teams who are new to the RBCC playing field emerge victorious. CCC and Imperial College battled it out at the BRC grounds in an exciting final match the following day. Imperial College

took the trophy home, winning by 1 wicket.

The Man of the Series was Chamindu Wijesinghe from CCC, with a total of 42 runs and 9 wickets under his belt. Ayesha Harshana from the winning team, Imperial College, was another star player, who scored 11 runs and took 9 wickets throughout the tournament. Another outstanding player was Nipun Malinga, from CCC, with 35 runs and 8 wickets under his belt.

The RBCC field has truly paved the way for young sportsmen to gain recognition on an international platform. Enriching this tradition even further, Red Bull is now gearing up to launch its very first RBCC Women's Tournament later this year, celebrating women's sports and taking yet another leap to show the world that "BigGirlsCan".

As the local leg draws to a close, it is certain that Red Bull has once more achieved its longstanding goal, bridging the gap that exists for players between school and club teams. With its abundance of emerging talent, the victorious Imperial College team will go on to represent Sri Lanka on the international field at the RBCC World Finals to be held later in Oman this year.

Ninth Edition of Red Bull Campus Cricket fueling the spirit of sport



The international tournament which has, over the years, transformed the lives of many young, aspiring cricketers around the world, Red Bull Campus Cricket is back in town.

Remaining true to what they stand for; fueling the sporting spirit of the body and mind, Red Bull has been able to overcome numerous obstacles that have arisen around the world with the COVID-19 pandemic, to take necessary precautions and host the ninth edition of Red Bull Campus Cricket, thus making it possible for young sportsmen to battle it out on the field for victory of representing both their campus and country.

In light of the pandemic, Red Bull has given health precautions top priority in the organization of Red Bull Campus Cricket 2021. As such, a comprehensive health guideline has been developed by the Ministry of Health, in conjunction with Red Bull Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Youth & Sports Medical Unit, ensuring that the event will be held with strict adherence to safety precautions.

Such measures include appropriately mandated social distancing, quarantining and self-isolation, PCR tests, use of appropriate PPE, along with hygiene and disinfection of the venue, equipment, and transport facilities, amongst many other detailed measures.

Red Bull pioneered Red Bull Campus Cricket with the aim of bridging the gap that exists for players between school teams to club teams. Years in, Red Bull Campus



Cricket has now become a scouting ground for young and talented players to catch the eye of selectors from the national team as well, giving wings to cricketering talent all over the island.

The Sri Lankan leg of this year's

tournament started on the 11th of March 2021, and semi-finals being held on the 13th of March at the BRC grounds in Colombo.

Bringing together talented players from around the country, this year's local leg saw 12 college-level



teams participating, namely Central Campus Colombo, Kotelawala Defense University, ESOF, Royal Institute of Colombo, Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology, Imperial College, Sri Lanka Institute of Management, SAEGIS, ICON Business School, Sri Lanka Technological Campus, ACBT and ICBT Campus.

This international tournament provides the ideal opportunity for aspiring cricketers to represent their University and further gain an opportunity to represent their country at an international cricketering spectacle, the Red Bull Campus Cricket World Finals. Indeed, the tournament has seen the rise of acclaimed sportsmen such as Niroshan Dickwella in 2017, Chamika Karunaratne in 2018, and numerous players from other countries.

Over the years, Sri Lanka has remained host to the Red Bull Campus Cricket World Finals for 2016, 2017 and 2018. Following the hosting of the very first Asia Final in 2012, the first ever World Final were held at the R. Premadasa Cricket Stadium in 2013.

Defying the prevailing conditions to keep sporting spirits high and test the limits of the body and mind, the highly anticipated ninth edition of Red Bull Campus Cricket promises to bring with it much talent, excitement, and promise. The World Finals of Red Bull Campus Cricket 2021 will be held in Oman, later this year, where the Sri Lankan team who emerges as the local winner will gain the opportunity to represent our country on a coveted, international field.

Scores update on RBCC Semi Final 01

BRC Grounds
Match # 1 (Morning)
 CCC vs SLIM at BRC Ground on 13th of March 2021 (Morning Match)
 Toss : CCC chose to field first.
 SLIM 124/9 in 20 overs.
 Kanishka Uggalpaya 51,
 Chamindu Wijesinghe 4/22,
 Nipun Malinga 4/34.
CCC WON BY 8 WICKETS.
 CCC 127/2 in 17.4 overs.
 Heshan Dhanushka 55* Chamindu Wijesinghe 36* Deshan Fernando 1/17

BRC Grounds - Quarter Finals

Match # 5 (Morning)
 CCC vs SAEGIS at BRC Ground on 12th of March 2021 (Morning Match)
 Toss : SAEGIS chose to Field first.
 CCC 148 all out in 19.3 overs.
 Navod Paranavithana 52(35 bIs, 3x4, 3x6), Kavindu Madarasinghe 23,
 Nipun Malinga 32.
 Sachitha Jayathilaka 5/19(3.3-0-19-5), Tharusha Fernando 3/15.
 SAEGIS 139/8 in 20 overs.
 Sachitha Jayathilaka 63*(44 bIs, 4x4,4x6), Shehan Silva 23.
 Heshan Danushka 2/13, Chamindu Wijesinghe 2/26, Nipun Malinga 2/13.
CCC won by 9 runs.

Match # 7 (Afternoon)
 SLIIT vs SLIM at BRC Ground on 12th of March 2021 (Afternoon match)
 Toss : SLIIT chose to bat

first.
 SLIIT 55 all out in 14 overs.

Pasindu Wijethunga 16* G Sampath 3/2,
 ID Jayalath 3/4,
 NT Weerasinghe 2/4.
 SLIM 56/5 in 11.2 overs. T Senarathne 14*
 Dilshan Madanayeka 3/9.

SLIM won by 5 wickets

THURSTAN GROUNDS - Quarter Finals

Match # 6 (Quarter Finals)
 ICBT Vs ESOF
 at Thurstan Grounds on 12th of March 2021 (Morning Match)
 ESOF was awarded a Walk-Over by Team ICBT

Match # 8 (Quarter Finals)
 KDU vs. IMPERIAL at Thurstan Grounds on 12th of March 2021 (Afternoon Match)
 Toss: KDU won & bat

KDU 92/10 in 19 overs
 IMPERIAL 93/8 in 17.1 overs
 HMAR Herath 17 R Kelly 23
 HDS Piyumantha 14 R Dineth 13
 DA Harshana 4/15 P K R J
 Jayasinghe 3/15
 K Senadeera 3/15 A S D
 Weerathunga 2/08
 R Kelly 2/04 PSD Herath 2/14
 Result: IMPERIAL won by 2 wickets.



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- Excellent communication skills.
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Please email your CV together with a letter of application to humanresources@britishschool.lk

or post them to
**Head of Human Resources,
 The British School in Colombo,
 No. 63, Elvitigala Mawatha,
 Colombo-08.**

Applications must reach us by **26 March 2021**

**VACANCY -
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We are a leading Panel Board Manufacturing Company. We invite dynamic and motivated individuals to join with us as **Invoicing Personnel (Female/Male)**.

Qualifications

- > Sound knowledge of Computer (MS Office)
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 Niyandagala Road, Pannipitiya.**

Please contact : 071-8004030, 071-4264022

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Please forward your CV with full credentials to info@wesconlanka.com on or before 31st March 2021.

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COURT CLERK/NOTARY CLERK - KURUNEGALA & JAFFNA BRANCH

1. Key Responsibilities

- Type litigation documents.
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- Visit the court houses and obtain journal entries/proceeding/details of cases etc.
- Visit & forward legal documents to courts, land registries, any other institutions etc.
- Any other duties assigned by the respective Legal Officer & Branch Manager.

2. Eligibility criteria

- Three passes at the GCE (A/L) examination, excluding General English.
- GCE (O/L) with five credits, including credit passes for Mathematics, Sinhala/Tamil & English.
- Good typing skills in Sinhala/Tamil & English.
- Knowledge in MS Office package.
- Minimum of 2 years' experience in a legal firm or with an Attorney-at-law as a Court Clerk/Notary Clerk.
- Age : Below 30 years

3. Selection Procedure

Through an aptitude test and interview.

4. Terms & conditions relating to the position

This position will be on contract basis for a period of 2 years.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications with two non-related referees, should be sent by registered post or email to career@hdfc.lk to reach the undersigned on or before 31st March 2021. It is required to indicate the position applied on the top left hand corner of the envelope or subject line of the e-mail.

**Assistant General Manager - HRM & Company Secretary
 HDFC Bank of Sri Lanka
 Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner Mawatha,
 P.O.Box 2085, Colombo 02.**

CARSON CUMBERBATCH GROUP

The Carson Cumberbatch Group is a diversified conglomerate with businesses spanning across Sri Lanka and the South & South East Asian region. Our Group's diverse business interests range from Oil Palm Plantations in Indonesia, to Brewery, Portfolio & Asset Management, Real Estate and Leisure in Sri Lanka.

CARSONS MANAGEMENT SERVICES (PRIVATE) LIMITED

We are the centralized management services arm of Carson Cumberbatch PLC and are responsible for policy direction and providing management support services to its' business operations in Sri Lanka.

FINANCE MANAGER

Finance Manager of Carsons Management Services (Private) Limited is responsible to oversee the finance functions of the Group's Portfolio and Asset Management, Real Estate, Leisure and Management Services business sectors.

The candidate should be a professionally qualified member of ICASL demonstrating a thorough knowledge of accounting standards (SLFRS/LKAS), taxation aspects, regulatory requirements, and working within ERP-based environments. He/ she should possess a minimum of 2 years of post-qualifying managerial experience in a leading audit firm or a diversified listed entity.

The selected candidate will be mainly responsible to;

- Manage and carry out financial reporting and compliance functions of the said business sectors including preparation of consolidated financial statements of listed companies in conformity with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards and other statutory requirements.
- Effectively liaise and coordinate all internal & external audit activities and ensure robust control environment to support the achievement of business plans.
- Carry out and actively participate in the preparation, implementation, and review of business plans, and financial budgets by coordinating with respective sector management teams.
- Prepare and present board papers, project evaluations, and related business plans on existing as well as new investments undertaken by the sectors.
- Provide direction to the sectoral finance and accounting teams in accordance with overall Group strategy and identify operating improvements, and deep dive on cost structures to effectively manage costs.
- Ensure efficient resource planning including treasury management.

In addition, candidates should be ready to demonstrate his/her communication skills, and prepared to relate recent track record of being a pro-active, self-initiator at the interview.

The selected candidate will be given an attractive remuneration package. If you have what it takes to join us,

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The selected candidate would be responsible for planning, executing and reporting on operational, financial, regulatory and compliance related audits and conducting investigations. This would also include the functions of providing advice on internal controls to the Risk and Audit Committees and will be reporting to the top management.

Job Duties & Responsibilities;

- Accountable for the development and coordination of the company's internal auditing activities
- Develop and implement internal auditing policies, procedures and programmes
- Supervise functions and activities in assigned areas to determine the nature of operations, and adequacy of the system of control to achieve established objectives
- Supervise or conduct independent audits of company records and activities, and prepare varied analysis of the departments, and branches for the top management
- Supervise, conduct, and report on the testing and adequacy of the company's internal controls over financial reporting
- Investigate and determine causes of irregularities and errors
- Recommend corrective action and suggest improvement

Qualifications & Pre-requisites;

- Member of CA Sri Lanka
- A degree from UGC approved university or equivalent professional qualification related to the functional area from recognized institute is preferred
- Minimum of 12 years' hands on experience in the respective profession and at least 07 years' experience in a Senior Managerial capacity
- Strong background and experience with audit methodologies and techniques
- Preceding success in conducting external/internal audits
- Excellent communication skills and report writing skills Strong time management and organizational skills
- Good interpersonal skills required (tact, honesty, integrity and confidentiality)
- Accuracy and attention to detail is essential
- Be a team player and a strategic thinker
- Be self-driven and able to work within tight deadlines
- Age Preferably below 50 years

If you believe you possess the above qualifications and experience, please submit the application indicating the preferred branch along with the names of two non-related referees within 07 days of this advertisement to the address given below, stating the post applied for on the top left corner of the envelope or e-mail to jobs@srilankainsurance.com stating the post applied for on the subject line.

Deputy General Manager - HR & ER
 Sri Lanka Insurance,
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 Company Registration Number: PB 289



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**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION****SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED
TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION (SLIATE)****VACANCIES**

Applications are invited for the following posts in SLIATE. The duly filled **online** applications of the applicants (<http://www.sliate.ac.lk/app/forms/recruitments/>) should be reached SLIATE on or before 21.04.2021. Please indicate the preferable location (maximum 03) in the application. (The locations would be changed at the recruitment with the service requirements of the institute).

01. DEMONSTRATOR - (Vacancies - 27)

	Subject Areas	Locations
A	Consumer Sciences and Product Technology (Vacancies 02)	Gampaha - 02
B	Food Technology (Vacancies - 02)	Gampaha - 02
C	Agriculture (Vacancies - 01)	Gampaha - 01
D	Mechanical Engineering (Vacancies - 01)	Galle - 01
E	Electrical Engineering (Vacancies - 03)	Colombo - 02 Jaffna - 01
F	Civil Engineering (Vacancies - 02)	Jaffna - 02
G	Quantity Surveying (Vacancies - 01)	Galle - 01
H	Information Technology (Vacancies - 15)	Rathnapura - 01 Batticaloa - 01 Galle - 02 Anuradhapura - 02 Mannar - 01 Tangalle - 01 Vavuniya - 01 Badulla - 02 Dehiwala - 01 Ampara - 01 Head Office - 02

Educational & Other Qualifications:-

1. HND in Engineering, Information Technology, Agriculture or equivalent not below NVQ level 7
and
2. Ability to demonstrate in English

Salary Scale:- MA 4-2016 - Rs. 37970 - 10x755 - 15x930 - 5x1135 - 65145

Note: In addition, government approved allowances will be paid.

02. TUTOR - (Vacancies - 02)

Subject Areas	Locations
Tutor in English (Vacancies - 02)	Tangalle - 01 Rathnapura - 01

Educational & Other Qualifications:-

1. Degree of a recognized university with English as a subject or equivalent
and
2. 3 years post qualifying teaching experience

Salary Scale:- MA 5-3-2016 Rs. 46375 - 10x1135 - 20x1240 - 82525

Note:- In addition, government approved allowances will be paid.

03. LIBRARY ASSISTANT - (Vacancies - 03)

Subject Areas	Locations
Library Assistant (Vacancies - 03)	Vavuniya - 01 Sammanthurai - 01 Jaffna - 01

Educational & Other Qualifications:-

1. Degree from a recognized University in Library Science
or
2. Diploma in Library Science and 3 years working experience in library of a Higher Education Institute.

Salary Scale:- MA 3-2016 - Rs. 32,200 - 10x455 - 11x660 - 10x730 - 5x750 - 54,960

Note:- In addition, government approved allowances will be paid

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE: -

- (1) Selected candidates will become the contributors to the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) contributing 10% of their earnings and the SLIATE contributing 15% of their earnings from its funds and also contributing 3% of their earnings to the Employees' Trust Fund (ETF).
- (2) Age limit is below 45 years for all categories. However, it will not apply those who are in the permanent cadre in the Public/State sector.
- (3) Applicants in Government Departments, Corporations and Statutory Boards should submit their original applications with the recommendation of the Heads of respective Institutions.
- (4) Selected applicants holding pensionable post in Government Departments will have to obtain their release through the Director General of Establishments. However, they will not be entitled to pension rights whilst in the service of the SLIATE.
- (5) Only shortlisted candidates will be called for an interview.

The original application with a set of certified copies of the certificates should be submitted at the interview. Applications received after the closing date will be rejected without intimation.

Director General,
Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education,
No. 320,
T.B. Jayah Mawatha,
Colombo 10.

HOSPITAL VACANCIES**SENIOR, JUNIOR AND
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E-mail: hr@royalhospitals.com

**Smallholder Agribusiness Partnerships
Programme (SAPP)****SAPP****MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE****VACANCIES**

Smallholder Agribusiness Partnerships (SAPP) Programme is a project, implemented under the Ministry of Agriculture jointly funded by the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The total programme cost is US\$ 105 Million and it is designed to contribute to Sri Lanka's smallholders' poverty reduction and competitiveness. It mainly focuses on the development of 4P (Public, Private, Producer Partnerships) value chain projects in collaboration with private sector promoter companies, Farmer/Producer Organizations and farmers to develop production and marketing system with commercial orientation while increasing the income of rural communities for sustainable rural development. The programme is implemented islandwide.

Applications are invited from the citizens of Sri Lanka with the below mentioned qualifications to fill the vacancies in the Programme Management Unit.

1. DEPUTY PROGRAMME DIRECTOR (OPERATIONAL) - 01 POST**Summary of Responsibilities :**

Deputy Programme Director of SAPP is responsible to lead the technical aspects of development and implementation of value chain partnerships and conduct financial analysis and assessment using quantitative and qualitative data to identify gaps and develop recommendations on how to improve the proposed value chains and enhance the impact. Lead the outcome and impact assessments and ensure quality standards of data, information and reports such as 4P proposals, AOS, Interim surveys, other reports. He/She should focus on identifying strategic solution for issues arising during implementing of projects, specifically taking logical decisions for adjustments, scaling ups, alterations etc ensuring that the objectives of the program is achieved as specified in the budget allocations with an overall expected outcome.

TOR can be downloaded through the SAPP web site for further reference on duties and responsibilities to fulfill - www.sapp.lk

Qualifications/Experience Required :

A Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree or Higher Degree holder preferably in the field of Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Development, or Development Economics with a specialization in Agriculture and at least 10 years of post-qualifying practical experience at managerial level in the field of agriculture and rural development, especially related to agricultural enterprise development out of which 05 years should be in the senior managerial level (Project Management/Corporate Management).

OR

An Officer of the Government All Island Services Class I with at least 10 years' experience in class I post with required experience specified above

Note : Working experience in a similar or higher capacity in a donor funded project would be considered a significant advantage.

Languages - Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English and Sinhala/Tamil is a must with sound knowledge in Microsoft office packages as most of the work need to be done by him/herself. Working knowledge of another official language is desirable.

Salary Scale : Based on the Management Services Circular 01/2019

- Rs. 165,000 (Initial Salary scale) + CoLA

- Rs. 185,000 + CoLA (with two increments, salary scale at the 3rd Year and till end of the programme period)

2. ICT ASSISTANT (02 POSTS)

The ICT Assistant would be responsible for providing key MIS support for Programme Officers and stakeholders. S/ he would involve in Database maintenance, website maintenance and designing of Programme promotional materials.

Qualifications

1. Diploma in Information Technology from a recognized institution with minimum of 02 years post qualifying IT based experience.

OR

2. Certificate of proficiency not below than NVQ level 7 in Information Communication Technology with minimum of five years post qualifying IT based experience in a reputed establishment.
3. University Degree (Bachelor's Degree) in Computer Science, Information Technology, Information Management would be an asset.
3. Hands on experience in designing applications, "Photoshop", "In-designing", Web designing etc. and ability to maintain Database Management System (DBMS), Monitoring and Information System (MIS) and LAN /NAN will be added qualifications.

Experience

4. 2 to 3 year experience in networking and communication, MIS Helpdesk are required. Experience in working in with secured information system is preferable.

Salary : Salaries are based on the Management Service Circular No. 01/2019 issued by the Department of Management Services, General Treasury.

General Conditions Applicable for the Above Mentioned Positions**Duration of services:**

The incumbent will be appointed for the program period i.e. 30 June 2023, subject to annual renewal based on the performances reviewed

Probation:

6 months of probation period and performance to be reviewed and confirmed in the post after the probation period

Age Limit -

Below 64 years by the closing date of application.

Location - Programme Management Unit (PMU) is in Nawala. However, traveling to project locations are involved frequently.

Languages - Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English and Sinhala. Working knowledge of another official language is desirable.

Other terms

The employee will be member of the Employees' Provident Fund and Employee Trust Fund and contributions would be made to the said schemes by the Employer and Employee in accordance with the relevant Acts.

Method of Selection

Only shortlisted applicants based on the highest qualifications and experience, will be called for an interview and selection will be based on the performance at the interview.

Applications giving all particulars of qualifications, experience and other relevant information with **two non-related referees** should be sent under registered cover with the name of the post as appearing in the advertisement written on the top left hand corner of the envelope to the Programme Director, Smallholder Agribusiness Partnerships Programme, No.214/A, Nawala Road, Rajagiriya or by an e-mail (info@sapp.lk) within 2 weeks of this Advertisement date.

Applicants employed in Govt. Departments, State Corporations, Boards and Authorities will be given the highest priority and their applications should send through the Head of their respective organization.

Programme Director,
Smallholder Agribusiness Partnerships Programme (SAPP)
No.214/A, Nawala Road, Rajagiriya.

For classified advertisements and for replies

received in response to advertisements published under Lake House box numbers

Please Contact

MANAGER FRONT OFFICE

Hotline: 1949



Some careers shine brighter than others.



If you're looking for a career that will help you stand out, join HSBC and fulfil your potential. Whether you want a career that could take you to the top, or simply take you in an exciting new direction, HSBC offers opportunities, support and rewards that will take you further.

HSBC is one of the largest banking and financial services organisations in the world, with operations in 64 countries and territories. We aim to be where the growth is, enabling businesses to thrive and economies to prosper, and, ultimately, helping people to fulfil their hopes and realise their ambitions.

About HSBC – Global Service Centres

Our Global Service Centres are an integral part of Global Operations. Employees based there manage day-to-day customer transactions and processes for the global businesses. This may include transactions for our retail bank such as processing loans, credit cards, insurance and mortgage applications, opening new accounts, and managing customer enquiries through contact centres and digital platforms.

Employees in the Global Service Centres also run and manage operations for commercial bank customers. This includes processing credit applications, facilitating payments and managing the import and export transactions that enable customers to protect and grow their businesses through international trade.

We are currently seeking experienced professionals to join our team for the positions advertised below in our Financial Crime Investigations Team. FCI is a Compliance function which helps to protect: our customers, our organization and protect the integrity of the financial markets in which we operate. FCI assesses financial crime risk facing the Group and its customers.

Vice President (Global Career Band 4) – External Investigative Reporting

Senior leadership role charged with assisting Regional Financial Crime Teams in establishing, developing and sustaining an offshore Financial Crime Investigation capability which is responsive to their needs, aligning to future growth opportunities while providing foundation for seamless end-to-end process.

Experience & Skills Required:

- 3 to 5 years' experience in leading a similar scale function
- Experience in leading a team of 100+ staff in a complex operational environment
- Experience in managing various stakeholders across markets and regions
- Excellent communication skills
- Exposure to investigatory functions, experience working in Financial Crime, AML, TM or related functions would be desirable

Assistant Vice President – External Investigative Reporting

Managing group of investigators tasked with conducting investigations on accounts/transactions with potential financial crime risk while ensuring high quality of decisions and reports are delivered in adherence to procedures

Experience & Skills Required:

- Effective and timely investigation into assigned cases in accordance with agreed standard reporting requirements and service level agreements.
- Direct investigators to ensure processes are implemented in accordance with procedures and quality decisions and written products are produced in a timely manner.
- Provide information on completed investigations to Senior Management and other internal stakeholders for risk management, where appropriate
- Proven high quality spoken and written communication skills
- Strong communicator with good inter-personal and influencing skills

Investigator – External Investigative Reporting

Conduct thorough, effective and timely investigation on accounts/transactions with potential financial crime risk identified and, where necessary, refer and/or escalate the cases supported by high quality investigative reports

Experience & Skills Required:

- Banking experience across Retail, Commercial and Banking, and Markets
- Money Laundering investigation experience, preferably with familiarity with in transaction monitoring
- Experienced in identifying activities indicative of financial crime risk and undertaking investigation/analysis into customer activity to draw inferences from noted behaviors
- Proven high quality spoken and written communication skills with ability to draft clear, concise and professional reports

If interested, please E-mail your CV to hdplcareers@hsbc.com indicating the position applied for as the subject.

Candidates with less relevant experience or skills may be offered a lower Global Career Band than stated above.

Due to the urgent hiring need, candidates with immediate right to work locally and no relocation need will be prioritised.

The health and safety of our employees and candidates is very important to us. Due to the current situation related to the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), we're leveraging our digital capabilities to ensure we can continue to recruit top talent at the HSBC Group. As your application progresses, you may be asked to use one of our digital tools to help you through your recruitment journey. If so, one of our Resourcing colleagues will explain how our video-interviewing technology will be used throughout the recruitment process and will be on hand to answer any questions you might have.

You'll achieve more when you join HSBC.
www.hsbc.com/careers



HSBC is committed to building a culture where all employees are valued, respected and opinions count. We take pride in providing a workplace that fosters continuous professional development, flexible working and opportunities to grow within an inclusive and diverse environment. Personal data held by the Bank relating to employment applications will be used in accordance with our Privacy Statement, which is available on our website.

Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited.



National Insurance Trust Fund (NITF) which comes under the purview of Ministry of Finance is a fully government owned trust fund responsible for implementation of Schemes such as Agrahara Medical Insurance, Motor Insurance, Non Motor Insurance and the sole reinsurer accepting Compulsory Reinsurance Cession from the insurance industry. NITF has established an enviable record in innovation, growth and profitability achieved during its existence of over years.

NITF seeks to recruit dynamic and self motivated individuals to be appointed for the following positions.

1. Assistant Manager – Internal Audit

External Candidates (1 or 2 below)

1. A degree in Accountancy, Commerce, Management or Finance which is recognized by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka.

AND

A minimum of one year post qualifying experience in the relevant field to the Post, after obtaining the first degree.

OR

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 Candidates (1 or 2 below)

1. Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above

OR

2. Completion of minimum five (05) years satisfactory service in a post in the Junior Manager (JM) Category, in the Internal Audit /Finance Division

Salary Scale : MM 1-2 – Rs.[54,550- 10 x 1,375 - 15 x 1,910 – 96,950]

Age : Should not be less than 22 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not apply to the candidates who are already in public service.

Nature of Appointment

Permanent with entitlement to Employees' Provident Fund and Employees' Trust Fund

2. Procurement Officer

External Candidates:

A degree in Business Administration, Bachelor of Commerce, Finance, Marketing or Management which is recognized by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka.

Internal Candidates (1 or 2 below)

1. Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above.

OR

2. Completion of minimum five (05) years satisfactory service in a post of the 'Management Assistant-Non Technological' (MA1) Grade II, in the subject area relevant to the post.

Salary Scale : JM 1-1 – 2016: Rs. [42,600- 10 x 755 - 18 x 1,135 – 70,580]

Age : Should not be less than 22 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not apply to the candidates who are already in public service.

Nature of Appointment

Permanent with entitlement to Employees' Provident Fund and Employees' Trust Fund

❖ **Experience in the procurement section or professional qualification in procurement will be a definite advantage for the above position.**

3. Compliance Officer

External Candidates:

A Degree in Business Management, Public Administration, Business Administration, Human Resource Management, Management Studies or Laws which is recognized by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka.

Internal Candidates (1 or 2 below)

1. Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above.

OR

2. Completion of minimum five (05) years satisfactory service in a post of the 'Management Assistant-Non Technological' (MA) Grade II, in the subject area relevant to the post.

Salary Scale : JM 1-1 – 2016: Rs. [42,600- 10 x 755 - 18 x 1,135 – 70,580]

Age : Should not be less than 22 years and not more than 45 years. The upper age limit will not apply to the candidates who are already in public service.

Nature of Appointment

Permanent with entitlement to Employees' Provident Fund and Employees' Trust Fund

❖ **Experience in the Compliance section will be a definite advantage for the above position.**

Other Benefits

- Comprehensive Medical Insurance cover.
- Annual subscription fees for professional membership renewal.

Other Conditions

- All applicants
- Should be Sri Lankan Citizens.
- Should have mental and physical fitness to attend properly to the duties assigned to the post.
- Should be of excellent moral character.

Applicants,

- Application should be forwarded including Bio - Data, names and addresses of two non related referees, details of Educational Qualifications, Professional Qualifications and with copies of certificates in proof of the qualifications. Further, those who are already in employment in Government / Corporations/ Statutory Boards should forward their applications through Heads of Institutions.
- Relevant post **should be marked** on left hand top corner of the envelope containing applications.
- All applications should be addressed to Chief Executive Officer, National Insurance Trust Fund, No 95, Sir Chiththampalam A. Gardiner Mawatha, Colombo 02 by registered post to reach on or before 05/04/2021. Late applications will be rejected.



**Chief Executive Officer
National Insurance Trust Fund
No.95,
Sir Chiththampalam A. Gardiner Mawatha,
Colombo 02.**



We; Uni Dil Packaging Limited, are a leading Packaging Company in Vallibel Group that endeavored to maintain excellence in Quality and Service.

We seek young, energetic, dynamic & self-motivated team players to be part of our team in the following positions.

KEY ACCOUNT MANAGER - SALES

The correct individual should possess the following requirements.

- ✓ Age below 45 years
- ✓ Minimum 5 years experience in Industry Sales or B2B Sales, preferably in packaging industry
- ✓ Be highly motivated, energetic and committed.
- ✓ Excellent communication skills both verbal and written and PR skills.
- ✓ Strong customer orientation & passion for customer service.
- ✓ A smart & outgoing personality
- ✓ Be computer literate.
- ✓ Recognised qualifications in sales/marketing field are preferred.

**ASST. MANAGER
NEW BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL MARKETING**

On top of the above qualifications, the following requirement should possess;

- ✓ 3-5 years of experience in International Marketing
- ✓ Plan and execute a marketing strategy for the organization in the global front
- ✓ Develop a brand strategy, to drive Global Brand Building in order to drive brand value
- ✓ Manage and refine the organization's social media presence

Ideal candidates will be offered an attractive remuneration package with other benefits.

If you meet the above requirements forward your CV with names of two non-related referees to reach us within 07 days to the following postal address or e-mail.

Indicate the position applied for on the top left hand corner of the envelop or in the subject line of the email.

**Head of HR
Uni Dil Packaging LTD
Narampola Road,
Moragala, Dekatana.
email:- jobbank@unidil.com
Web:- www.unidil.com**



**University of Sri Jayewardenepura
VACANCIES**

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura invites applications from prospective candidates for vacancies as indicated below.

CHIEF MARSHAL

Qualifications:

- (I) A holder of the post of Deputy Chief Marshal in the Marshal service in the Univeristy system and confirmed in that post with not less than five (05) years of satisfactory service in that grade.
- (II) Physique -
Height - 5'5"
Chest - 32" deflated

Note: Preference will be given to those who actively participated in Sports activities, Social Welfare activities and recreation programmes within the university and at National level.

OR

(1) An officer not below the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in Sri Lanka Armed Forces / equivalent rank in Sri Lanka Police with active participation in sports activities.

Gross Salary:

Chief Marshal - U-EX 2(II) [A-03]
Rs. 66180 - 8 x 1335; 8x1630 - 89900 p.m. (01.01.2020)
Approximate Gross Salary Rs. 116,997/-

The other allowances determined by the University Grants Commission will be paid in addition to the above salary.

Benefits: Chief Marshal

- 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.

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, Nugegoda on or before 16.04.2021.

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,
Nugegoda.**

A leading Engineering Firm in Colombo is looking for **Sales Executives** to recruit immediately.

If you are age between 18-40 who has GCE A/L's you are encouraged to join with us. Forward your CV to

careerseb2016@gmail.com

TRANSPORT COORDINATORS

A leading company engaged in the field of Passenger Transportation is looking for dynamic, self-motivated candidates to work on shift basis with knowledge of spoken, written English & basic computer skills. Location: Mattakkuliya & Horana

Please send your CV
Email : hrd.ecd@gmail.com
Level 02, No.178, George R De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 13.

WANTED STAFF FOR IRISH PUB

Vacancies for a new Irish Pub in Colombo 02. Experience in Pub & Restaurant
● **Stock controller with knowledge of Restaurant Industry (Age below 45y)**
● **Stewards (with 2 years experience age below 30y)**

Please contact Mrs. Dana (0777-683199)
Walk-in interviews from Monday to Friday 9.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

**Sopranos Colombo (Pvt) Ltd.,
63, Park Street, Colombo 02.
Tele. 0112-676042
Gmail: danasforster@gmail.com**

VACANCIES

- **Cook / Caretaker**
- **Houseboy / Gardener**

Hiring a Cook/Caretaker and Houseboy / Gardener for Villa in Bolgoda. The Villa predominantly hosts Airbnb guests. Previous experience in a Villa will be an added advantage and ability to engage with guests.

Please submit your CV to
devin.goonewardena@gmail.com or
Call **0773815625**

WE ARE A LEADING INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION COMPANY LOCATED NEAR HOMAGAMA.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES (FEMALE)

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Should Pass GCE A/L in commerce scheme.
- Full/Part qualified in the AAT/ CMA or ICASL.
- Good Communication Skills.
- Ability to work with the QB accounting package.
- Those who have studied A / L in Mathematics can also apply.
- Applicants who are close to Kottawa, Homagama, Horana area are special.

If the above position is interest to you, please forward a detailed resume - infohr.recruit20@gmail.com

OFFICE CLERK (FEMALE)

Leading Medical Equipment Company @ Nugegoda/Nawala Invited from suitable qualified persons for the above post

Required Qualifications

- Age between 25-35 years
- G.C.E A/L Qualification
- Residence in Colombo & suburbs only will consider
- Computer knowledge is required
- Experience in similar field 1-2 years

If you wish to express your interest in the above, please send a detailed CV with expecting salary & names of two-non-related referees by below e-mail id
lifescientificcmd@yahoo.com

**IMMEDIATE VACANCY FOR
Trainee Account and
Documentation Clerk -
Female**

with G.C.E. Advanced Level & Computer knowledge

Contact :
**Cargo Logistics Int'l (Pvt) Ltd.,
949, Aluthmawatha Road,
Col. 15.
T.P. 0112525568 / 0718157089 /
0701881047**

IMMEDIATE RECRUITMENT

A Christian organization in Colombo is looking for **Christian Male/Female** candidates to fill the following positions.

**SECRETARY
IT EXECUTIVE**

E-mail your CV with details of two non-related referees to hrjobsbs@gmail.com within 7 days of this advertisement.

(Please mention the post applied for)

it's what you want

www.adz.lk



WE ARE LOOKING FOR SERIOUS TALENT!

Alliance Finance Company PLC (AFC), incorporated in 1956, the second oldest finance company in the country, is a registered Finance Company with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and listed on the Colombo Stock Exchange since 1956. The Company is built on a solid foundation of trust and has an unblemished track record for ethical business practices amongst Finance Companies in Sri Lanka.

AFC's business philosophy is guided by triple bottom line principles focusing on People, Planet and Profit. AFC is the first and only company in South Asia to be certified as a value driven sustainability certified financial institution, under the Sustainability Standards and Certification Initiative (SSCI) of the European Organization for Sustainable Development. SSCI is the first global standard developed for value-creating financial institutions, promoted by the European Organization for Sustainable Development (EOSD). AFC offers a diversified product portfolio consisting of Fixed Deposits, Savings, Finance Leasing, Operating Leasing, Hire Purchase, Gold Loans, Housing Loans and Business Loans. AFC has a number of foreign funding relationships with reputed international DFIs and banks.



We believe in Linked Prosperity!
Alliance Finance is proud to be Sri Lanka's pioneering triple-bottom-line financial institution. If you are passionate about serving people and nurturing and safeguarding nature, this will be a great opportunity for you!

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER (CIO)

We are looking for an experienced CIO (Chief Information Officer) to oversee the company's technology-related strategies and initiatives. The selected candidate will be the one to devise the digital strategy and ensure that all systems necessary to support its operations and objectives are in place. The applicant must have a solid IT background and consistently keep up-to-date with advancements of the field. In addition to education and experience, the applicant must be a good leader with strong strategic and business acumen. The goal is to ensure that information technology is used to drive innovation and to add maximum value to the company so as to facilitate the success of our business.

Responsibilities

- Drive the digital transformation journey of the company.
- Set objectives, strategies and governance for the IT department.
- Select and implement suitable technology to streamline all internal operations and help optimize their strategic benefits.
- Design and customize technological systems and platforms to improve customer experience.
- Plan the implementation of new systems and provide guidance to IT professionals and other staff within the organization.
- Negotiate contracts, approve purchases of technological equipment and software and establish partnerships with IT providers.
- Oversee the technological infrastructure (hardware, storage, and network devices) in the organization to ensure optimal performance and security.
- Direct and organize IT-related projects.
- Monitor changes or advancements in technology to discover ways the company can gain competitive advantage.

- Analyze the costs, value and risks of information technology to advise the executive leadership and suggest actions.
- Make the IT function a strategic business partner to the company.

Requirements

- Proven experience as CIO or similar managerial role.
- Minimum 15 years' experience in IT with 5+ years' at the senior management level.
- A degree or equivalent professional qualification in computer science, engineering or relevant field.
- Excellent knowledge of IT systems and infrastructure, especially of API-driven integration technologies, data analytics and cloud computing.
- Background in designing/developing IT platforms and systems, and planning IT implementation.
- Solid understanding of data analysis, budgeting and business operations.
- Superior analytical and problem-solving capabilities.
- A strong strategic and business mindset.
- Excellent organizational and leadership skills.
- Outstanding communication and interpersonal abilities.

The first Company in the Banking and non-Banking sector of Sri Lanka to be certified with ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System and ISO 14001:2012 for Business Continuity Management Systems.

First Non Bank Financial Institution in South Asia to become a holistic sustainability certified, value driven financial institution under the pioneering global Sustainability Standard and Certification Initiative (SSCI) for value-creating financial institutions.

Please submit your CV with names and contact details of two non-related referees, within 10 days of this publication to reach the following address stating the post applied for in the subject line of the e-mail.

**Head of Human Resources,
ALLIANCE FINANCE CO. PLC,
84, Ward Place, Colombo 7.
T : 0112 673 673
E : careers@alliancefinance.lk
www.alliancefinance.lk**



BANK OF CEYLON

The Bank of Ceylon, premier state owned commercial bank ranked among the top 1000 global banks and No.1 in Sri Lanka, is looking for suitably qualified, experienced, dynamic and results oriented young persons to fill the following position in the Legal Division of the Bank:

TRAINEE ASSISTANT LEGAL OFFICER

Eligibility Criteria

- **Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka**
- **Qualifications**
Attorney-at-Law & Notary Public
- **Experience**
03 years experience and practice in the court in the field of civil cases, litigation, examination of title to land and notary work, labour and industrial court work
- **Other Attributes**
Computer Literacy and Good command in English Language are essential
- **Age**
30 years or below as at the closing date

Terms and Conditions

- The training period will be two years and a monthly allowance of Rs. 75,000/- will be paid during the training period
- The post will be subject to the general Terms and Conditions of the Bank's Service, but outside the normal Banking Stream (Closed Service)
- Upon fulfilling the requirements of the training to the satisfaction of the Bank, will be confirmed in the grade of Assistant Legal Officer of the permanent cadre
- Expected to work beyond normal working hours and weekends/ holidays
- Should be prepared to serve in any part of the country as per the Bank's requirement

Selection Procedure

By an interview for shortlisted candidates

Application Procedure

Submit your application through our website www.boc.lk (under the tab "Careers") **on or before 03rd April 2021** and keep the "Application Reference Number" for your future reference.

Applications received through any other method, except the above procedure will not be entertained under any circumstances.

Any application not meeting the above required eligibility criteria or submitting incorrect information will be rejected at any stage of recruitment without any further notice.

**Human Resource Division
Bank of Ceylon
Head Office
Colombo 01**

*Any form of canvassing will lead to immediate disqualification.
The Bank reserves the right to call only the short-listed candidates*



YOUR FUTURE AS GUARDIANS OF THE NATION



THE REGULAR FORCE OF THE SRI LANKA ARMY IS CALLING APPLICATIONS FROM PATRIOTIC AND ENERGETIC YOUNG GENTLEMEN FOR OFFICER CADET (DEGREE SCHEME) VACANCIES

Basic Qualifications:

- **Age** : Between 18 - 23 years by 30 April 2021.
- **Height and weight** : Height not less than 5'6" (167.64 cm) and weight not less than 52 kg (118 lbs)
- **Eyesight** : Both Eyes 6/6 (without specs and lenses)
- **Marital status** : Should be Single Male
- **Educational qualifications:**
 - ✦ Passes eight (8) subjects with five (5) Credit (C) Passes including English Language, Mathematics, Sinhala/ Tamil Language and Science in a one sitting and not more than two attempts at GCE (O/L) examination

AND

✦ Passing three subjects and obtaining 30% of marks for Common General Test in one sitting and not more than three attempts at GCE (A/L) examination

OR

Any other international examination (Pearson/ Edexcel, GCSE, GCE and Cambridge) recognized by Department of Examination, Sri Lanka as an equivalent to GCE (O/L & GCE (A/L))

Selected Candidates have the opportunity to follow Bsc degree programme under Kotelawala Defence University as Officer Cadets.

Will be commissioned in the rank of Second Lieutenant upon the successful completion of Officer Cadet Training at Sri Lanka Military Academy - Diyatalawa.

The deadline for application : 30 March 2021

Visit <https://www.army.lk/officers> for application and information.

Inquiry : 0112 514 605

Directorate of Personnel Administration, Army Headquarters, Sri Jayawardenepura, Colombo

STATE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, COAST CONSERVATION, WASTE DISPOSAL AND COMMUNITY CLEANLINESS
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
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. DEPUTY DIRECTOR (ENGINEERING SERVICES)

- An accredited Bachelor's (Special) Degree in Civil Engineering from a University, recognized by the University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka.
 AND
 Having obtained the Corporate Membership of the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka.
 AND
 Minimum of Ten (10) years experience in Civil Engineering field out of which five (05) years should be in Managerial Category.
 Preference would be given to candidates with experience in building services and procurement processes in public organizations.
 Salary Scale - Middle Manager Level -MM 1-1 -2016 Grade I
 Monthly Salary - Rs. 104,000/- approximately

B. DEPUTY DIRECTOR (HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT)

- A Bachelor's (Special) Degree in Human Resource Management, Business Administration or Public Administration from a University recognized by the University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka.
 AND
 Having obtained the Corporate Membership of Institute of Personnel Management.
 AND
 Minimum of Ten (10) years experience in relevant field out of which five (05) years should be in Managerial Category.
 OR
- A Bachelor's (Special) Degree in Human Resource Management, Business Administration or Public Administration from a University recognized by the University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka.
 AND
 Postgraduate Diploma in Human Resource Management or Business Administration.
 AND
 Minimum of Ten (10) years post qualifying experience in Human Resource Management field, out of which five (05) years should be in Managerial Category.
 Salary Scale - Middle Manager Level -MM 1-1 -2016 Grade I
 Monthly Salary - Rs. 104,000/- approximately.

C. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (TRAINING)

- A Bachelor's (Special) Degree in Human Resource Management, Business Administration or Public Administration from a University recognized by the University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka.
 AND
 Diploma in Training and Development from a recognized University or Professional Institute.
 AND
 A Minimum of Seven (07) years post qualifying experience in the relevant field, out of which four (04) years experience as Manager Training and Development in a reputed Government or Private sector organization.
 Salary Scale - Middle Manager Level - MM 1-1 -2016 Grade II
 Monthly Salary - Rs. 77,000/- approximately.

D. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - HUMAN RESOURCE (INVESTIGATIONS)

- A Bachelor's (Special) Degree in Human Resource Management, Business Administration, Public Administration or Law from a University recognized by the University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka.
 AND
 One (01) year Diploma in Personnel Management/ Human Resource Management/ Industrial Relations from a recognized University or Professional Institute.
 AND
 Minimum of seven (07) years post qualifying experience in the relevant field, out of which four (04) years should be in Managerial Category.
 Preference will be given to the Applicants who have qualifications in Disciplinary Management / Experience.
 Salary Scale - Middle Manager Level - MM 1-1 -2016 Grade II
 Monthly Salary - Rs. 77,000/- approximately.

E. CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY

- A Bachelor's Degree from a University recognized by the University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka.
 AND
 Minimum of five (05) years experience as Confidential Secretarial Practice in a reputed public/ private sector organization.
 OR
- One year Diploma in Secretarial Practices from a recognized Institution approved by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission or University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka.
 AND
 Minimum of eight (08) years experience as Confidential Secretarial Practice in a reputed public/ private sector organization.
 A Membership of the Chartered Secretaries of Sri Lanka would be an added qualification.
 Salary Scale - Junior Manager Level - JM 1-1 -2016
 Monthly Salary - Rs. 62,500/- approximately.

02. General Conditions:

- Applicants must be below 45 years of age. Age limit will not apply to candidates in Public/Corporation Service.
- Appointments will be on permanent basis.
- Employees' Provident Fund (15% contribution by the Authority)
- Employees' Trust Fund (3% contribution by the Authority)

03. Fringe Benefits

- UDA Housing Loan & Distress Loan Scheme
 - Annual Bonus
 - Encashment of unutilized medical Leave
 - Medical Insurance
04. The selected candidates will be considered for placement on a salary point above the initial of the scale depending on their qualifications and experience.
05. Applicants who are in state / state corporation service should send in their applications through the heads of their departments/ corporations with an advance copy being sent direct.
06. Please apply within 10 days with complete curriculum vitae giving educational, professional qualifications, experience etc. with copies of relevant certificates to:

**Chairman,
 Urban Development Authority
 09th Floor, "Sethsiripaya"
 Battaramulla.**

Observer JOBS

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We are a large category Private Limited Company engaged in manufacturing, trading, imports and exports. We have contributed to the large infrastructure development projects in the Country and a pioneer in the Industry.

We seek an outstanding professional who is capable of handling entire HR functions of the Company, support the management in identifying and implementing effective ways of utilizing human resources, implementation of policies and ensure compliance with Labour Laws of the country. Be responsible for entire administration functions to ensure smooth operations of the Company.

Candidate's Profile

- Should have a Degree
- A Higher Diploma / Diploma in Human Resources
- At least 5 years' previous experience in HR & Admin Operations and handling a payroll of 100 employees
- Sound knowledge in English, both written and spoken
- Should be computer literate

Work location : Peliyagoda

Interested candidates are invited to submit their Curriculum Vitae together with details of two non-related referees within 7 days of this advertisement by email to careers@mctlk.com



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

UNIVERSITY MEDICAL OFFICER

Applications will be received by me up to 09.04.2021 from suitably qualified persons for the above Post. Applications should be made in the prescribed form obtainable from the Open University.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Medical Degree of a recognized University with at least 3 years experience as Medical practitioner.

Note : One year period of service as Intern Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health will be considered for the purpose of reckoning the required period of experience.

SALARY SCALE : U-MO I(II) - Rs.55350-10x1335;1x1630-70330 p.m.

* In addition to the above salary, the following allowances will be paid for the permanent appointees as a percentage of the basic salary.

- Monthly compensatory allowance- 45%
 Additional monthly allowance - 20% of the basic salary.
- Cost of living allowance of Rs. 7800/-.

BENEFITS

All permanent Appointees will become contributors to the University Provident Fund, contributing 10% of their monthly earnings and the University contributing an amount equivalent to 7%. In addition, they will become contributors to the Employees Trust Fund and the University Pension Scheme under which the University will contribute 3% and 8% of the monthly earnings of the employee respectively.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

The holders of Post of Medical Officer is eligible for one year sabbatical leave with pay or two years without pay on completion of seven years of service. Those proceeding abroad on sabbatical leave are eligible to receive full passage for self and spouse.

HOW TO APPLY

Application forms can be obtained from the Senior Assistant Registrar/ Establishments, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda either by sending a self addressed stamped envelope 23X10 cm size to reach the University on or before 01.04.2021 or by personally calling over at the Office of the Senior Assistant Registrar/ Establishments. Applications can also be downloaded from University Web Site. (<http://www.ou.ac.lk/vacancies>.)

Applicants from Higher Educational Institutions, Government Departments and Government Corporations should apply through the Heads of their Institutions. Applications which do not conform to the requirements, applications received after the closing date and incomplete applications will be rejected. Please attach certified copies of birth certificate, relevant certificates of confirmed results to prove qualifications, professional qualifications and experience.

Duly filled applications should be sent under registered cover to reach the Senior Assistant Registrar / Establishments, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda on or before 09.04.2021. The Post applied for should be indicated on the top left hand corner of the envelope. The University reserves the right to shortlist the candidates.

Registrar
 The Open University of Sri Lanka,
 Nawala, Nugegoda.
 21.03.2021.

University Web Site : www.ou.ac.lk

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COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC

With an enduring vision of being the most technologically advanced, innovative and customer friendly, financial organization, we, the most awarded Bank in Sri Lanka, continue to progress steadily while being listed amongst the Top 1000 Banks in the world for the tenth consecutive year. Our unparalleled record of success over the past decade is supported by a network of 268 branches and superior standards in service, stability and performance. We are poised to ascend to even greater heights in the near future.

BUSINESS ANALYST

We are looking for a highly motivated, enthusiastic and dynamic individual for our Information Technology Department as "Business Analyst".

Job Profile :

The selected candidate will be responsible for,

- Understand the business requirement of multiple stakeholders.
- Identify the current and future state business processes and convert the requirements into user stories by adopting to the agile SDLC.
- Help the business stakeholders envision the future and how their work will need to change to support the future.
- Create, analyze and validate detailed functional specifications in an agile manner.
- Facilitate design sessions with the implementation team to define the solution.
- Deliver elements of business requirements including high-level systems design, business rules, wire frames, acceptance criteria or any other detailed deliverable.
- Support the QA and UAT to ensure that the specifications are delivered.
- Perform post implementation review to make sure change objectives are achieved.
- Executive business analysis role multiple projects assigned by PMO.

Applicant's Profile :

- Bachelors Degree in IT / ICT / Finance / Business Administration.
- Minimum 3 to 5 years of prior experience in enterprise business analysis including 02 years experience in a senior lead position.
- Minimum 2 to 3 years of experience in Agile Framework.
- BA experience in Banking or Finance domain will be an added advantage.
- Excellent command of English both spoken and written.
- Conversant with banking domain including Digital Banking, Core Banking, Retail Banking, Card Operation and Treasury will be an added advantage.
- Understanding of the agile methodologies, software development life cycle and relational databases.
- Excellent problem solving, analytical, presentation skills with effective leadership.

Rewards

The successful candidate will be provided with an attractive remuneration package, including fringe benefits commensurate with benchmarked financial institutions.

Applications with all relevant information should be submitted to reach the under-mentioned within 10 days of this advertisement with the respective post marked as the subject by e-mail.

Deputy General Manager – HRM
Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC
Email : dgm_hrm@combank.net
Web site : www.combank.lk



All applications will be treated with strict confidence. Canvassing in any form will be an immediate disqualification.

Careers with an Emerging Blue Chip

One of the leading BOI rubber glove manufacturing Company operates in Katunayake Industrial Zone is looking for dynamic individuals to join their team. Following vacancies are available for immediate fulfillment.

Plant Manager

- Overall responsibility of the smooth operational function of the factory whilst ensuring customer satisfaction
- Responsible for achieving weekly & monthly production targets and maintaining stocks
- Responsible for all employee activities and their development
- Responsible for maintaining quality and standards of the factory
- Ensure the factory maintenance schedules are delivered on time whilst ensuring safety standards
- Effective labour management within stipulated budgets whilst maintaining absenteeism & turnover rates on par with the industrial standards

Requirements

- B Sc. Degree or equivalent professional qualification in Polymer Science or Mechanical Engineering
- Ability to independently manage the operations of the factory
- Ability to provide leadership to a young workforce and direct them towards achieving company objectives
- Prior experience in glove manufacturing would be an added advantage
- Be less than 50 years of age and possess 10 yrs experience in a similar capacity

Assistant Manager - Production

- Overall responsibility of production process
- Development and implementation of production strategy
- Researching new technologies & alternative methods of efficiency
- Setting and reviewing budgets and managing cost
- Identify the production manpower requirements to ensure that all production tasks are performed smoothly
- Lead, direct, evaluate and develop the team to align with the business/projects requirements and standards

Requirements

- B Sc. Degree/NDT in Production Engineering or equivalent qualification
- Minimum of 5 years' experience in the relevant field (experience in glove manufacturing environment would be an added advantage)
- Excellent problem solving skills with a high degree of commitment, Dedication and Integrity
- Less than 40 years of age and ability to work long hours as and when required

Assistant Manager – Warehouse / Logistics Centre

- Plan and control all operations of finished goods warehouse
- Handling of all functions related to logistics operation
- Functional coordination with the corporate logistics team

Requirements

- B Sc. Degree/Diploma in Logistics Management/Transport/Warehouse
- Possess at least 4 years' of experience in a similar capacity
- Age preferably below 40 years

Executive – Accounts & Administration

- Carrying out daily accounting and administration functions of relevant business unit
- Handling petty cash expenses of the unit
- Coordinating with head office Finance and HR departments for all required functions

Requirements

- B Sc. Degree/Diploma or equivalent professional qualification in Finance
- Possess at least 2-3 years' experience in a similar capacity in the relevant field
- Experience in handling HR functions including payroll administration is a must
- Be less than 35 years of age

Executive – Quality Assurance

- Perform quality checks for incoming raw materials, chemicals and packing materials
- Monitoring process control parameters for controlled specifications
- Checking final release records and analyzing the releasing quality levels
- Carrying out internal system audits as per ISO requirements to identify non-confirming areas to take necessary corrective actions
- Maintain and develop ISO 9001 quality management system

Requirements

- B Sc. Degree/Diploma in relevant discipline
- Possess at least 2-3 years' experience in a similar capacity in the Quality Assurance field
- Be less than 35 years of age

Executive – Planning

- Preparation of output plans and troubleshooting day to day issues
- Coordinating with internal and external stakeholders

Requirements

- B Sc. Degree/Diploma in relevant discipline
- Possess at least 2-3 years' experience in a similar capacity in the relevant field
- Be less than 35 years of age

Supervisor – Packing

- Preparation of packing plan according to shipment schedules
- Identification of defectives and providing feedback to the production department
- Checking and signing off packing documents and export documents

Requirements

- G.C.E Advanced Level and minimum a credit pass for English language at G.C.E Ordinary Level examination
- Possess at least two years' experience in a similar capacity

Storekeeper

- Ability to maintain the stock levels
- Maintenance of relevant documentation according to management requirements

Requirements

- Certified in Stores Management conducted by Institute of Supply and Materials Management, Sri Lanka or equivalent professional qualification
- Computer Literacy is a must
- Possess at least 4-5 years' experience in a similar capacity

Supervisor - Production

- Allocation of the operations of production plant & after process as per the production plan according to shipment schedules
- Identification of defectives and take required actions with reference to trouble shooting guidelines
- Checking and signing off process documents, materials, semi-finished goods movement reports

Requirements

- G.C.E Advanced Level (science stream) and minimum a credit pass for English language at G.C.E Ordinary Level examination
- Possess at least 2-3 years' experience in a similar capacity
- Knowledge in compounding would be an added advantage

Email your resume to jobgrow1@gmail.com by 29th March 2021, clearly indicating the position applied for in the subject.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC

With an enduring vision of being the most technologically advanced, innovative and customer friendly, financial organization, we, the most awarded Bank in Sri Lanka, continue to progress steadily while being listed amongst the Top 1000 Banks in the world for the tenth consecutive year. Our unparalleled record of success over the past decade is supported by a network of 268 branches and superior standards in service, stability and performance. We are poised to ascend to even greater heights in the near future.

JUNIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER - BRANDS

We are looking for a highly motivated, enthusiastic and dynamic individual for our Marketing Department as "Junior Executive Officer - Brands".

Job Profile :

The selected candidate will be responsible for,

- Development of brand strategies and communication strategies in consultation with the Marketing Managers.
- Develop and execute corporate and brand related communication campaigns in both ATL and BTL media in coordination with product teams and advertising agencies.
- Development of media strategies and action plans based on the brand strategies in liaison with the media agency and ensure that the plans are executed effectively.
- Conduct PR activities to gain maximum visibility for the brand through mass media and digital channels.
- Development of digital communication strategies for brands, conduct campaigns via suitable digital media and ensuring the campaigns are carried out cost effectively and efficiently to gain the desired results.
- Conduct periodic research for brands in liaison with research agencies.
- Analyse brand performance and develop action plans based on the brand strategies to increase performance.

Applicant's Profile :

- Bachelors Degree in Business Administration, Marketing or a related field from a recognized University.
And / or
- Professional Qualification with membership in a professional marketing body (CIM-UK / SLIM).
- Minimum three (03) years of experience in brand management in the capacity of Brand Executive / Marketing Executive.
- Exposure in working with advertising, media and research agencies for a minimum of 2 years
- Excellent command of Sinhala / Tamil languages both written and spoken with proficiency in English language.
- Should possess sound analytical, communication and presentation skills.
- Self motivated, result oriented individual and a good team player with interpersonal skills.

Rewards

The successful candidate will be provided with an attractive remuneration package, including fringe benefits commensurate with benchmarked financial institutions.

Applications with all relevant information should be submitted to reach the under-mentioned within 10 days of this advertisement with the respective post marked as the subject by e-mail.

Deputy General Manager – HRM
Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC
Email : dgm_hrm@combank.net
Web site : www.combank.lk



All applications will be treated with strict confidence. Canvassing in any form will be an immediate disqualification.

VACANCIES

ACCOUNTANT

Fully or partly qualified from recognized accounts body. (university degree would be an advantage) Minimum 4 years experience in the similar capacity and ability to perform independently is required.

SECRETARY / JUNIOR SECRETARY

A qualified and smart lady to handle administrative and general duties covering and coordinating the duties of the Chairman, in his absence. The suitable candidate should possess a good command of English, public relations skills and should be an excellent task oriented person. Ability to manage and coordinate staff will be an added advantage.

3D VISUALIZER Male/Female

3 Years experience in making exterior and interior visuals for high rise, commercials, office, super markets buildings and houses.

Please reply within 7 days of the advertisement with the relevant position written on the top left corner of the envelope.



The Chairman,
INDEPENDENCE HOLDINGS
Level 13, East Tower, World Trade Center,
Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01.
Tel : 011 2 444422
Email : info@inholdings.lk



VACANCIES

Established in 1983, Ceywater Consultants (Pvt) Limited has grown to become the dominant water and waste-water works consultancy company in the region. Ceywater Consultants (Pvt) Limited is seeking high calibre professionals in the below areas to join its rapidly growing team.

Type of Project: Water Supply Projects

CIVIL ENGINEER (FULL TIME BASIS)

- Chartered qualification in Civil Engineering
- Master's Degree/ Postgraduate Diploma in Construction Management/ Structural Engineering Design/ Engineering Design
- 10 years of Post qualifying experience out of which 8 years comprise of experience in detailed designing for Water Treatment plants/ Storage Tank

NRW ENGINEER (FULL TIME BASIS)

- Chartered qualification in Civil Engineering
- Master's Degree/ Postgraduate Diploma in Construction Management/ Structural Engineering Design/ Engineering Design/Environmental Engineering
- 10 years of Post qualifying experience out of which 8 years comprise of experience in designing work for Water transmission and Distribution network analysis for Design pipeline DMA/NRW network

SENIOR STRUCTURAL ENGINEER (INTERMITTENT BASIS)

- Chartered qualification in Civil Engineering
- Postgraduate qualification in Structural Design Engineering
- Minimum of 10 years of experience in International and Local organizations out of which 8 years comprise of experience in designing major water retaining structures/ Civil Construction Works and 5 years comprise of experience with International/ Local consultancy firms

Applicants should send a detailed CV within 7 days of this advertisement to hr@ceywater.com and specify the post that you are applying for in the subject line.

CEYWATER CONSULTANTS (PVT) LTD.

No.54 1/2, Maharagama Road, Nikape, Dehiwala.
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We are a leading Electrical Engineering Company engaged in Trading & Installations. We represent world renowned manufacturers of Circuit Breakers, Power Contractor, Power Capacitors, Lightning/Surge Protection Equipment and wide range of other industrial electrical equipment.

STORE KEEPER / ASSISTANT

STORE KEEPER

(Boralasgamuwa Warehouse)

Should have Certificate in Stores Management from the Institute of Supply & Stores Management. Computer literacy a must & knowledge in electrical equipment will be an added advantage. Minimum of 2 years experience in similar capacity.

SALES ASSISTANTS

To work in our Show Room with minimum 1-2 years sales experience in electrical material with "Can Do" working attitude. Working knowledge of MS Office. Experience in Submitting & follow up of Quotations/Tenders.

SALES CO-ORDINATORS

Should possess minimum one year experience, ability to work on MS office, E-mail with good communication skills.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Will be responsible for providing administrative and clerical work in an effective and efficient manner to ensure operations are maintained. Computer/ MS Office, good communication and interpersonal skills essential.

ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT

The candidate should have Diploma in Accounting / AAT/ Chartered part qualified, with minimum 2 years' experience. Experience in Quick Books Accounting package will be an advantage

For immediate employment.

Forward CV by post or e-mail within 7 days.

General Manager

EMPIRE TRADING AGENCY (PVT) LTD,

No.110, Layards Broadway, Colombo 14.
Tel: 0702 823174

E-mail: vacancies@empiretradingagency.lk

Web: www.empiretradingagency.lk

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- 5 years experience
 - Attractive salary and allowances
- Apply within 14 days

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Reqaments

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- Commercial Experience (Trade)
- Age 25-30

Please call - 077 6677 931

Workshop Foreman

We are a leading Engineering establishment in the field of Lathe, Milling, Surface Grinding and Welding etc. seek for a Dynamic Energetic person in the Age group of 35-50 years with qualification of NDT, NDES or equivalent as Workshop Foreman. Salary negotiable, according to the experience. Please send your Bio-Data by Email immediately with 2 names of non-related referees. Trainees also considered.

Email : agnkeng@gmail.com

A.G.N.K. Mechanical Engineers & Enterprises
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High Commission of Maldives
Colombo
Address : No. 25 Melbourne Avenue
Colombo 4
Telephone: 2580076
Fax: 2581200

Ref : 27/IUL/2021/07
Date : 18.03.2021

Vacancy at the High Commission of Maldives - Sri Lanka

The following staff vacancy is available at the High Commission of Maldives.

Post : Valet

Requirements:

- Should be a Sri Lankan Citizen.
- Should be fluent in spoken English.
- When shortlisting priority will be given to those candidates who have previous work experience

Salary : LKR 14087.50

Allowances : LKR 15400.00

Daily Allowance : LKR 90 per day attended

Other : Overtime, EPF-ETF

Interested applicants are advised to apply with CV to the High Commission of Maldives (No. 25, Melbourne Avenue, Colombo 04) before 1200 hours on 24 March 2021. ONLY shortlisted candidates will be called for interview. Interview will be held before 31 March 2021.

High Commission of Maldives
Colombo
Address : No. 25 Melbourne Avenue
Colombo 4
Telephone: 2580076
Fax: 2581200

Ref : 27/IUL/2021/08
Date : 18.03.2021

ANNOUNCEMENT

Vacancy at the High Commission of Maldives - Sri Lanka

The following staff vacancy is available at the High Commission of Maldives.

Post : Driver

Requirements :

- Should be a Sri Lankan Citizen.
- Should have valid Sri Lankan Driving License
- Should be fluent in spoken English.
- Should possess basic engineering knowledge to operate motor vehicles

Salary : LKR 15750.00

Allowances : LKR 15400.00

Daily Allowance : LKR 90 per day attended

Other : Overtime, EPF-ETF

Interested applicants are advised to apply with CV to the High Commission of Maldives (No. 25, Melbourne Avenue, Colombo 04) before 1200 hours on 24 March 2021. ONLY shortlisted candidates will be called for interview. Interview will be held before 31 March 2021.

VACANCIES

Store Keeper

Qualifications:

- Passed in GCE A/L (Science or commerce)
- Credit passes for English and Mathematics in GCE O/L
- Possession of stores management course or equivalent qualifications will be an added advantage
- Minimum 2 years' experience in similar capacity
- Should be a computer literate (MS Office)
- Age should be around 25 years

Collections Officer

Qualifications:

- Passed in GCE A/L (preferably in commerce)
- Credit passes for English and Mathematics in GCE O/L
- Full or part qualification in AAT or similar accountancy course will be an added advantage
- Should be a computer literate (MS Office)
- Age should be around 25 years
- Possess a driving license
- Possess excellent communication skills

Accounts Assistant

Qualifications:

- Passed in GCE A/L (preferably in commerce)
- Credit passes for English and Mathematics in GCE O/L
- Full or part qualification in AAT or similar accountancy course will be an added advantage
- Should be a computer literate (MS Office)
- Age should be around 25 years
- Possess excellent communication skills

steeljobssl@gmail.com

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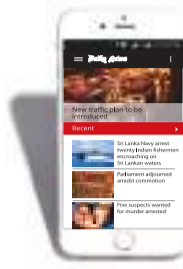
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VACANCIES

We are Western Lanka Group seek to locate most suitable personnel for below vacancies immediately.

- Production Manager / Asst. Production Manager / Quality Assurance Manager - Seafood (Minimum 05/02/05 years experience in related field / HACCP)
- Asst. HR Manager (Minimum 05 years experience in related field)
- Technical Assistant / Machine Operator / Trainee / Boiler Operator (Need technical field related qualification & experience in refrigeration field)

Interview by appointment within 07 days. (Those who did not sit for year 05 scholarship exam would be an advantage)

Tel : 071-8518565 / 0112225524
Email : office@westernlanka.com
WhatsApp : 0718518565 / 070 3374826

Western Lanka Fisheries (Pvt) Ltd.,
No. 126, Negombo Road,
Wahatiyagoda, Pamunugama, Ja-Ela.

VACANCY

Sales Executives

McLarens Group is a leading, well-established business conglomerate with diversified business activities. McLarens Group is now seeking an aspiring, energetic & competent individuals to join its subsidiary company, McLarens Lubricants Limited- Automotive division as Sales Executives.

Qualification & Skills

- Minimum two years' experience in the relevant industry.
- GCE O/L qualification
- Valid Driving License
- Colombo and Gampaha Districts candidates are preferred.

Please email your CV within 7 days of this advertisement to careers@mclarens.lk with the Vacancy name as the Subject Line

EL S Construction (Pvt) Ltd.

We are a leading Construction & Engineering organization looking for a smart and energetic candidate for the following vacancy.

HEAD OF FINANCE

- Fully qualified Chartered Accountant with at least 5 years post qualification and minimum overall 10 years experience preferably in construction sector
- A bachelors degree in Finance/Accountancy /Business Administration or equivalent
- Sound knowledge in preparing management accounts, capability of monitoring, analyzing and reporting promptly to the management
- Strong interpersonal skills, analytical skills, ability to adapts to the business environment
- Computer literacy and good communication skills will be an added qualification
- Age above 35 years

If your profile matches our requirements, please send your application to careers@elslanka.com on or before 30th March 2021.

Group Manager,
Human Resource, Administration & Training

EL S Group,
62/3, Neelammahara Road, Katuwawala,
Boralasgamuwa.

Web :- www.elslanka.com, Tel 0114309494

SOFTA CARE VACANCY

WE S Q MARKETING importers & Distributors of Adult care, Baby Care, Medical items, clinical products and hospital equipments under the brand name of SOFTA are diversifying our business and rapidly increasing the chain of Operations Island wide.

We offer golden opportunities to self motivated individuals to join our team for those who are interested to build up their carrier in the field of, Marketing for the below Districts.

AMPARA, BATTICALOA, TRINCOMALEE

- SALES REPRESENTATIVES - An individual with immense talent, ability to work hard as an individual and as a team player and achieve on time targets and generate new customers to the organization.
- SHOWROOM ASSISTANT - An individual with ability to work hard in our outlet in fort with good interpersonal skills (Preferable A female)

With Attractive remuneration and many other benefits. Interested candidates please e-mail / post your complete personal resume with two Non related referees to,

The General Manager

S Q Marketing Private Limited

ADDRESS - No 52 Yashodhara Mawatha, Saranankara Road, Kalubowila, Dehiwela.

Tel: 2727220 / 2710221

E-mail: lloyds2@sltnet.lk

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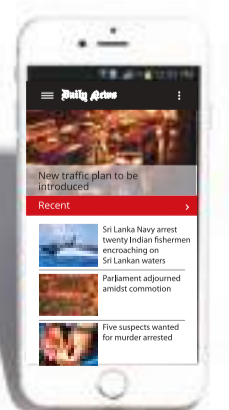


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SriLankan Airlines 

OPPORTUNITY FOR ECO-DESIGNERS

SriLankan Airlines Limited is searching for dynamic eco-designers to work with the Airline's environment unit on their upcoming uniform waste upcycling project.

Applications are invited from prospective candidates to work with the Airline's Environment Unit as consulting manufacturers of custom-designed upcycled products from the Airline's uniform waste.

The applicants should possess the following qualifications:

- Should possess a degree in fashion designing from a reputed institute with technical knowledge in manufacturing upcycled products.
- Should possess a minimum of 5 years practical industry experience in eco-designing and producing upcycled products.
- Should possess the capability of manufacturing quality products and quantities required by the Airline within a short timeframe.

Note – 'Upcycling' known as creative reuse or the process of transforming by-products, waste materials, useless, or unwanted products into new materials or products perceived to be of greater quality, such as artistic value or environmental value.

Should you wish to be part of this exciting journey with the National Carrier, please send a resume with your product portfolio on or before 29th March 2021 addressing to;

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE & PLANNING MANAGER
 SriLankan Airlines Ltd | Airline Centre,
 Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake, Sri Lanka.

All shortlisted candidates are required to demonstrate their manufacturing capabilities at request based on a brief provided by the Airline. Final decision on selection remains with the Airline.

* Only applicable for local candidates.
 We are an equal opportunity Organization and Influencing will be a reflection of unsuitability.

DIESEL MECHANIC WANTED

45-year-old, experienced diesel mechanic wanted for immediate hire, to repair **Isuzu, TATA, Ashok Leyland** and Chinese lorries at a private company in Seeduwa.

Interviews: 24th March 2021
10.00 a.m. at the below address

No. 793/28, Kadolkalewatta,
 Liyanagemulla, Seeduwa

Contact: 0779 811 007

VACANCIES

We are a well-established company operating in the printing industry. We are seeking high caliber individuals to fill the following vacancies.

1. **Graphic Designer**
2. **Trainee Graphic Designer**
3. **Production Supervisor**

Qualities & Experiences

- G.C.E. (A/L) – At least 2 passes
- For Graphic Designer, working experience & knowledge of Coral draw & Adobe design products and both Graphic & Trainee Graphic Designer's working experience in Digital printing industry will be an additional advantage.
- For Production Supervisors, minimum 2 year working experience in the off-set printing industry.
- Age below 25 years
- Should be able to read and write in English

Intermart Printers (Pvt) Ltd.
 No.112, Pattiwila Rd, Kelaniya.
 E-mail : hr@intermart.lk
 0718 282749/0719 519844/0740 335271

COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC

With an enduring vision of being the most technologically advanced, innovative and customer friendly, financial organization, we, the most awarded Bank in Sri Lanka, continue to progress steadily while being listed amongst the Top 1000 Banks in the world for the tenth consecutive year. Our unparalleled record of success over the past decade is supported by a network of 268 branches and superior standards in service, stability and performance. We are poised to ascend to even greater heights in the near future.

CHIEF ARCHITECT – IT RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (CHIEF MANAGER GRADE)

We are looking for highly motivated, enthusiastic and dynamic individuals for our Information Technology Department as "Chief Architect".

Job Profile / Main Responsibilities : (Job functions)

- Manage the System Architecture of the Organization.
- Keep abreast of new technologies that might be beneficial and provide competitive advantage to the organization.
- Responsible for IT R&D Strategy and Technology Roadmap.
- Give architectural approval for "high ticket" projects.
- Directly collaborate with business stakeholders to identify business problems and provide solutions based on their requirements.
- Ability to lead large, collaborative teams to achieve organizational goals, and passionate about building an innovative culture.
- Adhere to SDLC process while ensuring quality of the output with agile practices.
- Adhere to Governance and information security best practices while ensuring the compliance with policies and procedures of the bank.

Applicant's Profile : (Required qualifications, experience, special skills and competencies)

- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science or closely related degree.
- Over 12 years of relevant industry experience, with 4 years' experience on senior architect level.
- At least 5 years' building and leading software engineering teams and people management experience.
- Experience in managing enterprise level projects.
- Experience with cloud services, micro services architecture and open APIs.
- Solid proficiency in enterprise scale software development projects with experience of using modern technology.
- Advanced knowledge of software lifecycles, Agile, and test automation strategies including development toolset to design, develop, test, deploy, maintain and improve performance.

Preferred Qualifications :

- Master's Degree
- Global team leadership experience
- Experience building financial systems in the banking industry

Rewards

The successful candidate will be provided with an attractive remuneration package, including fringe benefits commensurate with benchmarked financial institutions.

Applications with all relevant information should be submitted to reach the under-mentioned email address within 10 days of this advertisement with the respective post mark as the subject.

Deputy General Manager – HRM
 COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC
 Email : dgm_hr@combank.lk
 Web site : www.combank.lk

 **COMMERCIAL BANK**

All applications will be treated with strict confidence. Canvassing in any form will be an immediate disqualification.

BMICH

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 40 – 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,
 Baudhaloka Mawatha,
 Colombo 7.**



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THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

VACANCIES

Applications will be received by me up to 09.04.2021 from suitably qualified persons for the following Posts. Applications should be made in the prescribed form obtainable from the Open University.

Posts

Post	Basic Qualifications	Preferable requirement	Centre	Department
Senior Lecturer Gr.I/II / Lecturer (Probationary) / Lecturer (unconfirmed) in Physics	Special Degree in Physics	Ability to teach Physics both in Sinhala & English medium	Matara Anuradhapura	Physics
		Ability to teach Physics both in Tamil & English medium	Batticaloa	
Temporary Lecturer	Degree in Electrical Engineering with a Class	Electrical Engineering	Colombo	Electrical & Computer Engineering
Temporary Research Assistant	Degree in Electrical Engineering with a Class	Electrical Engineering	Colombo	Electrical & Computer Engineering
Temporary Demonstrator	Degree in Computer Engineering or Electronic and Communication Engineering	Microprocessor based Systems, Processor design with VHDL, Parallel/GPU programming	Colombo	Electrical & Computer Engineering
Temporary Demonstrator	Degree in Computer Engineering or Electronic and Communication Engineering	Microprocessors, Programming, Electronics	Kandy	Electrical & Computer Engineering

SALARY SCALES :

Senior Lecturer Gr.I	U-AC3(I)	- Rs.91,310-7x2170-106,500/-p.m.
Senior Lecturer Gr.II	U-AC3(II)	- Rs.79,360-11x1630-97,290/-p.m.
Lecturer (unconfirmed)	U-AC3(III)	- Rs.69,580-5x1630-77,730/-p.m.
Lecturer (Probationary)	U-AC3(IV)	- Rs.54,600-10x1335-67,950/-p.m.
Temporary Lecturer	U-AC 2	- Rs.49,860-p.m. (fixed) + Cost of Living Allowance
Temporary Research Assistant	U-AC 2	- Rs.49,860-p.m. (fixed) + Cost of Living Allowance
Temporary Demonstrator	U-AC 1	- Rs.40,920-p.m. (fixed) + Cost of Living Allowance

Note

In addition to the above salary,

- The following allowances will be paid for permanent appointees in the percentage of the basic salary.
 - Academic allowance
 - Senior Lecturer Gr.I/II - 151%
 - Lecturer (Unconfirmed) - 131%
 - Lecturer (Probationary) - 115%
 - Additional monthly allowance - 20% of the basic salary
 - Research allowance - 35% (based on the research activity)
- Cost of living allowance of Rs. 7800/-

QUALIFICATIONS - Please refer OUSL Web site for more details. (www.ou.ac.lk)

SABBATICAL LEAVE :

The holders of Post of Senior Lecturer Gr.I/II are eligible for one year sabbatical leave with pay or two years without pay on completion of seven years of service. Those proceeding abroad on sabbatical leave are eligible to receive full passage for self and spouse.

HOW TO APPLY :

Application forms can be obtained from Senior Assistant Registrar/Establishments, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda either by sending a self addressed stamped envelope 23X10 cm size to reach the University on or before 01.04.2021 or calling over at the Office of Senior Assistant Registrar/Establishments. Application form (Academic) may also be downloaded from the University Web Site (<http://www.ou.ac.lk/vacancies>)

Applicants from Higher Educational Institutions, Government Departments and Government Corporations should apply through the Head of the Institution/Department/Corporation. Applications which do not confirm to the requirements, applications received after the closing date and incomplete applications will be rejected. Please attach certified copies of birth certificate, relevant certificates of confirmed results to prove qualifications, professional qualifications and experience.

Duly filled applications should be sent under registered cover to reach the Senior Assistant Registrar / Establishments (Academic), The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda on or before 09.04.2021. The post applied for should be indicated on the top left hand corner of the envelope. The University reserves the right to shortlist the candidates.

Registrar
The Open University of Sri Lanka,
Nawala, Nugegoda
21.03.2021.

University Web site : www.ou.ac.lk

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We have the following vacancies in the pharmaceutical field for immediate recruitment.

<p>ASSISTANT FIELD MANAGER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 4 year experience as a pharmaceutical marketer. • Area - Colombo • Salary-70,000/- per month (negotiable) + other perks 	<p>MEDICAL SALES DELEGATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A/L Bio Science • Minimum 1 year experience as Medical Sale Delegate. • Area - 1) North Western 2) Central Province • Salary-Minimum 40,000/- per month (negotiable) + other perks
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Send your CV on or before 31st March 2021 to kanishkat@indoscan.lk TP: 074 112 3550

"Oral Aural Speech and Hearing care center", the largest Speech Therapy center in Sri Lanka, is currently being expanded, and being searched for suitable candidates, to fill the following vacancies, for its centers in Narahenpita and Rathmalana.

- **Speech Therapist (04)** ● **Pre-School Teacher (04)**
- **Behavior Therapist (02)** ● **Receptionist (01)**

Candidate Profiles, Duties, Responsibilities :

- Speech Therapists should possess a bachelor degree in speech science
- Behavior Therapists should possess a bachelor degree or a higher diploma in psychology
- Pre-School teachers should possess a Diploma in Preschool education, or in Special Need Education
- Receptionist should have completed GCE A/Level in Maths or Commerce streams
- Have a pleasing personality, should be self motivated, self starters.
- Initial trainings will be provided by well qualified clinicians in Sri Lanka
- Ability to manage any local language with English, will be a definite advantage (Majority of our patients are from overseas countries)
- Ability to stay around "Rathmalana and "Narahenpita will be a definite advantage

Please Email your CVs on or before 27th of March 2021, to
tikiris@yahoo.com or hoperehab@yahoo.com
with contact details of 2 non related referees

COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC

We, the Most Awarded Bank in Sri Lanka, continue to progress steadily whilst being listed amongst the World's Top 1000 Banks for the 10th consecutive year. With a network of 268 branches and a strong international presence, the Bank is seeking an ambitious, energetic and proven performer to appoint as;

INVESTMENT ANALYST

We invite applications from candidates who are confident of meeting our expectations while possessing the following basic requirements, to be selected as an Investment Analyst to our Investment Banking Unit.

Job Profile / Main Responsibilities :

- Analysis, review and valuation of companies.
- Advising on the capital structure, nature of securities and financial restructuring.
- Preparation of Information Memorandums / Prospectuses for capital raising.
- Structuring and managing of Initial Public Offerings and Private Placements of Equity and Debt.
- Managing Mergers and Acquisitions Transactions.
- Trading of Corporate Debt and Equity securities.

Applicant's Profile :

- Be less than 40 years of age.
- A graduate in Finance, Portfolio Management, Accountancy or Economics with a first or second class or should be an associate member of CIMA or ACCA or a CFA charter holder.
- Preferably with 3 or more years experience directly related to the above-mentioned job profile.
- A self motivated individual with analytical and presentation skills.
- Possess excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- A High Performer with an outgoing personality.

Rewards

The successful candidate will be provided with an attractive remuneration package, including fringe benefits commensurate with benchmarked financial institutions.

Applications with all relevant information should be submitted to reach the under-mentioned email address within 10 days of this advertisement with the respective post mark as the subject.

Deputy General Manager - HRM
Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC
Email : dgm_hrm@combank.net
Web site : www.combank.lk

COMMERCIAL BANK

All applications will be treated with strict confidence. Canvassing in any form will be an immediate disqualification.



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

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An experienced Sous Chef wanted for a Bungalow in Colombo. Food and accommodation provided with an attractive remuneration package.

stc.vacancy@gmail.com

G Ji Holdings (Pvt) Ltd.

VACANCIES

G Ji Holdings has established a range of businesses varying from Construction, Solar Energy, Goods & Services, Life Style and Entertainment. We are looking forward to expand our business by recruiting a team with good personalities and experiences to offer. Applications are invited from qualified candidates for island wide projects.

- Project Managers
- Chartered Engineers
- Project Engineers
- Site Engineers
- Electrical Engineers
- Technical Officers
- Site Supervisors
- Electrical Supervisors
- Chartered Accountants
- Accountants
- Hotel Managers
- Chefs
- Stewards
- Kitchen assistants
- Purchasing officers
- Administrative Assistant
- Store Keepers
- HR Officers
- Document Controllers
- IT officers
- Graphic designers
- Web designers
- Video editors
- Data Entry

Trainees are welcome to apply in above relevant capacities.

Attractive remuneration packages are offered based on the applicant's experience and qualifications. Interested applicants may submit their CV by email to info.gijholdings@gmail.com. For Further Inquiries contact us on 011 282 7480.

Prima

Applications are invited from qualified young, achievement oriented and dynamic team players who are willing to start the career in leading food manufacturing company as Management Trainees.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

(Production, QA/R&D, Engineering, Stores & Logistics, Sales & Marketing)

Academic/Professional Qualifications

- Holders of a degree in recognize university in Management / Physical Science (offering the subjects Chemistry & Physics) / Environmental Science & Engineering / Logistic

Other Qualifications

- Good Team player.
- Communication & Interpersonal skills.
- Computer literacy.
- Proficient in English Spoken & Written.

Age : 25-30 years of Age.

An attractive salary & benefits await for the right candidates. A detailed resume with the names of two non related referees should be sent to reach us within 10 days of this advertisement. Please mark the post applied for on the top left hand corner of the envelop or as the subject line of the E-mail.

General Manager
Ceylon Agro -Industries Limited.
(Prima Group in Sri Lanka)
346, Negombo Road, Seeduwa.
Tel: 225 3527 Fax: 225 3537 E-mail : cai-careers@prima.com.lk

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- ✓ Order subscriptions of Lake House newspapers

Kandy Branch



KANDY
No.99,D.S.Senanayaka veediya, Kandy
081 223 4200

Anuradhapura Branch



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

Matara Branch



MATARA
No.29, Upper Floor, Main Bus Stand
041 223 5412

Nugegoda Branch



NUGEGODA
4th Floor Savsiri Complex, High Levele Road
011 282 8114

Jaffna Branch



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

Maradana k/v Branch



MARADANA
No.383, D R Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo 10
011 242 9336

Kataragama Branch



KATARAGAMA
Opposite Kataragama Bus Stand, Pussadeva Mawatha
047 223 5291

LAKE HOUSE HEAD OFFICE HOT LINES
1949, 011 242 9342, 011 242 9333
No 35, D R Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo 10

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VACANCIES IN DOHA QATAR

Foreign principals will conduct interview soon on video technology

S/No.	Job Category	Qty.	Basic Salary (Q.Rs.)	Food Allowance (Q.Rs.)	Total Salary (Q.Rs.)	Total Salary (Rs.)
01	Light Vehicle Drivers (Qatar License Holders)	30	1200/-	550/-	1750/-	94,500/-
02	Delivery Motorbike Riders (Qatar License Holders)	20	1200/-	400/-	1600/-	86,400/-
03	Service Crew	50	1100/-	300/-	1400/-	75,600/-
04	A/C Technicians	15	1200/-	300/-	1500/-	81,000/-

Terms and Conditions:- Government Approval Charges: -S.No.01 Rs.139,791/-, S No.02, 03 & 04 Rs. 120,716/-

- The period of Contract will be two (02) years.
- Working hours shall be 08 hours per day & 48 hours per week.
- Accommodation & Medical facilities will be provided by the company.
- Joining Air Ticket will be provided by the employer. • Return Air Ticket will be provided after completion of Contract. • All other Terms & Conditions of employment shall be in accordance with the laws and regulations of State of Qatar.

Q.Rs. 1=Rs.54/- (Subject to change according to exchange rates) First Approval No:AL/2567/0001/21 Advertisement Approval No:2567/ADVT/04/21

Worldwide Recruiting Agency
Address: No.73 1/1, Negombo Road, Peliyagoda
Office: 0112 934526/ 2934527
Hotline: 077 328 9828 Email: cvswwa@gmail.com
Website: www.worldwidelk.com Facebook: Worldwide Recruiting Agency

VACANCY IN AVIATION MALDIVES

CATEGORY	QUALIFICATION	EXPERIENCE	QNT.	SALARY
Head of Training (HT) (We are looking for a hardworking and proactive Head of Training to ensure the highest standard of aviation training is maintained in compliance with MCAA standards)	Hold an Airline Transport Pilot License (ATPL). Hold instructor rating issued by an internationally acclaimed aviation regulatory authority; multi-engine rating; having a ToT or a teaching qualification would be an added advantage	3 year experience as a certified flight instructor (preferably in a flying school) or as a captain 1000 hrs of flying as a pilot-in-command; Having management experience, knowledge of regulatory requirements and knowledge of quality and safety management would be an added advantage	06	USD 5000
Chief Flight Instructor (CFI) (We are looking for a hardworking and dynamic Chief Flight Instructor to oversee and manage flight training delivery)	Hold an Airline Transport Pilot License (ATPL). Hold instructor rating and multi-engine rating issued by an internationally acclaimed aviation regulatory authority; having a ToT or a teaching qualification would be an added advantage	3 year experience as a certified flight instructor (preferably in a flying school) or as a captain 1000 hrs of flying as a pilot-in-command	05	USD 3000
Chief Theoretical Knowledge Instructor (CTKI) (We are looking for a hardworking and dynamic Chief Theoretical Knowledge Instructor to manage and supervise the theoretical training courses and programs as per the training and licensing requirements of MCAA)	Hold an Airline Transport Pilot License (ATPL). Hold instructor rating issued by an internationally acclaimed aviation regulatory authority; having a ToT or a teaching qualification would be an added advantage	3 year experience as a captain or 1000 hrs of flying as a pilot-in-command; Adequate previous experience in providing theoretical knowledge at an approved ATO	05	USD 2000
Ground Instructor (We are looking for experienced and hardworking Ground Instructor to create material and provide training on aircraft systems, policy and regulatory requirements.)	Hold an Airline Transport Pilot License (ATPL). Hold multi-engine rating issued by an internationally acclaimed aviation regulatory authority	2 years ground instructor experience Having knowledge on ATO procedures, aviation regulatory requirements, aeronautical information manual Knowledge on CRM (crew resource management) concepts; knowledge of commercial aircraft systems	06	USD 1200
Flight Instructor (We are looking for professional and experienced pilots to conduct quality flight instruction required for our aviation programs.)	Hold an Airline Transport Pilot License (ATPL). Hold instructor rating and multi-engine rating issued by an internationally acclaimed aviation regulatory authority; having a ToT or a teaching qualification would be an added advantage	Adequate experience as a certified flight instructor (preferably in a flying school)	06	USD 1000

Terms & Conditions: Subject to change according to exchange rate 1USD = Rs.198.00

- Food Allowance is included in the salary
- Accommodation Allowance No.01 - No.03 USD 1000 & No.04 - No.05 USD 600 (If the company Accommodation is not provided)
- Free Staff Health Insurance (As per the company policy)
- Contract Period 02 Years
- Working hours 8hrs daily, 6 days per week, Overtime Payable (According to Villa College overtime & Workload Policy)
- Air Ticket - Free Joining Air Ticket & Free Return Air Ticket provided after completing 2 years contract (Both way Free)
- Other terms and conditions as per Maldivian Employment laws. AL1868/Advt/01/21

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Hotline: 0778844300

Collons International (Pvt) Ltd.
No.168, W.A.Silva Mawatha, Wellawatta, Colombo - 06. Tel: +94 112500983
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Magazine Issued with **Sunday Observer**



UNIVERSITY OF JAYEWARDENEPURA

Rent out of a Building for the Faculty of Engineering, University of Sri Jayewardenepura

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura is looking for a suitable building located within 500 meters of the Faculty of Engineering, 41, Lumbini Avenue, Ratmalana, which should fulfill the following requirements.

- Extent of the Building Space** : To be used for minimum of two Lecture Halls (for 50 Students), and 06 staff rooms. (For Academic Staff)
- Nature of rent** : Full Time
- Ownership** : Sole ownership or joint ownership is acceptable. Title should be clear.
- Value for Payment** : As per the assessment of the Government Chief Assessor
- Adequate power and running water supply is required.
- Building space should be covered with fence or wall.
- Should be able to rent out for three years subject to the annual renewal of the lease agreement.
- Adequate Sanitary Facilities (Please mention the Toilets count for both Ladies and Gents separately)
- Value per Square feet.

Interested parties are kindly requested to submit the following information by registered post addressed to "Registrar, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Gangodawila, Nugegoda" to receive on or before 01.04.2021.

Information to be submitted:

- Name and address of the Bidder and a copy of the national identity card.
- Location of the land, address and the Assessment no.
- Extent of the Land: A certified copy of the deed and a certified copy of the Survey Plan of the relevant land
- Grama Niladhari Division and Number.
- Present usage of the land indicating earliest date of availability.
- Contact Telephone Number.
- Plan of the land or sketch of the location from the main road.

Further details may be obtained by calling the Assistant Registrar/Faculty of Engineering on Tel. No:011-3041607

Registrar
University of Sri Jayewardenepura
Gangodawila, Nugegoda



PROCUREMENT NOTICE - GLOBAL

MINISTRY PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE, STATE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND REGULATION OF PHARMACEUTICALS

The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee of the State Ministry of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals under Ministry of Health will receive sealed bids for supply of following items to the Ministry of Health for year 2021.

Bid Number	Closing Date & Time	Item Description	Date of issue of Bidding Documents
DHS/P/M/WW/22/21	04.05.2021 at 11.00 a.m.	35,000 Bags of Total Parenteral Nutrition in 500ml - 1,500ml collapsible bag	24.03.2021

Bids should be prepared as per particulars given in the Bidding Documents available to prospective bidders on working days between 0930 hours & 1500 hours from above dates at the Head Office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatilake Mawatha, Colombo 01. These could be purchased on cash payment of a non-refundable Bidding document Fee of Rs. 60,000/= + taxes per set. Offers received without enclosing original payment receipt are liable to be rejected.

Wherever necessary potential bidder/bidders should get registered in terms of the Public Contract Act No.3 of 1987 before collecting the Bid Documents and also should get the contract registered after the tender is awarded.

All Bids should be accompanied by a Bid Bond as specified in the Bidding Documents.

Sealed Bids may be sent by post under registered cover or may be personally deposited in the box available for this purpose at Internal Audit Department in Mezzanine floor of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatilake Mawatha, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka.

Bids will be closed at the Head office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation on the dates and time mentioned above and will be opened immediately thereafter. Bidders or their authorised representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

Bidding Documents are being sent to Sri Lanka missions abroad and foreign missions in Sri Lanka.

**CHAIRMAN – MINISTRY PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE
STATE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND REGULATION OF PHARMACEUTICALS
C/O STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA
75, SIR BARON JAYATILAKE MAWATHA
COLOMBO 1
SRI LANKA.**

FAX : 00 94-11- 2344082
TEL : 00 94-11-2326227/94-11-2335374
E-MAIL : pharma.manager@spc.lk

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Supply of Porcelain Tiles, Adhesives and Grouts for Wet Areas of Block 02 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda

Contract (Bid) Number: DHQC/TILE WET 02/2021

- The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence invites competitive sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Supply of Porcelain Tiles, Adhesives and Grouts for Wet Areas of 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 0900hrs to 1500hrs on any working day between 22nd March 2021 and 18th 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;
 - All porcelain tiles, adhesives and grouts offered shall be locally manufactured and the bidder shall be either the manufacturer, authorized agent or an authorized reseller of the manufacturer/s for the pertinent brand/s.
 - The offered brand/s of tiles, adhesives and grouts shall have been successfully using in projects in Sri Lanka for the last five consecutive years and out of the same there shall be at least one project of supply or supply and installation shall be of value not less than Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR) 15 million which shall be demonstrated through documentary evidences.
 - Manufacturer to be accredited and registered under ISO 9001.
- Bidders who do not comply with these mandatory qualification criteria shall be considered as non-responsive.**
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address: The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla from 22nd March 2021 until 18th April 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Five Thousand Seven Hundred (LKR 5,700.00). 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 1100hrs on 29th March 2021 at Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda, Palawatta, Battaramulla.
 - Duly completed Bids shall be delivered to: The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla at or before 1000 hrs on 19th 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 shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security", of Sri Lankan Rupees One Hundred Ninety Seven Thousand (LKR 197,000.00) obtained from a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid Security shall be in the form of an unconditional and on demand guarantee acceptable to the Purchaser, and shall be valid up to 16th August 2021 (119 days after the Bid opening).
 - Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 (when relevant), before purchasing the Bidding Document.
 - Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla

Tel: 0094- 011 - 4209885
Fax: 0094 - 011 - 4209885
Email: pmudhqc@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Supply of Porcelain Tiles, Adhesives and Grouts for Wet Areas (Excluding VIP Areas) for Block 01 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda

Contract (Bid) Number: DHQC/TILE WET 01/2021

- The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence invites competitive sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Supply of Porcelain Tiles, Adhesives and Grouts for Wet Areas (Excluding VIP Areas) of Block 01 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 22nd March 2021 and 15th 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;
 - All porcelain tiles, adhesives and grouts offered shall be locally manufactured and the bidder shall be either the manufacturer, authorized agent or an authorized reseller of the manufacturer/s for the pertinent brand/s.
 - The offered brand/s of tiles, adhesives and grouts shall have been successfully using in projects in Sri Lanka for the last five consecutive years and out of the same there shall be at least one project of supply or supply and installation shall be of value not less than Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR) 15 million which shall be demonstrated through documentary evidences.
 - Manufacturer to be accredited and registered under ISO 9001 and ISO 14001.
- Bidders who do not comply with these mandatory qualification criteria shall be considered as non-responsive.**
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address: The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla from 22nd March 2021 until 18th April 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Five Thousand Two Hundred Fifty (LKR 5,250.00). The method of payment shall be cash or bank draft in favour of Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project.
 - A pre bid meeting will be held at 1100 hrs on 29th March 2021 at Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda, Palawatta, Battaramulla.
 - Duly completed Bids shall be delivered to: The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla on or before 1000 hrs on 19th 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 shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security", of Sri Lankan Rupees One Hundred Seventy-Eight Thousand Six Hundred (LKR 178,600.00) obtained from a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid Security shall be in the form of an unconditional and on demand guarantee acceptable to the Purchaser and shall be valid up to 16th August 2021 (119 days after the Bid opening).
 - Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 (when relevant) before purchasing the Bidding Document.
 - Bidders are advised to inform in writing to the The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla

Tel: 0094- 011 - 4209885
Fax: 0094 - 011 - 4209885
Email: pmudhqc@gmail.com

BUILDING WANTED
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The leading Courier Service in the country needs a building for their Regional Office in or around Gampaha, Yakkala, Miriswatte, Belummahara. The expected building should be a ground floor, facing the main road, with a land area of about 1500 - 2000 sq.ft. and frontal parking space for Vehicles.

Call: Chathura 070 683 0870

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Contact details: +94762511221
Name: Dinesh Francis
Email: dinesh@assetnetworks.net

PUBLIC NOTICE
LOST RECEIPT BOOKS
(TEMPORARY RECEIPT BOOKS)

Our staff, who are attached to Commercial Credit Polonnaruwa Branch had misplaced their temporary receipt books issued by the company. The details of the misplaced temporary receipt books are given below,

Book Number	User	Receipt Numbers	No of Leaves Missing
49401	Lakshithak	2470001 - 2470050	50 Nos
49402	Nilankak	2470056 - 2470100	45 Nos
49403	Hasun	2470101 - 2470150	50 Nos

Please be informed that we do not hold any responsibility if any transactions are done using these receipts by any means. Please be kind enough to return the said receipt books if found, to any Branch Manager, of **Commercial Credit & Finance PLC** or appreciate if you would inform us through our **Hotline - 0112 000000**.

Thank you,

Management of
Commercial Credit and Finance PLC

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

FABRICATE, SUPPLY AND INSTALL SPECIALIST INTERIORS FOR BLOCK 03 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO: DHQC/SPEC INTERIOR 3/2021

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders to **Fabricate, Supply and Install Specialist Interiors for Block 03 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and estimated to cost **LKR 161 Million** (excluding VAT).

Work shall include Fabricate supply and install all special interior items, furnishings and civil works related to specific areas identified as VIP on areas for Block 03 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda. The Time for Completion for the whole of the Works shall be 196 Days.

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.

3. To be eligible for the Contract award,

- The successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least five (05) years.
- The successful bidder shall have CIDA (Construction Industry Development Authority) Grading SP1 in the field of Floor, Wall and Ceiling Finishes (FW&C).
- The successful bidder shall be accredited and registered under ISO 9001. If the bidder is not the manufacturer, manufacture of the offered interior works shall have the ISO 9001. Works shall be executed through a licensed installer of the Manufacturers.

Documentary evidence, supporting the Bidder's experience and track record shall be established with the Bid.

4. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:

- Average annual turnover in last five (5) years shall be at least LKR 242 million.
- Experience in successful completion of one project in similar nature including fabricate supply and install specialist interior items of which value shall not less than LKR 50 million within last five years.
- The minimum amount of liquid assets (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract, shall be not less than LKR 69 million.

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from, **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from **22nd March 2021 until 16th April 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** during a working day.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka** from **22nd March 2021 until 16th April 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Sri Lankan Rupees Twenty Nine Thousand Five Hundred (LKR 29,500.00)**. The method of payment will be in Cash/Bank draft in favour of **The Director - Project Management Unit**.

7. Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed in the below address on or before **1000 hrs on 19th 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.

8. Bids shall be valid up to **19th July 2021** (91 days after the date of Bid Opening).

9. All bids accompanied by a **Bid Security of Sri Lankan Rupees One Million Six Hundred Thousand (LKR 1,600,000.00)** shall be issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid-Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand guarantee and shall be valid up to **16th August 2021** (119 days after the date of Bid Opening).

10. A pre bid meeting will be held at **1000 hrs on 31st March 2021** and a site visit will be held at **1030 hrs on same day** at the Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.

11. If any bidder has already been selected/is working as a Contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project, the bidder shall establish his financial and technical requirements under specification/ eligibility criteria exclusively for this bidding package. If not, the bidder will not be qualified for the award of this bid.

12. 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.

The address (es) referred to above item (7) is;

The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road,
Pelawatta, Battaramulla,
Sri Lanka.

Tel : 0094-011-4209885
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
E-mail: pmudhqc@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Supply of Porcelain Tiles, Adhesives and Grouts for Wet Areas of Block 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda

Contract (Bid) Number: DHQC/TILE WET 04/2021

- 1) The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence invites competitive sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply of Porcelain Tiles, Adhesives and Grouts for Wet Areas of Block 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda**.
- 2) 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 22nd March 2021 and 18th April 2021** Tel: 0094-011-4209885, Fax: 0094-011-4209885, E-mail: pmudhqc@gmail.com
- 3) Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure under Standard Bidding Document of NPA/Goods/SBD 01 and Government Procurement Guidelines.
- 4) To be eligible for Contract award;
 - All porcelain tiles, adhesives and grouts offered shall be locally manufactured and the bidder shall be either the manufacturer, authorized agent or an authorized reseller of the manufacturer/s for the pertinent brand/s.
 - The offered brand/s of tiles, adhesives and grouts should have been successfully used in projects in Sri Lanka for the last five consecutive years and out of the same there shall be at least one project of supply or supply and installation shall be of value not less than Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR) 15 million which shall be demonstrated through documentary evidence.
 - Manufacturer to be accredited and registered under ISO 9001 and ISO 14001.

Bidders who do not comply with these mandatory qualification criteria shall be considered as non-responsive.

5) A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address: **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** from **22nd March 2021 until 18th April 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Sri Lankan Rupees Nine Thousand Five Hundred Only (LKR 9,500.00)**. The method of payment shall be by cash or bank draft in favour of **Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project**.

6) A pre bid meeting will be held at **1100 hrs on 29th March 2021** at **Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda, Pelawatta, Battaramulla**.

7) 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 19th 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**.

8) All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid Security", of **Sri Lankan Rupees Three Hundred Six Thousand (LKR 306,000.00)** obtained from a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid Security shall be in the form of an unconditional and on demand guarantee acceptable to the Purchaser, and shall be valid up to **16th August 2021** (119 days after the Bid opening).

9) 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.

10) Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla

Tel: 0094- 011 - 4209885
Fax: 0094 - 011 - 4209885
Email: pmudhqc@gmail.com



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. 130101199 Benzoic Acid BP/USP Fine Powder 500G Packed in air tight container/Bag	720 Packs	RES/01/04/A/2021	01/04/2021
Item Code No. 210407A99 Bimatoprost Eye Drops 300mcg/ml, 3ml/Vial	3500 Packs	RES/19/04/A/2021	19/04/2021
Item Code No. 130701C14 Methoxsalen Tablets or Capsules USP 10mg 150 Tabs/Caps (Blister)	750 Packs	RES/19/04/B/2021	19/04/2021
Item Code No. 180504C11 Linagliptin Tablets 5mg 30 Tablets (Blister)	24,000 Packs	RES/19/04/C/2021	19/04/2021
Item Code No. 180103G68 Methylprednisolone Ace. Injection BP 40mg/ml 1ml/vial Packed individually.	60,000 Vials	RES/19/04/D/2021	19/04/2021
Item Code No. 060601C34 Ciprofloxacin Tablets BP/USP 500mg 10 x 10 Tablets (Blister)	100,000 Packs	RES/19/04/E/2021	19/04/2021
Item Code No : 130303199 Betamethasone Valerate Ointment BP 0.1 w/w In 15g Tube Packed in a box	180,000 Tubes	RES/21/04/A/2021	21/04/2021
Item Code No : 210401C30 Acetazolamide Tablets USP 250mg In 10x10 Tablets (Blister)	12,000 Packs	RES/21/04/B/2021	21/04/2021
Item Code No : 020103C20 Diclofenac Potassium Tablets 50mg In 5x10 Tablets (Blister)	48,000 Packs	RES/21/04/C/2021	21/04/2021
Item Code No : 060606C30 Erythromycin Stearate Tablets BP/USP 250mg In 5x10's (Blister)	30,000 Packs	RES/21/04/D/2021	21/04/2021
Item Code No : 180501C19 Gliclazide Tablets BP 40mg In 10x10's Tablets (Blister)	180,000 Packs	RES/21/04/E/2021	21/04/2021

These tenders are administered by the provisions of the "Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987" and therefore, in the event bidder is to retain an Agent, Sub-Agent, Representative, Nominee for and on behalf of tenderer shall register himself and such Public Contract in accordance with Section 10 of the Public Contracts Act and produce such valid certificate of registration in the course of any transaction relating to the tender or Act at any stage in the duration of the tender.

Tenders will be closed at the office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at 1.15 p.m. on the dates indicated against each tender and will be opened immediately thereafter. Tenderers or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Tender.

The Chairman - Procurement Committee
State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka
75, Sir Baron Jayathilake Mawatha,
Colombo 01.
Phone: 00 94 11 2320356-9

AMENDMENT TO INVITATION FOR BIDS**DESIGN, FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF PROPRIETARY DOORS, FRAMES AND HARDWARE FOR BLOCK 01 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA****CONTRACT No : DHQC/TIM DOOR 1/2020**

- This refers to the Invitation for Bids, published on 28.02.2021 in Silumina, Sunday Observer, Thinakaran Varamanjari 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 05th April 2021**
 - Bids shall be valid up to 02nd August 2021**
 - Bid Security shall be valid up to 30th August 2021**
- All other terms and conditions of the previous Invitation for Bids remain unchanged.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from, **The Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address until **04th April 2021** from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** during a working day.

**The Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC),
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03.**
Tel : 0094-011-2439381/0094-11-2390719
Fax : 0094-011-2390720
E-mail : procurement@defence.lk

AMENDMENT TO INVITATION FOR BIDS**DESIGN, FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF PROPRIETARY DOORS, FRAMES AND HARDWARE FOR BLOCK 02 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA****CONTRACT No : DHQC/TIM DOOR 2/2020**

- This refers to the Invitation for Bids, published on 28.02.2021 in Silumina, Sunday Observer, Thinakaran Varamanjari 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 **1200 hrs on 05th April 2021**
 - Bids shall be valid up to 05th July 2021**
 - Bid Security shall be valid up to 02nd August 2021**
- All other terms and conditions of the previous Invitation for Bids remain unchanged.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from, **The Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address until **04th April 2021** from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** during a working day.

**The Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC),
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03.**
Tel : 0094-011-2439381/0094-11-2390719
Fax : 0094-011-2390720
E-mail : procurement@defence.lk

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JOBSEEKERSwww.observerjobs.lk**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)****MINISTRY OF DEFENCE****FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF HEAVY DUTY FIRE RATED STEEL DOORS FOR BLOCK 04 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA****CONTRACT NO: DHQC/FIRE RAT STEEL DOOR 4/2021**

- The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC)** on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Heavy Duty Fire Rated Steel Doors for Block 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and approximately estimated to cost LKR 26 Million (excluding VAT).
The Works consist of fabrication, supply and installation of Heavy-Duty Fire Rated Steel Doors including Door Sashes, Frames, Door Hardware and Accessories with powder coated hot dipped galvanized steel frames and sashes. The Intended Completion Date of the Works shall be 140 Days from the Start Date.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
To be eligible for the Contract award, **the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least five (05) years. The bidder shall be either the Manufacturer of the offered work or the authorized agent of the manufacturer of the offered work or a licensed installer of the manufacturer of the offered work. The manufacturer shall be accredited and registered under ISO 9001. If the bidder is not the manufacturer of the offered work, then he shall be mandatorily required being an organization possessing ISO 9001 Certification.**
- Documentary evidence to support Bidder's experience and track record shall be provided with the Bid.**
- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
 - Average annual turnover value in last five (05) years shall be at least LKR 39 million.
 - Experience in fabrication, supply and/or installation of heavy-duty steel fire rated doors including at least one project of value not less than 7 million completed within last five (05) years.
 - The minimum amount of liquid assets (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract, shall be not less than LKR 16 million.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from **22nd March 2021 until 16th 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** from **22nd March 2021 until 16th April 2021** from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** during working days upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Sri Lankan Rupees Seven Thousand One Hundred (LKR 7,100.00)**. The method of payment will be by cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla**.
- Pre bid meeting will be held at **1100 hrs on 30th March 2021** and a site visit will be held on **same day** after the pre bid meeting at the Project Management Unit of Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below or shall be deposited in the Tender box placed at the address below at or before **1000 hrs on 19th April 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to **19th July 2021** (91 Days after the date of Bid opening).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security" of **Sri Lankan Rupees Two Hundred Sixty Thousand (LKR 260,000.00)** obtained from a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in the form of an unconditional and on demand guarantee and shall be valid up to **16th August 2021** (119 days after the date of Bid opening).
- If any bidder wishes to submit bids for several packages of the same block or any other blocks of this project, the bidder shall establish the qualification/ eligibility criteria required under each contract separately, if not the bidder will not be qualified for the award of more than one bid.
- In addition to Item 11 of above, if any bidder has already been selected/is working as a contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project, the bidder shall establish his financial and technical requirements under specification/ eligibility criteria exclusively for this bidding package. If not, the bidder will not be qualified for the award of this bid.
- Bidders shall present the registration certificate under the Public Contract Act No.3 of 1987 before purchasing the bidding documents.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to The Director — Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address (es) referred to above item (7) is;

**The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road,
Pelawatta, Battaramulla,
Sri Lanka.**

Tel : 0094-011-4209885
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
E-mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE****SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF GRANITE FLOORING, WALL CLADDING AND PANTRY TOPS FOR BLOCK 01 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA****CONTRACT NO: DHQC/GRANITE 1/2021**

- The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC)** on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply and Installation of Granite Flooring, Wall Cladding and Pantry Tops for Block 01 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and estimated to cost LKR 408 Million (excluding VAT).
The work consists of Supply and installation of granite flooring, wall cladding and pantry tops including decorative items, counter tops, thresholds, paving, steps of staircases and surfaces of ledges for Block 01 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda. The Time for Completion for the whole of the Works shall be 231 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 and shall have a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least five (5) years with the experience in supply and installation of granite works in Sri Lanka for five (5) consecutive years.
The bidder shall be the Manufacturer or Authorized supplier or Installer for the intended works. Manufacturer to be accredited and registered under ISO 9001. Supplier shall be a registered and authorized agent of the manufacturer. Installer shall be qualified and specialized in installation with a valid license and eligible to receive manufacturer's warranty for the works. If the bidder is not the manufacturer of the offered Granite works, then he shall be mandatorily required being an organization possessing ISO 9001 certification.
Documentary evidence to support bidders experience and track records shall be established with bid.
- Qualifications requirements to qualify for contract award include:
 - Average annual turnover in last five (5) years shall be at least LKR 300 million.
 - Experience in successful completion of at least one project of supply and installation of granite work value not less than LKR 100 million. These projects shall be completed within last five (5) years.
 - The minimum amount of liquid assets (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract, shall be not less than LKR 150 million.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from, **The Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from **22nd March 2021 until 08th April 2021** from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** during a working day.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **The Accountant (Procurement), Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03**, from **22nd March 2021 until 08th April 2021** from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Sri Lankan Rupees Fifty Two Thousand (LKR 52,000.00)**. The method of payment will be in Cash/Bank draft in favour of **Ministry of Defence**.
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed in the below address at or before **1000 hrs on 09th April 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to **06th August 2021** (119 days after the date of Bid Opening).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid-Security of Sri Lankan Rupees Four Million Eighty Thousand (LKR 4,080,000.00)** shall be issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid-Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand guarantee and shall be valid up to **03rd September 2021** (147 days after the date of Bid Opening).
- A pre bid meeting will be held at **1000 hrs on 29th March 2021** and a site visit will be held at **1030 hrs on same day** at the Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- If any bidder wishes to submit bids for several packages of the same block or any other blocks of this project, the bidder shall establish the qualification/ eligibility criteria required under each Contract separately, if not the bidder will not be qualified for the award of more than one bid.
- In addition to Item 11 of above, if any bidder has already been selected/is working as a Contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project, the bidder shall establish his financial and technical requirements under specification/ eligibility criteria exclusively for this bidding package. If not, the bidder will not be qualified for the award of this bid.
- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 when purchasing the bidding document and shall submit the same along with the bid.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to The Chief Financial Officer, Ministry of Defence, No.15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03 the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address (es) referred to above item (7) is;

**The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03.**

Tel : 0094-011-4209885
Fax : 0094-011-4209885
E-mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com



UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO SCHOOL OF COMPUTING (UCSC)

OBTAINING A BUILDING ON RENT/LEASE BASIS FOR A STUDENTS' HOSTEL

- Applications are hereby invited by the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, University of Colombo, School of Computing (UCSC) from the owners of Buildings to obtain a suitable building on Rent/Lease basis, to use as a Hostel for students.
- Applications for the purpose, could be forwarded by interested Bidders who are owners of such buildings with clear title deeds having following requirements on lease/rental basis for two (02) years.
 - The said building should have the capacity to accommodate 30-50 students of the University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC). In addition for rooms for students, two (02) rooms for Hostel Wardens, a kitchen and space facilities for daily study purposes of the students should be available.
 - Should be situated within 10-15 km radius from the University of Colombo (UOC).
 - Preference will be given to the Buildings with easy access facilities, Roads to Bus Routes to the University of Colombo.
 - Should have adequate water, electricity and sanitary facilities.
 - Land surrounding the building should have boundary wall with gates and should be situated in a secure environment.
 - Should have clear and easy access way to the Hostel Grounds.
 - Waste Water and Solid Waste Disposal Systems with proper active and working order and with real capacity facilities, feasible.
 - The building should be situated in a clean and duly managed and landscaped garden
 - Should have a proper system of garbage disposal.
- Bidding should be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure.
- Bidding documents could be obtained by the interested Bidders to owners of the buildings from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. from 21.03.2021 to 08.04.2021 from the Academics and Publications Division, University of Colombo School of Computing, on production of the receipt for the payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1,000.00 (One Thousand) issued by the Shroff of the University of Colombo School of Computing. Duly completed Bids, in duplicate (two copies) addressed to the Deputy Registrar, Academic and Publications Division, University of Colombo School of Computing, No. 35, Reid Avenue, Colombo 07, deposited in the Tender Box kept at the above Division for the purpose to be received on or before 2.00 p.m. on 09.04.2021. The caption to the effect "**Obtaining a Building for Students' Hostel on Lease/Rent Basis - 2021**" should be clearly indicated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope enclosing Bids.
- Sealed Bids will be opened at 2.00 p.m. on 09.04.2021 at the Academics and Publications Division by the Assistant Registrar and the Bidder or one of his authorized representatives / agents could be present on this occasion. Further details could be obtained by contacting the following Telephone Nos. Telephone No : 011-2589123, 011-2581245 (Ext : 8995).

The decision of the Procurement Committee will be the final.

Chairman / Procurement Committee,
University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC),
No. 35, Reid Avenue,
Colombo 07.

HOTEL DEVELOPERS (LANKA) LTD

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS EXTENSION OF TIME

Further to the newspaper advertisement of 21 February, 2021, calling for Pre-Qualification of suppliers, Hotel Developers (Lanka) Ltd the Owing Company of Hilton Colombo hereby informs of an **Extension of Time for Suppliers** to apply for pre-qualification to purchase the following items for the **Renovation of 253 Nos. Guest Rooms, Lift Lobbies and Corridors at Hilton Colombo;**

- Vinyl Timber Flooring Materials
- Wall Tiles
- Wall Coverings
- Drapery Systems
- Area Rugs & Carpets
- Art Works
- Sculptures
- Amenity Trays & Accessories
- Bathroom Accessories
- Sanitary Fittings
- Decorative and Architectural Light Fittings
- HVAC Fan Coil Units

Applicants should satisfy the following minimum criteria for each item that pre-qualification is applied for:

- A minimum of 3 years' experience in supply of similar items to hospitality projects in Sri Lanka
- Proven previous experience in supplying similar items to 5* hotels in Sri Lanka
- Ability to submit technical specifications and full-size samples/ visuals and/or shop drawings as required
- Ability to issue bank guarantees against advance payments & performance

The Pre-Qualification documents could be collected from Hotel Developers (Lanka) Ltd - The Chairman's Office, c/o Hilton Colombo, Colombo 1, on any working day between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. from 22 March 2021 to 24 March 2021.

Duly completed documents should be returned to: The Chief Financial Officer, Hotel Developers (Lanka) Ltd, c/o Hilton Colombo, Colombo 1 on or before 3 p.m. on 31 March 2021.



PROCUREMENT NOTICE

SABARAGAMUWA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

BID FOR HIRING A BUILDING FOR GUEST HOUSE OF FACULTY OF MEDICINE

BID NO : GA/2021/02

The Chairman, Procurement Committee on behalf of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka invites sealed bids from interested bidders for Hiring a Building within 1Km from the main road and located in between Faculty of Medicine, Hidellana, Ratnapura and Teaching Hospital, Ratnapura for Guest House of the Faculty of Medicine for a period of one year. Bidders should have minimum of 06 bed rooms, 05 bathrooms (minimum 02 attached bathrooms), kitchen area, dining area, continual electricity & water supply, separate access road, sole ownership, parking facilities for minimum of 03 vehicles and land must be covered by fence or wall.

Bidding documents can be obtained from the Deputy Registrar / General Administration, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, P.O. Box 02, Belihuloya or Senior Assistant Registrar, Faculty of Medicine, P.O. Box 01, Batuhena, Hidellana, Rathnapura between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. during working days from 22nd March 2021 to 19th April 2021 on submission of a written request and on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2000.00 per set to the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, Bank of Ceylon, Balangoda Branch, Account No. 2246976. The Bid will be closed at 2.00 p.m. on 20th April 2021 and opened as soon as the closing the bids at the Office of the Registrar, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, Belihuloya. Bidders or their authorized representatives are able to be present at the opening of the bids.

Sealed envelopes containing completed Bids with duplicates should be marked "**Hiring a Building for Guest House of the Faculty of Medicine**" at the top left corner and forwarded by registered post to "**The Chairman, Procurement Committee, General Administration Division, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, P.O. Box 02, Belihuloya**" to reach on or before 2.00 p.m. on 20th April 2021 or may be deposited in the Tender Box kept at the General Administration Division of the University. Late bids will be rejected.

Further information in this regard can be obtained from the Deputy Registrar/General Administration of the University during working hours (Tel. No. 045 2280027/045 2280009).

The decision of the University Procurement Committee is final and canvassing to the university officials is prohibited.

Chairman
Procurement Committee
Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PLC

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS

CONSORTIUM CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR WATERPROOFING OF ROOFTOPS TERRACE OF FLOOR 04, COOLING TOWER YARD OF FLOOR 3, AND PLAZA CAR PARKING AREA (GROUND FLOOR) OF THE BANK OF CEYLON HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

RFP NO: PDL/RFP/ 2021/01

The Chief Executive Officer, Property Development PLC, Floor 19, BOC Headquarters Building, "BOC Square", No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01, invites proposals for consortium consultancy services from eligible and qualified Consultants for Waterproofing of Rooftops, Terrace of Floor 04, Cooling Tower Yard of Floor 3, and Plaza Car Parking Area (Ground Floor) of the Bank of Ceylon Headquarters Building. The estimated cost for the project is approximately **Rs. 85 Million**.

- Selection of Consultants will be through National Competitive Selection Procedure.
- A Consultancy organization will be selected under the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method and procedures described in the Request for Proposal (RFP) Document.
- To be eligible to submit a Request for Proposal (RFP), the Consultancy firm should fulfill the following criteria (**the relevant documentary evidence must be submitted with the Proposal in order to prove that the Consultancy Organization should fulfil the following criteria, failing which the relevant Proposal will be liable for rejection**):
 - Should be a company/firm registered in Sri Lanka for providing consultancy services for the construction of buildings
 - Should be an active Consortium Consultancy Service Provider during the last five (5) years
 - Should have completed at least one (1) consortium consultancy assignment for high rise buildings where the value of waterproofing component exceeds Rs.50 Million within last 5 years or similar nature consultancy services in high rise buildings having contract sum over Rs.60 Million within last 5 years.
- RFP may be inspected free of charge at the office of the Maintenance Manager, Property Development PLC, Floor 19, BOC Headquarters Building, "BOC Square", No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01, from **22/03/2021 to 29/03/2021** on working days **from 0900 hrs until 1600 hrs**.
- A complete set of RFP in English language may be purchased by interested Consultants on submission of business registration and a written application to the Maintenance Manager, Property Development PLC, Floor 19, BOC Headquarters Building, "BOC Square", No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01, on any working day from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs from 22/03/2021 until 19/04/2021** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs.3000.00** (Including VAT) only. The method of payment will be in cash.
- The sealed proposal shall be deposited in the Tender box available at the office of the Manager, HR and Admin, Property Development PLC, Floor 19, BOC Headquarters Building, "BOC Square", No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01, or sent by Registered Post addressed to The Chief Executive Officer of the above address to reach him at or before **1500 hrs on 20/04/2021**. Late proposals will be rejected. Proposals will be opened immediately after the closing of Proposals. Representatives of Consultancy firms may attend the opening.
- The proposal shall be valid up to 20 July 2021.
- Pre-Proposal meeting will be held at **1000 hrs on 30 March 2021** at the office of Property Development PLC, Floor 19, BOC Headquarters Building, "BOC Square", No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01.
- For further details, please contact, Maintenance Manager, Property Development PLC, Floor 19, BOC Headquarters Building, "BOC Square", No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01 on Telephone No. 0112544328/ 0112380949 and Email: pdleng@sltnet.lk

The Chief Executive Officer,
Property Development PLC,
Floor 19, BOC Headquarters Building,
"BOC Square",
No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha,
Colombo 01.

LAND WANTED

Wanted a land with an extent of

5-25 Acres

Coconut / Rubber / Bare land in Malwana, Dompe, Hanwella, Meepe, Ingiriya preferred.

Email : AdvertA6@gmail.com
Phone : 0777 701783

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

SUPPLY, FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION OF GLASS SHOWER CUBICLES IN BLOCK 02 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

Contract Number: DHQC/SHOWER CUB 2/2020

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Supply, Fabrication and Installation of Glass Shower Cubicles in Block 02 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla as described below and estimated to cost LKR 1.9 Million (excluding VAT).

The work consists of Supply, Fabrication and Installation of Glass Shower Cubicles in Block 02 of Proposed Defence Headquarters Complex (DHQC) at Akuregoda, Sri Lanka.

The Time for Completion for the whole of the Works shall be 119 Days.

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.

3. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall possess a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least 5 years.

The bidder shall be either;

1. The Manufacturer of the offered Glass Shower cubicle works or the authorized agent of the manufacturer of the offered Glass Shower cubicles works. The Manufacturer shall be accredited and registered under ISO 9001.

or

2. A licensed installer of the manufacturer of the offered Glass Shower cubicle works. If the bidder is not the manufacturer of the offered Glass Shower cubicle works, then he shall be mandatorily required being an organization possessing ISO 9001 Certification.

Documentary evidence to support Bidder's experience and track record shall be provided with the Bid.

4. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:

- Average annual turnover in last five (05) years shall be at least LKR 2.85 million.
- Experience in successful completion of at least one project of supply, fabrication and installation of glass shower cubicles of value not less than LKR 1.5 million. These projects shall be completed within last three years.

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs from 22nd March 2021 until 16th April 2021 during working days.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents (except Volume 1) in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, at the above address from 22nd March 2021 until 16th April 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees One Thousand Five Hundred (LKR 1,500.00). The method of payment will be in Cash.

7. A pre bid meeting will be held at 1400 hrs on 30th March 2021 at the Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda.

8. Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed at the below address on or before 1000 hrs on 19th 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.

9. Bids shall be valid until 21st June 2021. (63 Days after the date of Bid opening).

10. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of Sri Lankan Rupees Nineteen Thousand (LKR 19,000.00) obtained from a bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand guarantee and shall be valid up to 19th July 2021 (91 Days after the Bid opening).

11. If any bidder wishes to submit bids for several packages of the same block or any other blocks of this project, the bidder shall establish the qualification/ eligibility criteria required under each contract separately, if not the bidder will not be qualified for the award of more than one bid.

12. In addition to Item 11 of above, if any bidder was already being selected/is working as a contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project; the bidder shall establish his financial and technical requirements under specification/ eligibility criteria exclusively for this bidding package. If not, the bidder will not be qualified for the award of this bid.

13. Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 (when relevant), before purchasing the Bidding Document from Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.

14. Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the Director, Project Management Unit, the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address referred to above item (8) is:

The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee,
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla

Tel: 0094- 011 - 4209885

Fax: 0094 - 011 - 4209885

Email: pmudhqc@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Supply, Fabrication and Installation of Glass Shower Cubicles in Block 03 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda

Contract Number: DHQC/SHOWER CUB 3/2020

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Supply, Fabrication and Installation of Glass Shower Cubicles in Block 03 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla as described below and estimated to cost LKR 7.2 Million (excluding VAT).

The work consists of Supply, Fabrication and Installation of Glass Shower Cubicles in Block 03 of Proposed Defence Headquarters Complex (DHQC) at Akuregoda, Sri Lanka.

The Time for Completion for the whole of the Works shall be 147 Days.

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.

3. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall possess a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least 5 years.

The bidder shall be either;

1. The Manufacturer of the offered Glass Shower cubicle works or the authorized agent of the manufacturer of the offered Glass Shower cubicles works. The Manufacturer shall be accredited and registered under ISO 9001.

or

2. A licensed installer of the manufacturer of the offered Glass Shower cubicle works. If the bidder is not the manufacturer of the offered Glass Shower cubicle works, then he shall be mandatorily required being an organization possessing ISO 9001 Certification.

Documentary evidence to support Bidder's experience and track record shall be provided with the Bid.

4. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:

- Average annual turnover in last five (05) years shall be at least LKR 10.8 million.
- Experience in successful completion of at least one project of supply, fabrication and installation of glass shower cubicles of value not less than LKR 2 million. These projects should have been completed within last three years.

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs from 22nd March 2021 until 16th April 2021 during working days.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents (except Volume 1) in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, at the above address from 22nd March 2021 until 16th April 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Two Thousand Six Hundred (LKR 2,600). The method of payment will be in Cash.

7. A pre bid meeting will be held at 1400 hrs on 30th March 2021 at the Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda.

8. Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed at the below address on or before 1000 hrs on 19th 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.

9. Bids shall be valid until 05th July 2021. (77 Days after the date of Bid opening).

10. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of Sri Lankan Rupees Seventy Thousand (LKR 70,000.00) obtained from a bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand guarantee and shall be valid up to 02nd August 2021 (105 Days after the Bid opening).

11. If any bidder wishes to submit bids for several packages of the same block or any other blocks of this project, the bidder shall establish the qualification/ eligibility criteria required under each contract separately, if not the bidder will not be qualified for the award of more than one bid.

12. In addition to Item 11 of above, if any bidder has already been selected/is working as a contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project; the bidder shall establish his financial and technical requirements under specification/ eligibility criteria exclusively for this bidding package. If not, the bidder will not be qualified for the award of this bid.

13. Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 (when relevant), before purchasing the Bidding Document from Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.

14. Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the Director, Project Management Unit, the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address referred to above item (8) is:

The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee,
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla

Tel: 0094- 011 - 4209885

Fax: 0094 - 011 - 4209885

Email: pmudhqc@gmail.com

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AMENDMENT TO INVITATION FOR BIDS

FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF HEAVY DUTY STEEL FIRE RATED DUCT DOORS FOR BLOCK 02 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT No : DHQC/FIRE RAT DUCT DOOR 2/2020

1. This refers to the Invitation for Bids, published on 28.02.2021 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 be valid up to 07th July 2021.
- Bid Security shall be valid up to 04th August 2021.

3. All other terms and conditions of the previous Invitation for Bids remain unchanged.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information, inspect and purchase the bidding documents from The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta on working days during 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs until 06th April 2021.

The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.

Tel: 0094-011-4209885

Fax: 0094-011-4209885

E-mail: pmudhqc@gmail.com



STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

The Chairman, Procurement Committee of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, Colombo 01 invites sealed quotations from registered and previous sources for following items and bids will be closed at the respective times on the dates given below and will be opened immediately thereafter.

(E. mail /Fax offers as well as FOB offers are not acceptable).

Sealed Bids may be sent by post under registered cover or may be personally deposited in the box available for this purpose at Internal Audit Department in the Mezzanine Floor of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka.

Bidders or their authorised representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

SURGICAL ANNUAL ITEMS

TENDER NO/ BID REFERENCE	CLOSING DATE	CLOSING TIME	ITEM	QUANTITY
DHS/RS/RQ/22/21	26.03.2021	2.00 p.m.	Paediatric Anaesthetic Face Mask, Rendel Baker type	1000 Nos.
DHS/RS/RQ/23/21	26.03.2021	2.00 p.m.	Oral Airway (various types)	148,000 Nos
DHS/RS/RQ/115/20	26.03.2021	2.00 p.m.	Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy	105 sets

Bids should be prepared as per particulars given in the Bidding Documents available at the Head Office of State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, No.75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1.

Wherever necessary potential bidder/bidders should get registered in terms of the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 before collecting the Bid Documents and also should get the contract registered after the award.

CHAIRMAN - PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE
STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA
75, SIR BARON JAYATILAKE MAWATHA
COLOMBO 1
SRI LANKA.

FAX : 00 94-11- 2335008/2344082

TELEPHONE : 00 94-11- 2335008/2326227/2335374

E-MAIL : dgsurgical@spc.lk / pharma.manager@spc.lk

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INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE****Supply of Porcelain Tiles, Adhesives and Grouts for Wet Areas of Block 03 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda**

Contract (Bid) Number: DHQC/TILE WET 03/2021

- 1) The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence invites competitive sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Supply of Porcelain Tiles, Adhesives and Grouts for Wet Areas of Block 03 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda.
- 2) 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 0900hrs to 1500hrs on any working day between 22nd March 2021 and 18th April 2021. Tel: 0094-011-4209885, Fax: 0094-011-4209885, E-mail: pmudhqc@gmail.com
- 3) Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure under Standard Bidding Document of NPA/Goods/SBD 01 and Government Procurement Guidelines.
- 4) To be eligible for Contract award;
 - All porcelain tiles, adhesives and grouts offered shall be locally manufactured and the bidder shall be either the manufacturer, authorized agent or an authorized reseller of the manufacturer/s for the pertinent brand/s.
 - The offered brand/s of tiles, adhesives and grouts shall have been successfully using in projects in Sri Lanka for the last five consecutive years and out of the same there shall be at least one project of supply or supply and installation shall be of value not less than Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR) 15 million which shall be demonstrated through documentary evidences.
 - Manufacturer to be accredited and registered under ISO 9001.

Bidders who do not comply with these mandatory qualification criteria shall be considered as non-responsive.

- 5) A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address: The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla from 22nd March 2021 until 18th April 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Nine Thousand (LKR 9,000.00). The method of payment shall be cash or bank draft in favour of Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project.
- 6) A pre bid meeting will be held at 1100 hrs on 29th March 2021 at Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda, Palawatta, Battaramulla.
- 7) Duly completed Bids shall be delivered to: The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla on or before 1000 hrs on 19th 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.
- 8) All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security", of Sri Lankan Rupees Three Hundred Forty-Five Thousand (LKR 345,000.00) obtained from a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid Security shall be in the form of an unconditional and on demand guarantee acceptable to the Purchaser, and shall be valid up to 16th August 2021. (119 days after the Bid opening).
- 9) 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.
- 10) Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla

Tel: 0094- 011 - 4209885
Fax: 0094 - 011 - 4209885
Email: pmudhqc@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE****MATERIALS REQUIREMENT FOR FABRICATION ALUMINIUM ARCHI FRAMES DRYWALL PARTITION AT BLOCK NO. 01 & 02 AT DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX, AKUREGODA**

CONTRACT NO: DHQC/PROC/2021/H/110

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified tenderers for Supply of undermentioned Items for the Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
Description of Item - Materials Requirement for Fabrication of Aluminium Archi Frames Drywall Partition
2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
3. To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful tenderers shall not have been blacklisted and shall possess a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least 05 years. Documentary evidence shall be established with the Bids.
4. Bidders are strongly advised to present Registration Certificate issued by the Registrar of Companies as per the 8th Paragraph of Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987 for every Bid which exceeds tenderable amount of Rs. 5.0 million, and copy of certificate to be presented when purchasing the bidding document.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language can be purchased upon payment of non-refundable fee of Rupees Twenty Thousand (LKR. 20,000.00) (The method of payment shall be by cash) by the interested bidder on submission of written application to the address below, from 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs during 22nd March 2021 to 1000 hrs on 19th April 2021.
6. All Tenders shall be accompanied by a tender security to the value of Nine Hundred Sixty Two Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Five Sri Lanka Rupees (LKR. 962,425.00) obtained from any commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Tender Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand guarantee and shall be valid from 19th April 2021 to 16th August 2021 (120 days including Both Days).
7. Validity of Bids - Bids shall be valid for 90 days from the date of Bid Opening (From 19th April 2021 to 17th July 2021).
8. Duly completed Bids shall be delivered to: The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla at or before 1000 hrs on 19th 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.

The address referred in Para 6&9 is as follows.

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 / dhqcproc2015@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE****MATERIALS REQUIREMENT WATER PROOFING WORKS OF BLOCK NO 01 & 02 AT DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA**

CONTRACT NO: DHQC/PROC/2021/H/107

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified tenderers for the Supply of undermentioned Items for the Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
Description of Item - Water Proofing Materials
2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
3. To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful tenderers shall not have been black listed and shall Possess a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least 05 years. Documentary evidence shall be established with the Bids.
4. Bidders are strongly advice to present Registration certificate issued by the Registrar of Companies as per the 8th paragraph of Public Contracts Act No 03 of 1987 for every Bid which exceeds tenderable amount of Rs. 5.0 million, and copy of certificate to be presented when purchasing the bidding document
5. A complete set of Bidding Document in English Language can be purchased upon payment of non-refundable fee of Rupees Twelve Thousand Five Hundred (LKR.12,500.00) (The method of payment shall be cash) by the interested bidder on the submission of written application to the address below, from 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs during 22nd March 2021 to 1000 hrs on 19th April 2021.
6. All Tenders shall be accompanied by a Tender Security , to the value of Five Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Sri Lanka Rupees (LKR. 585,000.00) obtained from any commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Tender Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand guarantee and shall be valid from 19th April 2021 to 16th August 2021 (120 days including Both Days).
7. Validity of Bids - Bids shall be valid for 90 days from the date of Bids Opening (From 19th April 2021 to 17th July 2021).
8. Duly completed Bids shall be delivered to: The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla at or before 1000 hrs on 19th 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.

The address referred in para 6&9 is as follows.

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 / dhqcproc2015@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE****MATERIALS REQUIREMENT FOR ALUMINIUM SILDING FOLDING DOORS AT BOLCK NO 03 & 04 AT DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA**

CONTRACT NO: DHQC/PROC/2021/H/105

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified tenderers for Supply undermentioned Items for the Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
Description of Item - Materials Requirement for Aluminium Doors
2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
3. To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful tenderers shall not have been black listed and shall Possess a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least 05 years. Documentary evidence shall be established with the Bids.
4. Bidders are strongly advised to present Registration certificate issued by the Registrar of Companies as per the 8th paragraph of Public Contracts Act No 03 of 1987 for every Bid which exceeds tenderable amount of Rs. 5.0 million, and copy of the certificate to be presented when purchasing the bidding documents.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language can be purchased upon payment of non-refundable fee of Rupees Fifteen Thousand (LKR.15,000.00) (The method of payment shall be by cash) by the interested bidder on the submission of written application to the address below, from 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs during 22nd March 2021 to 1000 hrs on 19th April 2021.
6. All Tenders shall be accompanied by a Tender Security to the value of Six Hundred Seventy Two Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Sri Lanka Rupees (LKR. 672,950.00) obtained from any commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Tender Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand guarantee and shall be valid from 19th April 2021 to 16th August 2021 (120 days including Both Days).
7. Validity of Bids - Bids shall be valid for 90 days from the date of Bids Opening (From 19th April 2021 to 17th July 2021).
8. Duly completed Bids shall be delivered to: The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla on or before 1000 hrs on 19th 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.

The address referred in para 6&9 is as follows.

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 / dhqcproc2015@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

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CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

TENDER FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE CENTRALIZED INVESTMENT UNIT OF THE CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

Tender Number	LK-CBSL-223669-GO-RFB
Tender Description	Tender for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Investment Management System for the Centralized Investment Unit of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka
Non-refundable Fee	Sri Lankan Rupees Nineteen Thousand Five Hundred (LKR 19,500/- or in United States Dollars Hundred (US\$ 100/-).
Pre-Bid Meeting	Date : 06 April 2021 Time : 1400 Hrs Location : Head Office Building, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, No 30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo-01, Sri Lanka and/or MS Teams
Bid closing and opening	Date : 04 May 2021 Time : 1400 Hrs. Location : Head Office Building, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, No 30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo-01, Sri Lanka

For further information please refer
<https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/tenders>
or contact: +94 11 2477337 or +94 11 2398754

Project Team, Financial Sector Modernization Project
Central Bank of Sri Lanka.



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Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Procurement of Red Hat Open Stack Subscription for Expanded Nodes for Lanka Government Cloud (LGC 2.0)

[IFB No.: ICTA/GOSL/SER/NCB/2021/01]

1. Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) established the Lanka Government Cloud the main government owned infrastructure. To strengthen the Lanka Government Cloud, in order to achieve this, it is intended to procure Red Hat open stack subscription for expanded nodes for Lanka Government Cloud (LGC 2.0). Detailed description of the Requirements and Specifications are given in the bidding document.

2. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (DPC), on behalf of ICTA, now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for Procurement of Red Hat Open Stack Subscription for Expanded Nodes for Lanka Government Cloud (LGC 2.0).

Name of the Package	IFB Number	Amount of Bid Security (LKR)
Procurement of Red Hat Open Stack Subscription for Expanded Nodes for Lanka Government Cloud (LGC 2.0)	ICTA/GOSL/SER/NCB/2021/01	Rs. 860,000.00

3. The Bidders should meet the following minimum qualification criteria:

- Minimum average annual turnover of LKR 120 Million calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last three (3) years;
- The bidder must be an accredited agent or authorized representative of the manufacturer to submit bids on behalf of the manufacturer.

4. Bidding will be conducted using the **National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure that shall be governed by the procurement guidelines of the Government of Sri Lanka.**

5. Interested bidders may **inspect bidding documents** free of charge during office hours on working days commencing from **March 22, 2021** at Procurement Division of ICTA, 160/24, 2nd Floor, Kirimandala Mawatha, Colombo 05. Telephone: 2369099, email: procurement@icta.lk. Bidding documents are also available on ICTA Website (<https://www.icta.lk/procurement/>) only for inspection purposes.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Fifteen Thousand (15,000.00) effective from **March 22, 2021** during office hours on working days from the office of the ICTA at 160/24, 2nd floor, Kirimandala Mawatha, Colombo 05. The method of payment will be by cash.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address given in paragraph (5) at or before **3.00 p.m.** on **April 22, 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline of bid submission in the presence of the bidders' representatives, who choose to attend. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of a Bank Guarantee using the format given in the Bidding Document in the amounts indicated in para (2).

8. A Pre-bid meeting will be held at **3.00 p.m.** on **March 31, 2021** at the office of ICTA at the address given in paragraph (5) above.

Chairman
Department Procurement Committee
Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA),
160/24, 2nd Floor, Kirimandala Mawatha,
Colombo 05.

March 21, 2021

ELPITIYA PLANTATIONS PLC**TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Tenders are invited by the Tender Board for the sale of the following Factory Machinery items at Elpitiya Lifestyle Solutions (Pvt) LTD, Devitura Estate, Ethkandura.

No	Item	Make	Qty. (Nos.)
1	12 inch Double side planer machine	Wood Packer	1
2	24 inch Double side planer machine	Crown	1
3	18 inch Double side planer machine	Brook	1
4	80 kva Generator	Doman	1
5	Battery operated pallet reach truck 1.8 T	Toyota	1
6	Multi Rip saw machine		1
7	Pneumatic X cut saw	UNIGON	4
8	Air Compressor with tank & dryer	Gardenerdenver	1
9	Dust Collectors		4
10	3 feet & 4 feet roller tables		4
11	25 Hp dust collector		1
12	Universal tool grinder machine	HO-HI	1
13	Straight Knife grinder machine	SAN-JUL	1
14	3 Ton steam boiler	Thamax	1
15	Bench drill machine		5
16	Carpentry planning machine		1
17	Round head sanding machine		3
18	Double side belt sanding machine	Kurthemann	1
19	Single spindle molding machine	Alcobronz	2
20	Four rollers auto feeders		2
21	Kilns drying room control panel units		4
22	Circular saw mill machine 7 feet bench	Alcobronz	2
23	Rip saw mill machine	Alcobronz	3
24	Circular saw sharpening machine		1

All Tenders should be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**Sale of Factory Machinery Items**" on the top left-hand corner and addressed to Chief Executive Officer, Elpitiya Plantations PLC, 9th Floor, Aitken Spence Tower - 01, No. 305, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 2 to reach on or before 09th April 2021 at 4.00 p.m.

Tender documents can be obtained between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. during weekdays up to 09th April 2021 from the Elpitiya Lifestyle Solutions Factory Office on a payment of non-refundable fee of Rs. 1,000/= and refundable deposit of Rs. 5,000/=.

All items could be inspected during working days up to 09th April 2021, from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. by prior appointment with the Manager (0773710097) of Elpitiya Lifestyle Solutions (Pvt) Ltd.

Bids may be sent by Registered Post to the Head Office.

However, Elpitiya Plantations PLC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reasons what-so-ever.

Chief Executive Officer
Elpitiya Plantations PLC,
9th Floor, Aitken Spence Tower 01,
305, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.
Tel : 011-4-693000



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INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AGENCY OF SRI LANKA (ICTA)

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Refurbishment of Proposed ICTA Office Building in Colombo 03

IFB Number: ICTA/GOSL/WORKS/NCB/2021/01

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (DPC), on behalf of ICTA, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Refurbishment of Proposed ICTA Office Building at No. 490, R.A. De Mel Mawatha, Colombo 03. The work consists of Refurbishment and Interior works, Supply of Furniture & Fixtures, M&E works, etc. The estimated cost for the proposed refurbishment work is Rs.130 million and total refurbishment period shall be 03 months.
2. Bidding will be conducted using the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure as defined in National Procurement Guidelines and is open to all eligible Bidders.
3. To qualify for the Contract award, the Bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the following minimum requirements:
 - i. Registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) for grade C3 or C4 in the field of Building Construction or SP1 in Interior Works.
 - ii. Average of the annual turnover of construction work performed in the last five years shall be at least Sri Lankan Rupees 200 million.
 - iii. Bidder should have successfully completed at least one Interior Project in similar nature which valued minimum Sri Lankan Rupees 100 million during last five years.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Director - Procurement of ICTA, 160/24, 2nd Floor, Kirimandala Mawatha, Colombo 05, on Telephone: 011 2369099, email: procurement@icta.lk from March 22, 2021. Bidding documents for inspection purpose are available on ICTA Website (<https://www.icta.lk/procurement/>).
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 25,000.00 effective from March 22, 2021 on working days from the office of the ICTA during office hours at the address given in Paragraph (4) above. The method of payment will be by cash.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address given in Paragraph (4) at or before **11.00 a.m.** on **April 12, 2021**. Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of the bidders' representatives, who choose to attend at the address given in Paragraph (4) above, at **11.00 a.m.** on **April 12, 2021**. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of a bank guarantee of not less than **Sri Lankan Rupees One Million Three Hundred Thousand (LKR 1,300,000.00)**. Late Bids and Bids sent electronically will not be accepted and will be rejected.
7. Site visit and Pre - Bid meeting will be held at 0930 hrs on 29th March 2021 at No. 490, R.A. De Mel Mawatha, Colombo 03.

Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee
Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka
160/24, 2nd Floor,
Kirimandala Mawatha
Colombo 05

March 21, 2021

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Please contact - 077-4455153, 077-4406654

CAMSO LOADSTAR (PVT) LTD

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ) FOR FACILITY BUILDING CONSTRUCTION FOR CINCO AT CAMSO LOADSTAR (PVT)LTD.

Company Background

Camso is the world leading specialist in the design, manufacturing, and distribution of off-road tires, wheels, rubber tracks, undercarriage systems, to serve the material handling, construction, agriculture, powersports, and defense industries.

We use the full power of our experience, engineering expertise, innovation skills, support and best-in-class manufacturing capabilities to deliver high performance products of unrivaled quality and value.

We are present in 27 countries around the world, with more than 7500 dedicated employees. We operate advanced R&D centers, as well as manufacturing plants in the U.S.A., Canada, Europe and Asia. Camso is partner with all the major original equipment manufacturers.

We operate as Camso Loadstar, a part of a Michelin Group in Sri Lanka over 5500 employees.

We are pleased to invite you to provide detailed information as requested below to consider your interest on bidding for the subjected project.

Project Background

The purpose of this project is to construct a building which would be utilized as an employee facility center, including cafeteria, shower room, locker area and office area in Wheel Manufacturing Division (WMD) of Camso Loadstar (Pvt) Ltd

Expected special capabilities of contractors

- Preference will be given for suppliers who registered with CIDA in Building Construction with grading C4 or above.
- Possess at least 5 years of experience projects in similar nature and value.

Interested companies are required to respond for the paper advertisement by sending an email to project.purchases.lk@camso.co before 5:00 p.m. 29th March 2021. Soft copy of the tendering document will be shared with responded companies.

A contract may be awarded to the supplier having submitted a competitive bid, i.e a, lowest-priced technically compliant of the proposed offers and not limited to the minimum evaluation criteria as mentioned below:

- Technical responsiveness/Full compliance to specifications
- Qualifications and experience of proposed staff/personnel
- Financial capability of the supplier
- Full acceptance of Conditions of Contract
- Earliest Delivery / Shortest Lead Time.

Camso will arrange an online pre-bid meeting for the prospective Bidders on 31st March 2021 at 10:00 am. More details will be provided along with the RFQ document.

The bidding documents under sealed cover marked "QUOTAION (RFQ) FOR FACILITY BUILDING CONSTRUCTION FOR CINCO" on the top left hand corner of the envelope should either be sent by registered post or be deposited in the Tender box kept at following address on or before 12:00 noon on 20th April 2021.

CAMSO reserves the exclusive right to change or amend and/or cancel or withdraw partially or in total the requirement at any time during the RFQ Process. CAMSO also reserves (i) the right to require compliance with additional conditions as and when issuing the final tender document and (ii) the right to accept or reject any tender document or proposal, at its sole discretion, without providing any reason thereof.

If you have any additional questions about this RFQ, please contact Global Procurement, Sri Lanka Operations by e-mail: project.purchases.lk@camso.co

Global Procurement, Sri - Lanka operations,
CAMSO LOADSTAR (PVT)LTD
No.218, Regents Court, Minuwangoda Road, Ekala
web : www.camso.com
Email : project.purchases.lk@camso.co

AMENDMENT TO INVITATION FOR BIDS

FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF HEAVY DUTY STEEL FIRE RATED DUCT DOORS FOR BLOCK 01 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT No : DHQC/FIRE RAT DUCT DOOR 1/2020

1. This refers to the Invitation for Bids, published on 28.02.2021 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 be 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, inspect and purchase the bidding documents from **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta on working days during 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs until 06th April 2021.**

**The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.**

Tel: 0094-011-4209885
Fax: 0094-011-4209885
E-mail: pmudhqc@gmail.com

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

BID FOR DESIGN, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM (ICTS) FOR BLOCK 03 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT No : DHQC/DHQC/ICT/03/2020

Change OF BID CLOSING DATE

1. The Closing/opening date of the above Invitation For Bids (IFB) is to be changed as follows:

- a) Bid document issuing - 01st March 2021 to 04th April 2021.
- b) Closing/Opening of Bids - 05th April 2021, 11.00 hrs.

2. Bids shall be valid up to 01/08/2021 (119 Days after the date of opening/closing of Bids, including bid open date).

3. Bid Security shall be valid up to 29/08/2021 (147 Days after the date of opening/closing of Bids, including bid open date).

4. All other details remain unchanged.

**The Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC)
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, BaladakshaMawatha,
Colombo 03, Sri Lanka.**

Tel: 0094-077-3766601
Fax: 0094-011-2390720

AMENDMENT TO INVITATION FOR BIDS

FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF HEAVY DUTY STEEL FIRE RATED DUCT DOORS FOR BLOCK 04 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT No : DHQC/FIRE RAT DUCT DOOR 4/2020

1. This refers to the Invitation for Bids, published on 28.02.2021 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 be valid up to 07th July 2021.
- Bid Security shall be valid up to 04th August 2021.

3. All other terms and conditions of the previous Invitation for Bids remain unchanged.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information, inspect and purchase the bidding documents from **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta on working days during 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs until 06th April 2021.**

**The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.**

Tel: 0094-011-4209885
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PROCUREMENT NOTICE - GLOBAL

**MINISTRY PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE,
STATE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND REGULATION OF
PHARMACEUTICALS UNDER MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee of the State Ministry of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals under Ministry of Health will receive sealed bids for supply of following items to the State Ministry of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals under Ministry of Health.

Bid Number	Closing Date & Time	Item Description	Date of issue of Bidding Documents	Non- refundable Bid Fee per set LKR
DHS/M/SS/WW/11/21	04.05.2021 at 11.00 a.m.	Intra Ocular Lens, Hydrophobic	22.03.2021	60,000/- + taxes

Bids should be prepared as per particulars given in the Bidding Documents available to prospective bidders on working days between 0930 hours & 1500 hours from above dates at the Head Office, No.75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1. These could be purchased on cash payment of a **non-refundable Bidding document Fee per set as mentioned above.** Offers received without enclosing original payment receipt are liable to be rejected.

Wherever necessary potential bidder/bidders should get registered in terms of the Public Contract Act No.3 of 1987 before collecting the Bid Documents and also should get the contract registered after the tender is awarded.

All Bids should be accompanied by a Bid Bond as specified in the Bidding Documents.

Sealed Bids may be sent by post under registered cover or may be personally deposited in the box available for this purpose at Internal Audit Department in Mezzanine floor of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka.

Bids will be closed at the Head office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation on the dates and time mentioned above and will be opened immediately thereafter.

Bidders or their authorised representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

Bidding Documents are being sent to Sri Lanka missions abroad and foreign missions in Sri Lanka.

**CHAIRMAN - MINISTRY PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE
STATE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND REGULATION OF PHARMACEUTICALS UNDER
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
C/O STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA
75, SIR BARON JAYATILLAKE MAWATHA
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Invitation for Bids (IFB)



SRI LANKA PORTS AUTHORITY

HIRING OF MACHINERY FOR REPAIRING OF BREAKWATER AT PORT OF GALLE

- The Chairman - Procurement Committee, Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA), on behalf of the Chairman, SLPA invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for **Hiring of Machinery for Repairing of Breakwater at Port of Galle (Contract No. EW/M&D/08)**.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- Pre Bid Meeting followed by a site visit will be held at **11.00 hrs on 30.03.2021** at the Civil Engineer's Office at Galle Port.
- A valid certificate of registration issued under Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987 should be submitted with bidding document.
- Amount of Bid Security shall be Rs. 200,000/= and shall be an unconditional guarantee issued by a bank operating in Sri Lanka and approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
- Bidding documents will be issued between 10.00 hrs and 14.00 hrs on working days from 23.03.2021 till 12.00 noon of 06.04.2021 (both days inclusive) by the Chief Engineer (Civil), Civil Engineering Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, No. 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01 on submission of a written application to the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable tender fee of **Rs. 2,000.00** (inclusive VAT). Bidding documents may be inspected free of charge at the same office.
- Bidding document enclosed in a securely sealed cover and marked **"Hiring of Machinery for Repairing of Breakwater at Port of Galle (Contract No. EW/M&D/08)"** on the top left hand corner, shall be sent by registered post addressed to the Chairman - Procurement Committee, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, No. 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01 or placed in the Tender Box kept in the Office of the Chief Engineer (Civil) on the above address.
- Bids in duplicate shall be submitted by 14.30 hrs on 07.04.2021 and the Bids will be opened immediately after closing of the Bids. Bidders or their authorized representatives are requested to be present at the opening of the Tender.
- Any further particulars may be obtained from Chief Engineer (Civil) on the above address. (T.P. 011-2483446).

**Chairman,
Procurement Committee (Sri Lanka Ports Authority),
Sri Lanka Ports Authority,
No. 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01.**

INVITATION FOR BIDS

UVA WELLESSA UNIVERSITY AHEAD PROJECT



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PROCUREMENT NOTICE

The Chairman, Procurement Committee of Uva Wellassa University invites bids from eligible bidders to provide the following:

No.	Description	Tender No.	Value of Bid Security (Rs.)	Non-Refundable Fee (Rs.)	Bid Closing Date and Time
01	Supply, Delivery, Installation of Furniture & Fittings for Faculty of Applied Sciences	UWU/AHEAD/ELTAELSE/FAS/NCB/GOODS/FF/16	83,000.00	3,500.00	9 th April 2021 - 10.00 a.m.
02	Construction of Lecture Halls for Faculty of Applied Sciences - Stage I	UWU/AHEAD/RA1/FAS/NCB/WORKS/01	160,000.00	3,500.00	9 th April 2021 - 1.00 p.m.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any bidder, up to 4.00 p.m. on 8th April 2021 on submission of a written application to the Deputy Director - Procurement (AHEAD/OTS) and upon production of a receipt in respect of payment of a non-refundable fee to each tender to the AHEAD/OTS Office of the Uva Wellassa University between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. on any working day or directly deposit cash to the Bank of Ceylon A/C No.82592579 as mentioned in the above table. The bidder can also download the bidding documents from the University website <http://www.uwu.ac.lk/procurement/>. Those who are obtaining bidding documents from the University website should submit the completed documents along with the original of the cash receipt/ deposit slip. The payments could be made at any branch of the Bank of Ceylon in favour of AHEAD Project, Uva Wellassa University, A/C No.82592579 as mentioned in above table. (Bidders may also examine the bidding documents free of charge.)

Bids must be delivered or sent under registered post to reach on or before on 9th April 2021 and bids will be opened immediately thereafter. Bidder or his authorized representative (with a letter of authorization) is allowed to be present at the time of opening of bids. The tenders should be enclosed in a sealed envelope and should be marked relevant Tender Number on the top left corner of the envelope and should be sent either by registered post to the Chairman, Procurement Committee, Uva Wellassa University, Passara Road, Badulla or can be deposited in the tender box at the Registrar's office of Uva Wellassa University.

Further details could be obtained from Deputy Director Procurement on telephone No. 055-3127378.

**Chairman
University Procurement Committee (Major)
Uva Wellassa University
Badulla.
21/3/2021**

AMENDMENT TO INVITATION FOR BIDS

DESIGN, FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF PROPRIETARY DOORS, FRAMES AND HARDWARE FOR BLOCK 03 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT No : DHQC/TIM DOOR 3/2020

- This refers to the Invitation for Bids, published on 28.02.2021 in Silumina, Sunday Observer, Thinakaran Varamanjari 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 **06th April 2021**
 - Bids shall be valid up to 03rd August 2021**
 - Bid Security shall be valid up to 31st August 2021**
- All other terms and conditions of the previous Invitation for Bids remain unchanged.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from, **The Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address until **05th April 2021** from **0900 hrs** to **1500 hrs** during a working day.

**The Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC),
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03.**
Tel : 0094-011-2439381/0094-11-2390719
Fax : 0094-011-2390720
E-mail : procurement@defence.lk

AMENDMENT TO INVITATION FOR BIDS

DESIGN, FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF PROPRIETARY DOORS, FRAMES AND HARDWARE FOR BLOCK 04 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT No : DHQC/TIM DOOR 4/2020

- This refers to the Invitation for Bids, published on 28.02.2021 in Silumina, Sunday Observer, Thinakaran Varamanjari 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 **1200 hrs** on **06th April 2021**
 - Bids shall be valid up to 03rd August 2021**
 - Bid Security shall be valid up to 31st August 2021**
- All other terms and conditions of the previous Invitation for Bids remain unchanged.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from, **The Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address until **05th April 2021** from **0900 hrs** to **1500 hrs** during a working day.

**The Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC),
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03.**
Tel : 0094-011-2439381/0094-11-2390719
Fax : 0094-011-2390720
E-mail : procurement@defence.lk

AMENDMENT TO INVITATION FOR BIDS

FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF HEAVY DUTY STEEL FIRE RATED DUCT DOORS FOR BLOCK 03 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT No : DHQC/FIRE RAT DUCT DOOR 3/2020

- This refers to the Invitation for Bids, published on 28.02.2021 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 be valid up to 07th July 2021**.
 - Bid Security shall be valid up to 04th 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, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta** on working days during **0900 hrs** to **1500 hrs** until **06th April 2021**.

**The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
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Able G/B family, 1989 September born, father Lawyer is seeking for a smart, tan in complexion, professionally qualified, healthy son with a respectable family background for our pleasant young daughter who had her education in a reputed Buddhist School in Colombo 07, obtained BBM from Bangalore, MBA from Colombo University and employed as an Executive in a private company. She inherits substantial assets including a bungalow and vehicles. Rahu at 7th house, non-malefic horoscope. Horoscope and religion are not much considered. Email: amara6868@gmail.com OB160637

Able G/B respectable parents from down South seek right partner for young looking fair very pleasant fashionable slim daughter 1985 July 5'3" employed in Sri Lanka Telecom Colombo. Father engaged in plantation sector ready to help with a house, vehicle and financially, invite a caring son with sober habits from a middle class family. Phone: 0112953284. Email: dimagijj@gmail.com OB160633

Academically and professionally qualified and well mannered son is sought by G/B respectable parents who work as Senior Executives in Government Ministries for their daughter. 1993, 5'7", Graduate, working as a Senior Software Engineer in a well-reputed Multi-National Company in Colombo. Reply with family details and horoscope. Email: sujanthi_rm@yahoo.com Tel. 011-2617901. OB160244

Academically and professionally qualified Christian son is sought by Sinhala Christian parents for their daughter, 36 years old 5'2" in height. Email: gunawardana198194@gmail.com OB160615

Academically and professionally qualified caring son from a respectable family is sought by B/G parents from Polgasowita, for their daughter, born in 1985/09, 5', pleasant, BSc. & HR Degrees qualified, employed in Executive Grade in a leading Organization in Colombo. Reply with horoscope and family details. 0112747412. OB160387

Academically and professionally qualified caring son from a respectable family sought by Christian mother living in Australia for her daughter born in 1977, 5'3" fair pretty slim MSc. qualified working in Europe and willing to relocate. She has been brought up with Sri Lankan values & practicing Christian. Reply with family details and contact information. au sivera18@gmail.com OB160255

Academically and professionally qualified caring son is sought by B/G parents from Colombo suburbs for their elder daughter born 12/1995, presently working as an Assistant Lecturer in Jayawardhanapura University and willing to move to UK or Australia for following the Phd. Please reply with family details and horoscope to: hdrohana@gmail.com OB160658

Academically and professionally qualified caring virtuous son is sought by Bodu Govi highly connected government official father from Colombo suburbs for their only daughter who has completed her degree in Australia and now working there. She is 5 feet 4 inches, pretty and smart girl born in 1991. Reply with horoscope and all the details. ckprop1990@yahoo.com OB160366

Academically and professionally qualified caring well-mannered professional/businessman son from a respectable family background sought by Govigama Buddhist mother from Colombo suburbs for well accomplished daughter 1979, slim and smart, brought up with Buddhist values, MBA qualified, holding a top management position in a leading organization. Inherits substantial wealth including property. Please reply with full family details, horoscope to: mprop osale@hotmail.com OB160670

Academically and professionally qualified divorced or widow partner (age between 44 and 55) is sought by B/G mom for her daughter. She is divorced, no kids 44 years 5'2" worked as a Secretary. Willing to migrate. Email: alanranatunga@gmail.com OB160584

Academically and professionally qualified employed well mannered caring son is sought by retired G/B parents from Colombo suburbs for their pretty well accomplished only daughter. She is well employed with post-graduate qualification from UK University. Also a qualified UK Solicitor. Born in May 86. Height 5'8". Kuja in 7th house but favourable. Prefer a son who can converse fluently in English and has a good personality. Please reply with horoscope to: manide e.proposal@yahoo.com OB160613

Academically and professionally qualified partner between 30-36 with values, preferably living abroad is sought by elder sister (residing in Dubai) for sister born in 1992, 5'0" very fair and pretty, slim with a pleasing personality. She is presently reading for her Masters. Please email details: ruv.mb2021@gmail.com OB160506

Academically and professionally qualified partner with sober habits from a respectable family sought by B/G educated professional parents in Gampaha. Our daughter is 5'4" tall, born in 1988 February, studied at leading school at Colombo and graduated with BSc degree from government university. She is pretty, slim, well-mannered and owns substantial assets and currently employed overseas as a teacher for A/L Physics. Call with horoscope and family details. Tel: 033-2226826. OB160687

Academically and professionally qualified son from a respectable family is sought by B/G professional parents living in Colombo suburb for their younger daughter 1998 born, 5'6", fair, educated from a leading private school in Colombo and completed her Bachelor's from a private university specialized in Management field. She is currently working for a reputed private company in Colombo. Please contact with the family details. E-mail: prop osalsena84@gmail.com OB160364

Academically and professionally qualified son from a respectable family is sought by B/K parents from Colombo suburb for their daughter born 1979 5'3" holds BBA ACMA MBA working in a private bank holding a senior position. Email: laks himefdo@gmail.com OB160426

Academically and professionally qualified kind and caring suitable partner is sought by Bodu highly respectable retired parents from Colombo for their slim pretty daughter born 1989 5'3" BSc (Moratuwa) 1st Class PhD Computer Science and Engineering (Singapore), hope to be a Lecturer in Sri Lankan University. Engineer, Doctor Lecturer or similar profession preferred. Please reply with family details and horoscope. 011-5817650 a nonymousbee@gmail.com B2021022151

Academically and professionally qualified partner between 30-36 with values, preferably living abroad is sought by elder sister (residing in Dubai) for sister born in 1992, 5'0" very fair and pretty, slim with a pleasing personality. She is presently reading for her Masters. Please email details: ruv.mb2021@gmail.com OB160506

Academically and professionally qualified son with Sinhala Buddhist values is sought by GB parents for their Law Graduate daughter, employed, living with parents in London. Dual National, 37 years, 5'2", fair, pretty. Father Doctor. Properties in Sri Lanka and London. Reply with family details and horoscope. snow 2021drop@outlook.com OB160257

Academically and professionally qualified well employed Catholic son preferably living in Australia is sought by Sinhalese Catholic parents for daughter 25 years 5'2" slim, very fair (MBBS) Doctor. She was educated at a leading Catholic School in Colombo. Currently employed in Australia. She will inherit valuable assets. Please reply to: a nnie857625@gmail.com OB160524

Academically and professionally qualified son from a respectable family is sought by B/K parents from Colombo suburb for their daughter born 1979 5'3" holds BBA ACMA MBA working in a private bank holding a senior position. Email: laks himefdo@gmail.com OB160426

Academically and professionally qualified son is sought by Buddhist Govi parents for their 1992 December born, 5'6" tall, kind, pleasant MBBS qualified daughter. Father is a Medical Specialist in Colombo. Please reply with details and copy of the horoscope. Call after 8.00 p.m. on 011-2862025. sau myaw2@gmail.com OB160291

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered caring son is sought by B/G parents residing in Colombo suburbs for 26, 5'5", pretty, well accomplished Attorney-at-Law daughter employed in a leading Law Firm. She inherits substantial assets. Reply with family details to laku proposal@gmail.com OB160389

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered partner sought by B/C Govi parents for only child born 1980. She is medium complexioned attractive accomplished down to earth lover of nature and animals and a wide range of other interests. Wildly traveled educated mostly abroad while living with parents. Graduated and postgraduated from highly prestigious university abroad. Partly qualified CIMA. Licentiate Piano forte Trinity College, London was employed in Sri Lanka and abroad, presently employed in Senior position abroad will inherit substantial assets. Please reply giving family details, copy of horoscope and telephone No. E-mail: tit yvone@hotmail.com OB158835

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered son from a respectable family sought by B/G professional parents in Government Services from Colombo for their 1992 Nov, pretty daughter brought up with Buddhist values, holds BA (Hons) Degree in UK. University and professionally well accomplished daughter works as a Fashion Designer at a Company in Colombo. Only sister is a state university student. Reply with horoscope and family details. m arprop3@gmail.com OB160586

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered son is sought by Buddhist G/D parents for their 5'5" tall, beautiful, 1991 Dec born, graduated and professionally well-accomplished eldest daughter working in a reputed private company. She is brought up with good family values. Reply with horoscope. Email: s19 91proposal@gmail.com OB160563

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered caring son is sought by B/G parents residing in Colombo suburbs for 26, 5'5", pretty, well accomplished Attorney-at-Law daughter employed in a leading Law Firm. She inherits substantial assets. Reply with family details to laku proposal@gmail.com OB160389

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered partner is sought by B/G parents for their daughter 1985 born 5'3" fair slim (younger looking) studied at Colombo Buddhist School, holding a Managerial Post in Singapore (citizen) BSc. owns an apartment, assets in Sri Lanka. sarath wim53@gmail.com OB160540

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son is sought by B/G government servant parents, originally from Colombo and now residing in Anuradhapura for their 1992 born 5'4" fair pretty daughter an English Instructor in a Government University with Master Degree. She inherits substantial assets. Only brother is studying for his Masters. Please reply with horoscope, family details and contact number to: marrpro posal21@gmail.com OB160429

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son is sought by B/G government servant parents, originally from Colombo and now residing in Anuradhapura for their 1992 born 5'4" fair pretty daughter an English Instructor in a Government University with Master Degree. She inherits substantial assets. Only brother is studying for his Masters. Please reply with horoscope, family details and contact number to: marrpro posal21@gmail.com OB160429

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son is sought by B/G Buddhist parents for their daughter 1982 and 5'3" tall is studying for PHD in USA. Please send family details and copy of the horoscope to: pss3311@yahoo.com OB160608

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son is sought by B/G professional parents in Government Services from Colombo for their 1992 Nov, pretty daughter brought up with Buddhist values, holds BA (Hons) Degree in UK. University and professionally well accomplished daughter works as a Fashion Designer at a Company in Colombo. Only sister is a state university student. Reply with horoscope and family details. m arprop3@gmail.com OB160586

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son is sought by Buddhist G/D parents for their 5'5" tall, beautiful, 1991 Dec born, graduated and professionally well-accomplished eldest daughter working in a reputed private company. She is brought up with good family values. Reply with horoscope. Email: s19 91proposal@gmail.com OB160563

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered partner is sought by B/G parents for their daughter 1985 born 5'3" fair slim (younger looking) studied at Colombo Buddhist School, holding a Managerial Post in Singapore (citizen) BSc. owns an apartment, assets in Sri Lanka. sarath wim53@gmail.com OB160540

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Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son is sought by B/G Buddhist parents for their daughter 1982 and 5'3" tall is studying for PHD in USA. Please send family details and copy of the horoscope to: pss3311@yahoo.com OB160608

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Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son is sought by Buddhist G/D parents for their 5'5" tall, beautiful, 1991 Dec born, graduated and professionally well-accomplished eldest daughter working in a reputed private company. She is brought up with good family values. Reply with horoscope. Email: s19 91proposal@gmail.com OB160563

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered partner is sought by B/G parents for their daughter 1985 born 5'3" fair slim (younger looking) studied at Colombo Buddhist School, holding a Managerial Post in Singapore (citizen) BSc. owns an apartment, assets in Sri Lanka. sarath wim53@gmail.com OB160540

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son is sought by B/G government servant parents, originally from Colombo and now residing in Anuradhapura for their 1992 born 5'4" fair pretty daughter an English Instructor in a Government University with Master Degree. She inherits substantial assets. Only brother is studying for his Masters. Please reply with horoscope, family details and contact number to: marrpro posal21@gmail.com OB160429

Academically and professionally qualified, specially a degree holder who is an Engineer or an Executive in a reputed company, non-alcoholic, intelligent, kind, well-mannered, 5'7", age between 30 and 33, no sins in the horoscope and handsome son is sought by Buddhist Karawa parent for her daughter, 5', born in October 1994. Currently, completing the Diploma of Mathematics Teacher Education at a well-reputed International School in Nugegoda and working as a professional teacher in private tuition for secondary school children. Please respond with family details and horoscope. dha mmicaa@gmail.com OB160568

Academically and professionally qualified, well-mannered son with religious values is sought by Christian parents for their daughter born 1992 March, 5', fair, IT Graduate Teacher. Contact No. 035-2264286. OB160403

Academically and professionally qualified, well-mannered, caring, well-mannered, above 5'9", son is sought by B/G Battaramulla father for his only daughter, pretty lawyer 30, 5'6" at a blue chip. She is well qualified and inherits substantial assets over 90Mn. Please forward details of family, horoscope, FB profile to: mproposal361@gmail.com OB160408

Academically or professionally qualified handsome Buddhist cultured son below 31 yrs, from a good family background sought by Buddhist Karawa Govi affluent respectable parents living in Colombo suburbs for daughter 1996 Jan. born 5'6" tall pretty Int. Management degree holder following postgraduate Masters and employed in a Blue-chip Organization. She inherits assets. No intention of migrating. Non-malefic horoscope. Please send fully family details contact numbers in first letter. E-mail: marriagepro@gmail.com OB160290

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered partner is sought by B/G parents for their daughter 1985 born 5'3" fair slim (younger looking) studied at Colombo Buddhist School, holding a Managerial Post in Singapore (citizen) BSc. owns an apartment, assets in Sri Lanka. sarath wim53@gmail.com OB160540

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son is sought by B/G government servant parents, originally from Colombo and now residing in Anuradhapura for their 1992 born 5'4" fair pretty daughter an English Instructor in a Government University with Master Degree. She inherits substantial assets. Only brother is studying for his Masters. Please reply with horoscope, family details and contact number to: marrpro posal21@gmail.com OB160429

Academically and professionally qualified son is sought by BK parents for government employed daughter 1989 Sept. 5'3" holding BSc Engineering and PhD. Non malefic HC. Reply with family details, horoscope without Kuja Dosha, contact number: m19 89proposal@gmail.com OB160682

Academically / professionally qualified, teetotaler son sought by BG parents for daughter (37 years old-born 1983/8). She is currently working in the UK and prefers someone willing to settle in the UK. A non-malefic horoscope with no Kuja defeats. No divorcees or anyone over 38 years please. Kindly email FB link with details of the groom to: roposalgroom2021@gmail.com OB160508

Academically & professionally qualified, well employed & good mannered partner is sought by a Catholic mother for their only Convent educated, aged 31, height 5'8" fair & attractive daughter, employed in a leading private bank in Colombo as an Executive. Please reply with family details & contact no. email, ma trimo1956@gmail.com OB160316

Academically, professionally qualified well-employed non-smoking caring son (TT/NS) sought by G/B Kandyan parent residing in Colombo for their beautiful fair daughter 5'4" born in 1987 well-employed as a Senior Project Manager drawing a handsome salary. She holds MBA, BSc (IT) and many professional qualifications. Divorced from an unsuccessful short marriage (6 months) as an innocent party father Senior Banker (retired) mother retired teacher only brother Australian citizen. Please reply with family details and copy of horoscope to: tikirib @slnet.lk OB160280

Affluent Buddhist business parents looking for their daughter well established very fair pretty slim 5'3" 1978 Dec. born educated Colombo Girls School working as a Senior Manager in private company with six figure salary, assets lands house vehicle etc. 2578prop@gmail.com TP. 0115762030. OB160414

An educated well employed and well-mannered son is sought by Bodu Govi parents from Avissawella for their daughter born November, 1986, 5'2", fair, pretty and pleasant. She studied at Anula Vidyalyaya-Nugegoda and is working as a Manager for 10 years in a firm of chartered Accountants in Colombo owned by a member of our family and is sitting for the final level exam. She is the only child in the family and inherits our property (land and house). She will be provided with other assets including a land & house close to Colombo. Please reply to: rajaya9438@gmail.com Phone: 0112801530 after 8.00 p.m. OB160437

An educated well employed/businessman son from a respectable family is sought by Govi Buddhist mother from Colombo suburbs for her graduate, accomplished daughter working for a leading organization in Colombo. Born in 1982 smart, well-mannered and educated in a Colombo School. She owns a vehicle and property. Please reply with full family details, horoscope to: m proposal.ba@gmail.com OB160672

Aunt is looking for a suitable partner for 45 IT Graduate pretty, fair, young looking, well-mannered RC niece from a well connected family. Late marriage due to ill health of parents who are now deceased. Work as Freelancer in IT for foreign Companies with high income. Inherits house & other substantial assets. 0112646724 sp erdilak@yahoo.com OB160518

Australian citizen 1991, pretty, kind, academically qualified daughter, parents seek suitable life partner with same qualities. Please send details, abeysekare umithra@gmail.com OB160398

Australian resident Sinhalese Buddhist parents (G/K) seek an educated and professionally qualified son from a decent family for their daughter an Australian qualified Doctor (MD) currently employed in Australia. She is 30+ (1990/07), slim 5'3" in height, fair, pretty and bears an impeccable character with a simple life style. Interested parents please send their family details either in English or Sinhala along with a copy of the son's horoscope to: dinu prop10@gmail.com (emails replies only). OB160660

Avissawella 1988 B/G 5' a doctor is sought for the daughter who is an MBBS qualified doctor currently reading for a PG examination. 036-3133777. OB160303

A kind son from a respectable Buddhist Karawa or Govi family, born in or after 1987 and employed preferably as a Doctor, Engineer, Bank Executive or Accountant is sought for Buddhist Karawa Bank Executive graduate daughter. She is 28 years, 5'3", slim and pleasant. She owns a valuable residential property and other assets. Please reply with family details and a copy of son's horoscope. It is much appreciated if replies are sent by email to: p roptwentyone@gmail.com in order to avoid likely mail delays. OB160367

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A qualified well employed son sought by B/G respectable retired parents from Colombo suburbs for fair, 1981/08, 5'5", well mannered, IT professional elder daughter well employed, owns assets. Divorced as innocent party without kids. 0112912105. mproposals552@gmail.com OB160311

A suitable partner is sought by Burgher Catholic/Sinhala Buddhist parents in Western Province for their fair pleasant educated daughter born in 1982 5'6" in height educated in a leading Catholic school in Colombo. Divorced, has a 10 years old daughter. Please reply with full details. Email: rolianta114@gmail.com OB160561

A suitable partner sought by a B/G family for their Software Engineer daughter born on 1985 5'6" slim, fair, pretty, well mannered daughter with assets. Pls reply with family details, horoscope & contact details. proposals.dds@gmail.com OB160580

B/G mother from Gampaha suburbs seeks to introduce a suitable partner with a similar background to her daughter 32 years, 5'2" tall, very fair and pleasant holding BSc and MSc degrees and working in a reputed company as an Assistant Manager, educated from a prestigious University, will inherit substantial assets, must be professionally qualified with excellent character, non smoker almost social drinker only, foreign proposals considered and willing to migrate. Religion immaterial. T.P. 033-2273006. email: kumariduanjalee@outlook.com OB160306

BG/Buddhist parents, both are qualified professionals living in Maharagama, seek a suitable son for their daughter, 23 years old, 5'4", Software Engineering Graduate working permanently in an International IT Company in Colombo. Please e-mail the reply with the horoscope copy to kproposals98@gmail.com OB160270

BG/K parents seek an academically qualified well-mannered partner below 31 years for their professionally qualified daughter born in 1993 July, 5'2" height, slim and pretty looking. She is currently working as an Accountant in Australia. Please reply with family details and horoscope. propoalsdaughter107@gmail.com OB160361

BK son is sought by Engineer father for daughter holding MBBS degree working at a government hospital. 1992 Nov. 5'. Reply with family details, horoscope, contact number. mpr01989sep@gmail.com OB160683

Bodu Durawa educated parents having residences in Colombo and suburbs seek educated professionally qualified son for good looking only daughter (28, 5'4", BSc. MSc. Eng.) employed abroad, now in Sri Lanka. Reply with horoscope, full details in first letter. nanayak975@gmail.com OB160527

Bodu Govi Kandyan parents living in Colombo seek an academically professionally qualified partner and living in Sri Lanka with a similar background (Kandyan) for their only daughter who is 29 and 5'6", qualified in L.L.B. and working as a Senior Lawyer in a reputed Multinational Company. Please reply with family details and horoscope to thirang@icloud.com OB160406

Bodu Govi mother seeks a professional or an established businessman from Colombo or suburbs, for her younger daughter 34 yrs. fair pretty 5'9" tall having a degree in Business Management from a University in London UK owning property worth Rs. 800.0 M in Colombo 7 & 8. She has her own business, partner should live in Colombo after marriage. Email: propoal046@gmail.com OB160299

Bodu Govi professional parents from Colombo suburbs seek a well-mannered qualified kind-hearted son for a stable relationship leading to marriage for their daughter 24, 5'4" slim fair. Presently continuing her Civil Engineering Final years in Sri Lanka due to Covid issue Please respond with family details and horoscope. anb608@gmail.com 0112890994. OB160287

Bodu Govi/Salagama parents living in Colombo suburbs looking for an educated son with good character for their attractive smart daughter born in 1984 December height 5'4", studied in a leading Buddhist Girls School in Colombo, MBBS Doctor (foreign). Currenrtly working in a Government Hospital. She inherits assets including upstairs house in Colombo suburbs. Valuable land and properties. Please reply with horoscope and family details. Email: proposalsma114@gmail.com OB160449

Bodu/Govi parents seek professionally & academically qualified partner for fair, 5'3", graduate (BSc & MSc) daughter, born in 1988 Sep, employed in well-reputed company near Colombo as a Senior Executive. Kindly reply with family details and horoscope to: amproposal2020@gmail.com OB160641

Bodu/Govi parents seek professionally & academically qualified partner for fair, 5'3", graduate (BSc & MSc) daughter, born in 1988 (Sep), employed in well-reputed company near Colombo as a Senior Executive. Kindly reply with family details and horoscope to: amproposal2020@gmail.com OB160676

Bodu, Govi, Colombo, very respectable family, professional parents, seek an educated son of similar family background, for their B.Eng. (Hons), qualified, Engineer daughter, slim, pretty, kind-hearted, well-mannered, with excellent character, 5'3, 1990, currently working in an international firm in Colombo. She has received, MSc with research from a state university. She will inherit a modern upstairs house in Colombo, luxury vehicle, savings etc. Please send your family details with a copy of horoscope. Email: mapropnew@gmail.com OB160345

Born 1995/12, 5'3", Musaeus educated Bodu fair, pretty daughter currently reading for PhD in Australia. Leading business parents in Sri Lanka seek a son studying or qualified residing in Australia for relationship leading to marriage. Reply with horoscope. Caste immaterial. m acnalini@gmail.com OB160705

Born 1996, Southern Buddhist, Durawa, Matara reputed business family, daughter residing in Colombo, completed her Degree and preparing for MBA, employed executive grade in private sector, Rahu 1, Shani Kethu 7 Kuja 12. mca gaha455@gmail.com OB160430

Buddhist brother is looking for an academically and professionally qualified and well mannered partner for his accomplished sister 1979 Dec, 5'5", IT Graduate (Australia & Sri Lanka) MBA (PIM) working as a Software Engineer team lead in a well-reputed national company. Please reply with details and copy of horoscope only to the email address below (as the first contact) as I live overseas. Email: proposal21@yahoo.com OB160534

Buddhist Govi educated parents Government pensioners owning reputed company in main town in Western Province seek respectable well mannered educated son of same caste employed or businessman for their genuinely pretty fair daughter aged 30+ height 5'5" served as a Computer Engineer in well established firm, left the job and working as a Director in own company possessing considerable assets. Send details in first letter with horoscope or email to weddingproposal707@gmail.com OB160593

Buddhist, professional parents in Colombo seek professionally qualified well-mannered and handsome son to build a relationship leading to marriage for their 26 year old daughter. She has completed her studies in a leading girls' School in Colombo and graduated from BSc. and Master of Information Systems Degree in Melbourne. She is currently working casually on a work visa in Melbourne. Please reply with a copy of the horoscope along with family details. Email: prop.18d@gmail.com OB160252

B/G Colombo suburb parents seek an academically qualified kind, loving and open-minded son for their daughter only child born 5/96, 5'3", pretty, smart, commendable and impeccable character. Presently reading for her Masters Degree and well-employed with the foreign exposure in the hospitality sector in a Managerial Capacity. Prefer those who are willing to migrate. Inherits substantial assets. Reply full family details with horoscope. mgproposals96@gmail.com OB160434

B/G parents living in Australia seek an MBBS Doctor from Australia for daughter MBBS Doctor working in Australia born 1993, 5'6". Reply with family details. Email: anooshades@yahoo.com.au OB160639

B/G parents of a respectable family in Colombo suburbs seek a professionally qualified well-mannered son (preferably living in Australia) for their daughter 1994 July 5'2", pretty & fair. She had acquired Master's in Accounting & Finance from a leading Australian university and is currently residing in Australia. Please reply with family details & FB link & copy of horoscope to; proposal2020ks@gmail.com OB160690

B/G professional parents living in New Zealand, seek a professionally and academically qualified, handsome son for their 26 years old, 5'4", pretty, academically qualified Scientist (PhD) daughter. Please reply with family details, horoscope of the proposed son to: nzprop2020@gmail.com OB160566

B/G respectable wealthy business parents from Colombo suburbs seek a son who is kind hearted, NS/TT, well established professionally qualified or businessman from a respectable family for their very pretty daughter age 26, 5'1", slim, fair, kind hearted and moral charactered. Holds a degree from a prestigious university. Inherits valuable assets. Email: proposal121@yahoo.com OB160620

B/K parents from Colombo seek a suitable employed, NS/TT, tall handsome son, for their only daughter 5'5" born in 1990. She studied at Musaeus College Colombo & holds an MSc. in CS. Presently working as a Software Engineer in a reputed Company. Engineers (SW / Electrical / Electronics / Civil) preferred. Caste immaterial. Reply with a horoscope to : propoalemail1990@gmail.com OB160410

B/Vishwakula parents seek educated partner for daughter age 22, good dowry, caste immaterial. Reply with horoscope. OB160624

Catholic mother seeks a professionally qualified, English speaking groom who is well-mannered, mature and independent, kind-hearted for their pretty slim medium complexion well-mannered kind-hearted soft-spoken daughter (28 years). Height 5'3". She is an Executive in one of the leading companies in Sri Lanka, completed Masters and who studied in a leading Catholic Convent in Colombo. Please send all personal details and contact Telephone No. of the bridegroom in first response. Email: proposal2021165@gmail.com OB160693

Catholic professionally qualified mixed parents seek a professionally qualified TT/NS caring partner for an attractive and professionally qualified only daughter 28 years 5' inherits substantial assets including house and car. Currently employed in a well reputed company. Pls respond with details including phone, email to: djanvaratnam@gmail.com OB160571

Catholic Sinhala parents seek son for their pretty daughter born 1993, height 5'4" holding a degree (first class), MBA, CIM. She inherits valuable assets. Email: wapr02022@gmail.com OB160559

Catholic Sinhalese parents seek a suitable partner for their slim, fair, pretty and 5'7" tall daughter born in December 1993. Studied at a leading Catholic Convent in Colombo, holding a BSc. Degree from Jayawardenapura University, CIMA Finalist and completed MSc. at a British Affiliated Campus in Colombo. Attached to a leading Company in Colombo. Inherits a substantial amount of cash, jewellery and 18P land. A partner with 5'10" and above is preferred. Write in detail to Mproposals1957@gmail.com OB160264

Catholic wealthy parents from Chilaw area seek professionally qualified son below 36 years from a respectable Catholic family living in Sri Lanka for their professionally qualified daughter studied at St. Bridget's Colombo, 33 years. Height 5'5". Reply with family details, address and contact number. rjbm60@gmail.com OB160522

Christian parents seek a devoted Christian partner who is a non-smoker and teetotaler for our fair and pretty, 5'2", 1993 born daughter. Educated in Hillwood College, Kandy and has a BSc (Hons) Degree in Agricultural Technology and Management from University of Peradeniya. Currently employed at the University of Peradeniya as a Demonstrator and planning to do a PhD in Australia. Email: propose8536@gmail.com OB160590

Christian parents seek a devoted Christian partner who is a non-smoker and teetotaler for our fair and pretty, 5'2", 1993 born daughter. Educated in Hillwood College, Kandy and has a BSc (Hons) degree in Agriculture Technology and Management from university of Peradeniya. Currently employed at the university of Peradeniya as a Demonstrator and planning to do a PhD in Australia. E-mail: propose8536@gmail.com OB160693

Christian Sinhalese parents residing in close proximity to Colombo suburbs, seek for their MBA graduated, pleasant, fair & well employed only daughter born in 1989 height 5'3", an educated & equally employed partner. Separated after brief marriage with no kids and the innocent party. Reply with details (preferably below 37 years) and contact information to lakshi244@gmail.com OB160249

Colombo Bodu Govi parents seek a suitable son living in Sri Lanka or abroad for their pretty daughter born in 1996, 5'1" tall Chemistry graduate who is currently working as an executive in a leading private company. She owns substantial assets, respond with family details, copy of horoscope, and contact details. email - dproposals1963@gmail.com OB160510

Colombo Buddhist respectable Dewa parents seek a son, non-smoker, teetotaler for their daughter 37, Attorney-at-Law, LLB studied in leading school. 5', fair, slim and pretty. Kuja in 12th house. Caste immaterial. Reply with family details and horoscope. OB160360

Colombo B/G parents seek a smart professionally qualified partner for daughter studied and worked in the UK born 1985, 5'4" smart and attractive currently in Sri Lanka. Reply to proposalmag@yahoo.com 0112077558, 0761663723. OB160351

Colombo B/G respectable parents seek for their accomplished pretty MBBS qualified Doctor daughter born 1988, a suitable partner. She is working at the NHSL Colombo. Reply with horoscope. OB160395

Colombo suburb Buddhist Govi/Karawa 5'3" 1991 slim tan daughter MBBS Doctor with reasonable assets seeks an academically and professionally qualified son. Reply with horoscope and family details to: 91mpropos@gmail.com OB160573

Colombo suburb Govi / Bodu educated parents seek an academically & professionally qualified partner for their daughter who is MBBS doctor educated leading girls' school Colombo 89/ Dec. 5'2" height pretty and smart. Write with full details with horoscope (Caste not material). email. cr uba58@gmail.com Phone: 0112652533. OB160295

Colombo, Sinhala Christian parents seek academically, professionally qualified, well employed son for daughter 34 y., 5'4" Lawyer cum State University Lecturer. ranjiper.17@gmail.com OB160405

Educated son sought by mother for Kandyan G/B 1990 January, 4'10" tall fair daughter, graduate, employed in private sector Colombo. Inherits assets. Please contact with horoscope email: proposalslm125@gmail.com OB160240

Entrepreneurial family with businesses in US and Sri Lanka, based in NJ, USA, seeks a suitable professionally qualified well-mannered son for their 25 year daughter. She is 5'6" tall, slim, attractive, MBA final semester, work for an IT firm in NJ as an Executive earning 6 figure salary, son must be currently living, studying or working in US or Canada. Please email with details to E-Mail : Wijepeter@gmail.com OB160277

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 good family. Must be willing to work & live in North Queensland of Australia. Must be handsome & have means. B2021022107

Gampaha Buddhist Deva retired parents seek suitable partner for their daughter born in 1980 October, 5'2" fair pretty, slim, holding BSc., MSc. (Computing), reading for higher studies. Currently working at Colombo suburbs Government University in permanent academic service, inherits assets. Sister Doctor. Married to Doctor. Engineer, Doctor or Executive level professionals preferred. 7 Rahu. OB160400

Gampaha, Buddhist Govi, 37 years, height 5'3", obtained Hons. Degree from Kelaniya University and post-graduate degree from Australian University, presently following for PhD Degree in Australian University, daughter, legally separated from short lived marriage. She owns two storeyed house, motor car and other assets. Parents seek well employed son, specially doctor, Engineer. Reply with horoscope. OB160304

G/B affluent established business parents seek a suitable son for their only daughter educated, pretty accomplished, qualified interior designer, height 5'11", born in 1987. Email: nilmini.k1961@gmail.com OB160665

G/B parents from South residing in Colombo suburb seek an educated graduate son for daughter 5' 1987 June graduate English Teacher, father Specialist Doctor Rahu 1 Kethu 7. propoalgle@gmail.com OB160549

Gampaha, Sinhala Bodu Govi professional parents seek a qualified, kind and caring partner for their only daughter, born in August 1993, 5'2", very slim, very fair, pleasant and nice looking, English graduate, holding a permanent graduate employment in a semi-government institution in Colombo. Inherits assets. Only general compatibility of horoscope expected. Mutual understanding is more respected. (If interested in horoscope compatibility 2.8.1993 at 16.05 hrs.) Please reply with all relevant details and telephone number. E-mail: crana6153@gmail.com OB160699

GB parents seek a well-mannered N/S suitable professionally qualified partner for their daughter born in 1987 pretty 5'4" educated at a leading school in Colombo with and LLB and LLM and practicing Legal Counsel in Colombo. Reply with family details and H.cope. anuradh iwelikal@gmail.com OB160308

G/B, Maharagama 1990/4 5'5" professionally qualified (BSc, PhD) doing a government job fair, daughter's family seeks good mannered educated, employed son. OB160610

I am 42 yrs old Buddhist, divorced with a grown up son who is looking for a family man. I am well-mannered, good looking and simple. Looking for a decent groom with similar qualities who can respect family values and be supportive, between the ages of 45-55 yrs. Communication is a must to build a relationship. Please respond with genuine details with contact number: +61424578399 Email: proposalaustralia123@gmail.com OB160588

Kalutara District retired teacher mother seeks suitable partner for Sinhala Buddhist Karawa daughter born 1982 Spinster 5'11" height fair medium built well experienced in house keeping with embroidery and handicrafts engaged in tailoring business. Horoscopes with no malefics preferred. Send details, telephone No. and horoscope copy. propoals3500@gmail.com OB160565

Kalutara District retired teacher mother seeks suitable partner for Sinhala Buddhist Karawa daughter born 1982 Spinster 5'11" height fair medium built well experienced in house keeping with embroidery and handicrafts engaged in tailoring business. Horoscopes with no malefics preferred. Send details, telephone No. and horoscope copy. propoals3500@gmail.com OB160565

Kalutara District retired teacher mother seeks suitable partner for Sinhala Buddhist Karawa daughter born 1982 Spinster 5'11" height fair medium built well experienced in house keeping with embroidery and handicrafts engaged in tailoring business. Horoscopes with no malefics preferred. Send details, telephone No. and horoscope copy. propoals3500@gmail.com OB160565

G/B parents invite a suitable academically and professionally qualified partner for their daughter 5' born in 1993, a Civil Engineer. Australia NZ/ Canada residents are welcome. Please email details and horoscope copy to: pronyw93@gmail.com OB160435

G/B parents seek a groom from a respectable family for their educated daughter age 34, 5'3" height for complexion legally and no encumbrances. Reply with horoscopes to proposalsdafa@gmail.com OB160544

G/B parents seek a groom from a respectable family for their educated daughter age 34, 5'3" height fair complexioned legally and no encumbrances. Reply with horoscope to: proposalsdafa@gmail.com OB160436

G/B, Maharagama 1990/4 5'5" professionally qualified (BSc, PhD) doing a government job fair, daughter's family seeks good mannered educated, employed son. OB160610

I am 42 yrs old Buddhist, divorced with a grown up son who is looking for a family man. I am well-mannered, good looking and simple. Looking for a decent groom with similar qualities who can respect family values and be supportive, between the ages of 45-55 yrs. Communication is a must to build a relationship. Please respond with genuine details with contact number: +61424578399 Email: proposalaustralia123@gmail.com OB160588

Kalutara District retired teacher mother seeks suitable partner for Sinhala Buddhist Karawa daughter born 1982 Spinster 5'11" height fair medium built well experienced in house keeping with embroidery and handicrafts engaged in tailoring business. Horoscopes with no malefics preferred. Send details, telephone No. and horoscope copy. propoals3500@gmail.com OB160565

Kalutara District retired teacher mother seeks suitable partner for Sinhala Buddhist Karawa daughter born 1982 Spinster 5'11" height fair medium built well experienced in house keeping with embroidery and handicrafts engaged in tailoring business. Horoscopes with no malefics preferred. Send details, telephone No. and horoscope copy. propoals3500@gmail.com OB160565

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BRIDE
 Govi Buddhist Parents from Nawala, father Managing Director of a leading manufacturing company are seeking a suitable son, for their second daughter born in May 1991. Proposed daughter is also a director of the company. Responses from horoscopes compatible with our daughter's zodiac sign Taurus. Ravi 1 Kethu 2 Raahu 8th appreciated.
 O 160246,
 C/O Sunday Observer - Lake House, Colombo 10.

BRIDE
 1992 Oct. born, well reputed, established business family in Colombo. Very pretty, 5'7" tall, kind hearted, studied in leading girls' school in Colombo, holds LLB (Hons), CIMA, MBA, Attorney at Law. She is currently working as a directress in the well-established family business. She is a well-mannered daughter brought up with Sinhala values.
 Mother (Govi, Buddhist) / Father (Karawe, Catholic)
 Proposed son (we expect)
 Academically qualified, very smart, tall (min 5'9") kind, caring, well-mannered son from affluent, well respectable family for marriage (age 28-35yrs)
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 C/O Sunday Observer - Lake House, Colombo 10.

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Loving, honest, kind, well established, caring gentleman over 42 from a similar background is sought by a foreign educated at a prestigious University professional from an affluent well connected G/B family, very fair, beautiful, charismatic, looking and behaving very young, bubbly, kind, enjoys socializing travelling, interested in charity work and Buddhism, divorcees and widowers considered, self replies encouraged. No time wasters. chu.ladhnko36@gmail.com OB160484

Moor parents from Colombo looking for a good natured, practicing Muslim groom, who is academically and professionally qualified, who is either based in Singapore or is open to relocating there (if the latter preferably working in the IT/field) or from the US and Australia, below 35 years for our daughter 30 years very fair and pretty 5'2" and teaching at a leading university in Singapore. Please reply with full details to: fraihazel@gmail.com OB160654

Moor parents from Colombo seek a suitable partner for their English speaking 32 years old daughter presently working as a Teacher in a reputed International School in Colombo. Preferred an English speaking groom below 36 years. Please apply to: farook0711@gmail.com OB160464

Moor parents from Uva Province seeking for 30 year Science Graduate slim pretty religious outgoing family oriented daughter a suitable well educated groom from a respectable moor family. Reply: mnmohn@gmail.com OB160635

Moor well connected Sri Lankan parents living in Australia are looking for a well qualified Muslim partner (preference to Muslims settled overseas) for their Civil Engineer daughter. She holds BSc. (Civil Engineering) and BSc. (Commerce) from one of the Top Universities in Australia. She is employed at a leading Engineering Company in Australia. She is beautiful, kind and well mannered, 5'2" tall and born in 1994. Please email with full details and contact Phone Number to: M.oorbride@outlook.com OB160266

Moratuwa Catholic 32 years 5ft fair and pretty. She has a hearing loss but communicates with others with the help of hearing aids and lip reading. She makes cakes and likes cooking and able to make handcraft. Only brother is married and lives in New Zealand. Retired parents are seeking a partner below 40 years who has a steady income. Please give calls after 3 p.m. on weekdays and Saturdays, Sundays available. TP: 0112655279. Email: cadcrjs@hotmail.com OB160631

Muslim parents looking for a groom who is a Practicing Muslim and professionally educated for their daughter who is 24 years old, 5ft height and obtained her Bachelor's Degree. Preferably a groom looking to settle or settled overseas. Contact details: moorbri.de2020@gmail.com OB160569

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 OB160268

Professionally qualified good looking Hindu partner age below 34 years is sought by Hindu mother (Indian Tamil) for her only daughter who is a Doctor. She is 27 years 5'3" in height pretty, smart & friendly personality is attached to a Government Teaching Hospital in Sri Lanka. Please respond with full details to: gwr.chella@gmail.com OB160662

Professionally & academically qualified/well settled suitable son is sought for Catholic, educated, working daughter. 5'4", 1984. Interested Catholic and from mainline Churches. Please reply to: propom2021@gmail.com OB160680

Professionally, academically qualified partner sought for their only daughter K/G parents Panadura 29 years, 5'2" presently employed Assistant Manager in bank. Completed IT Degree, MBA, inherits substantial assets. Reply with family details and horoscope. k.rishnajina.rodriago@gmail.com OB160388

Professional B/G parents of Colombo suburbs, seek academically qualified, well mannered son for their daughter, a MBBS doctor born in 1990. Reply with family details and horoscope please. Email: c.apa369pro@gmail.com OB160542

Respectable Buddhist Deva caste parents seek a fair, tall, pleasant educated son, for their younger daughter, born in 1986, fair, pretty, Medical Officer, in a leading Govt. Hospital seeks a partner who is a good Buddhist from a respectable Buddhist family. Caste immaterial. She is 5ft2 inch height, seeks a partner around 5'7". Please reply with birth details, place, time, country preferred Sri Lanka contact Nos also Email: sirima3000@gmail.com OB160545

Respectable G/B parents seek a suitable partner for their 5'3", slim, pretty daughter. She is Business Management and IT graduate and has completed her MBA in Business Administration. She is presently working as an Executive for a reputed company in Colombo. She is 31 yrs. old (1989 April). She is legally separated from an incompatible marriage, no children or any bonds. She has Rahu on the 7th house. Interested parties, please reply with horoscope and family details. proposal2020s@gmail.com / 011 2884191. OB160350

Roman Catholic mixed (S/T) parents seek an academically & professionally qualified religious son below 36 from a respectable family for their pleasant, 88 born 5'7" in height & tan in complexion medical professional daughter. She studied in a leading Convent in Sinhala & English streams and currently works as a Lecturer in a private medical college. Please reply with full family details to: bslj29@gmail.com OB160402

Roman Catholic, mixed (T/S) parents seek a respectable, professionally qualified and a caring son for their daughter. She is a Graduate, currently teaching in a private Girls' School in Colombo and reading for her Masters. Born in December 1991, 5'2" in height and tan in complexion. Educated in a Convent in Sinhala and English streams. Kindly reply with family details to proposal0303@gmail.com OB160401

Salagama Buddhist retired parents, mother Dental Surgeon, father mercantile executive seek suitable partner below 45 years, for their second daughter, sister married and lives in Western Australia. No brothers, born in May 1986, 5'2", medium complexion attractive, employed as a mercantile executive with BA, MBA and ACMA of CIMA UK. Willing to relocate if demands. Please response with full details. bimbicha@yahoo.com OB160310

Sinhala Buddhist parents in Colombo seek an educated, good looking, honest and open-minded partner for their beautiful and well-educated daughter of 27 years. She is a graduate in Economics from Durham University in UK and currently working at a leading International Bank in Sri Lanka, while reading for her MBA. Please reply with family and contact details to: rajnjwann@gmail.com OB160611

Sinhala Buddhist retired parents seek partner for 1987 born Colombo educated BSc, 5'4" fair slim pretty youngest daughter Executive (Permanent) in very famous well established leading organization Colombo drawing six figure salary plus range of fridge benefits. Inherits land and assets can stay in main house. Caste immaterial. But Govi/Karawa priority. Email: marriage.prop145@gmail.com OB160447

Sinhala Catholic Gogivama respectable parents from Gampaha District seek qualified employed partner with sober habits for their Convent educated holding a leading Diploma and other qualifications, fair, slim, religious, height 4'10", born in 1983/01 with a substantial dowry. Email: smt6578@gmail.com OB160513

Sinhala Govi Buddhist family seeks an academically qualified, professionally established and a really good looking son for their only daughter (1991 born), who is extremely pretty, slim and fair and also well educated and professionally well settled. Please write with family details along with a photograph / FB link of your son and a copy of the horoscope. 0112761484. OB160486

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 OB159805

Sinhala Govi Roman Catholic business parents from Kadawatha Gampaha seek a qualified and caring son for their daughter she is 21 years, 5'3" currently reading for her Bachelor's Degree in Business Management, she had her Primary and Secondary Education at a leading Catholic School in Colombo, she is the youngest in the family, her elder brother is a Civil Engineer. Her elder sister is a Management Graduate married to a Specialist Engineer and well settled down in Australia. She inherits substantial assets over 600 million similar family backgrounds will only be considered. T.P. 011-2901932, Email - proposal.kadawatha@gmail.com OB160526

Southern, Matara town, respectable BG, 1995, 5'3", honours degree in Business Management from NSBM, new graduate Government trainee, pleasant personality, owns new upstairs house, lands, valuable assets, only child of a family, Government retired parents seek same caste, graduate, below 30 years, teetotaler, well mannered, well employed son, only compatible with Kuja 01, Shani 07. Reply with family details and horoscope copy, Southern Province preferred. OB160307

S/B parents from Colombo suburbs seek professionally qualified, kind hearted son with sober habits for their daughter 34 yrs. 5'3", slim, fair & pretty. LLB (UK) qualified Attorney-at-Law working in a bank as a Legal Officer. She owns valued substantial assets. Difficulties immaterial. Willing to migrate, if needed. 011-2736955. prop86sh@gmail.com OB160532

Udarata Bodu Govi parents seek an academically & professionally qualified well employed NS/TT well mannered handsome son for their pretty well mannered charming daughter (born in 1994) who is a BSc Graduate (1st class) CIMA qualified & currently employed (as an Executive) in a leading private sector organization in Colombo. Please reply with family details & horoscope. (vima.n963@gmail.com). OB160582

Well mannered and educated son is sought by B/S/G parents for their well characterized, slim, fair, pretty, Senior Lecturer (BSc, MSc, PhD) daughter 1980. Valuable assets available. Email: maproposals2020@gmail.com OB160643

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: proposal022021@gmail.com OB159386

Western Govi Buddhist retired parents seek handsome well mannered well employed son of similar educated background for their pretty MBBS Doctor (senior Registrar, Acting Consultant) daughter 1984 Dec. 5'1" legally separated from incompatible short marriage. 025-2234698. abaya.wardhana5@gmail.com OB160634

We are B/G Buddhist parents seeking a partner for our 28 year old daughter. She is well accomplished, pretty, slim, friendly, and enjoys staying fit. She is degree qualified living in London, UK and currently working as a trainee solicitor employed in a respectable firm. Ideally, we are looking for a kind-hearted and professionally qualified son who lives in the UK or abroad. Should be under the age of 35. We are looking for a partner with a horoscope that matches our daughter (Kuja 1). Please email: kith.siricmg@gmail.com OB160455

1989 December born daughter, slim, 5'2", pleasant, BSc., MBA Software Engineer employed as Consultant at reputed International Company Colombo owns new car and substantial assets. Colombo resident Buddhist Salagama Senior Executive retired father and Graduate Teacher mother seeks suitable son. OB160519

1991 born, respectable Kandyan Radala Sinhala Buddhist fair, educated, 5'3" virtuous only child and inherits valuable assets, currently employed as a Lecturer in a state university and expecting to continue with her PhD. Studies. Mother seeking a decent and educated son (preferably from the same caste). Reply with family details and horoscope. kgee.thika43@gmail.com OB160381

1994, Buddhist, Govi, height 5'5", pretty, characterized daughter, Doctor parents seek educated partner. Horoscope copy required Kuja 01. OB160473

40, 5'2" Colombo Executive fair daughter seeking well mannered son. Reply with full details and horoscope. Assets 35 M. p.ropda2015@gmail.com OB160385

56 years Govt, Pensioner (legally separated after a short marriage) seeking a well educated bridegroom (widower or divorcee) between 56 - 60 years with a daughter. Should have an independent house, have a considerable knowledge in English. Please provide true information, also willing to migrate. 033-2223381. OB160305



A well-mannered, educated & pleasant, working or non-working, Sinhala Buddhist girl with a good character, is sought by well-connected respectable Sinhala Govi Buddhist parents for the eldest son. He is presently managing the family Business Companies, 46 years, 5'9" tall, educated at a leading school in Colombo, and will inherit valuable assets. He is a non-smoker & teetotaler with excellent character and managerial skills and no family encumbrances. Reply in English or Sinhala with full family details and a copy of horoscope and contact Telephone Numbers, in the very first letter. Email: mpgro.om@gmail.com All information treated strictly private & non-residential. OG160230

Able well established professional 46Y young looking, divorced with one son, invites an independent lady for a marriage, write yourself, with children also welcome. mith.ila12d@gmail.com OG160504

About our son born in 1992, height 5'9" academically professionally qualified, NS/TT, never married, working as an IT Professional for 5 years, Bodu Govi Buddhist parents from Colombo suburbs looking for a fair, pretty, kind, hearted doctor daughter. Family status, wealth, caste, religion immaterial. OG160377

Absolutely pretty fair slim educated daughter sought by S/B/G parents for their handsome only son cricketer 1979, 5'11" Hons graduate AU Swinburne, UK Birmingham Universities, Architectural design company, studied leading Christian school Colombo owns assets luxury houses, differences immaterial. ratnapura_42@yahoo.com OG160472

Academically and professionally qualified daughter is sought by Sinhala Govi Catholic parents living in the UK for our 24 year old son 5'9", fair and amicable person. He is working as an IT Consultant. We are looking for a daughter living in the UK. Please send your daughter details to: ukprop88@gmail.com OG160538

Academically and professionally qualified, well-mannered, pretty, slim daughter age between 23-27 is sought from Western Province by BGS respectable parents in Nugegoda for, handsome NS/TT only son 1992 March, 5'6", MBBS Intern. Educated at a Colombo leading Buddhist School. Please reply only compatible Rahu 7, Shani/Kuja 8 horoscope to email: p.rop99662@gmail.com with family details and contact numbers. OG160600

Academically professionally qualified slim, fair daughter is sought by Buddhist/Karawe parents for their educated son who is 29 yrs. 5'7" in height. He was a recipient of a full scholarship and received his B.Eng, M.Eng at a leading university in Japan. He is currently working as an Emerging Technology Consultant in a reputed International Consulting Firm in Tokyo. He is also open to migrate to another country. (Kuja 7) Please send family details with horoscope. dilanka9129@gmail.com OG160525

Academically professionally qualified well-mannered daughter is sought by Buddhist parents residing in Colombo for their son 5'8" (Engineer), 31 - he completed his studies in the UK and currently residing (PR) and working in Canada as a Senior Consultant for a US based engineering consultancy firm. Reply with full family details and horoscope. p3proposal@gmail.com OG160356

Academically qualified pretty daughter (below 27) is sought by B/G parents for handsome, Graduate son, a Civil Engineer, 5'9", 29 years, lives in Gampaha District. Reply to - proposal99204@yahoo.com OG160529

Academically qualified pretty fair well mannered daughter is sought by respectable Bodu Govi parents from up country for their son born 1991/12, 5'11" tall, very handsome, NS/TT kind hearted, graduated from a State University, currently working as an Electrical Engineer in a reputed company, only sister is an Engineer. He owns substantial assets. Kandy preferred. proposal681@gmail.com OG160317

An educated pretty daughter above 5'4" Govi Buddhist who values Sri Lankan Buddhist culture is sought by parents for their 5'7" 1982 born NS/TT son who holds UK-Sri Lanka dual citizenships. He is financially well established and works in managerial position at an International Company in London. He is interested in sport and travelling. Please reply with family details to: kandyang88@gmail.com OG160418

An educated pretty & well-mannered daughter is sought by respectable affluent Udarata B/G mother for handsome & educated son (ACMA, CGMA, CIMA (UK), CPA Australia, BBA (Hons) & Reading for Masters. Born in 1989, November, 5'9" height. Working as a Management Accountant for a reputed company in Colombo, from Kurunegala. Please respond with details to: mgprop1989lanka@gmail.com OG160550

An educated well mannered daughter is sought by retired Bodu Govi mother for her Bodu Govi Durawe son with assets born in 1980 5'8" in height NS/TT BSc. (Engineering) MBA (UK) CEO of an International Engineering Consultancy Company. Unemployed similarly educated also considered. OG160598

Australian resident Sinhalese Buddhist parents (G/K) seek a well educated, kind-hearted and a characterized pretty daughter from a decent family for their son, an Australian qualified Civil Engineer employed as an Engineer in Australia. He will turn 26 in April (1995/04), medium built, fair, handsome, 5'6", NS/TT, decent character and with an easy going personality Interested parents please send their family details either in English or Sinhala along with a copy of the daughter's horoscope to: chinprop05@gmail.com (email replies only) OG160656

Australia live in Melbourne mother from Colombo respectable family Sinhala Buddhist Gogivama father North Indian Hindu Shakstriya looking for a pretty intelligent daughter to get to know for the their youngest son 26 years old 5'6" height handsome working full time Please reply with horoscope ravila.khema@outlook.com OG160300

A business family in Colombo district seeks well mannered daughter for K/B kind son with sober habits, 32 years, 5'6", MSc qualified Software Engineer with valuable properties, cars, etc. Reply with family details & horoscope. 011 2647118. p.riyanathfern@gmail.com OG160701

A European resident, up country, Bodu Govi, Business family, only son in the family, 35 years old, 5'8" height, handsome and having business in Europe is looking for a suitable bride, who is slim and tall, English speaking, educated and willing to relocate. E-mail: swenska.m@gmail.com OG160697

A pretty and educated daughter from a respectable family is sought by Roman Catholic parents from Colombo suburbs for their son, thirty four, qualified and gainfully employed in a leading corporate. He is financially stable to lead a comfortable marriage life! Please respond with details. Email: mprp998@gmail.com OG160391

A Sinhala B/G mother from Gampaha seeks a pleasant and kind daughter for her son born in 1985, 5'6" educated at Buddhist School in Colombo and graduated from a foreign university. He is carrying on his own business and owns a factory and property in Colombo suburbs. He is divorced from a unsuccessful short term marriage. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Email: proposal846@gmail.com OG160547

A simple, well mannered, kind-hearted, loving daughter is sought by Buddhist Govi parents living in Canada, for their 5'7", handsome, 27 years old well brought up son. He holds an Engineering Degree from a reputed Canadian University and working as a Software Engineer for a leading global tech company. We are looking for an academically qualified daughter preferably living in Canada or USA, or willing to migrate to Canada. Please reply with family details to: mp.rop5727@gmail.com OG160259

A warm, lively, attractive, educated, daughter sought by well connected parents for handsome son, B/G, 5'11", 37+ possessing assets. She is a Manager of a leading Company, divorced prior to the wedding function. Wurshika, Rahu-7, Siyawasa. Reply with all details including horoscope. Caste immaterial. A divorcee without children could be considered. meththa1983@yahoo.com OG160520

A well-mannered, educated and pleasant 5'5" or higher Sinhala Buddhist or Catholic girl with a good behavior is sought by Sinhala Buddhist parents for the son residing in the USA academically and professionally qualified 26 yrs, 6'3" reading for Master's in Network and Cyber Security. Currently employed as an IT Specialist in a reputed company. Please contact: +1610-245-7481 (WhatsApp/Viber) sam921e@gmail.com OG160646

Bodu Govi retired parents from Southern Province seek an educated, fair, pretty daughter for their son born in 1983, 5'7" tall, NS/TT qualified with BSc, MSc (UK) and employed in Singapore as a Software Engineer. First marriage legally divorced in few months. No kids. His only brother is a Doctor, married. OG160684

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Buddhist Govi mother from Colombo suburbs seeks an academically and professionally qualified kind hearted daughter below 30 years for her well-mannered son 1986 July, 5'10", working as a Software Quality Assurance Engineer at a multinational Software Company. He is pursuing his professional qualification currently. He inherits assets. Please reply with family details and contact number along with the horoscope. Email: mproposal201906@gm.com OG160669

Buddhist Govi mother looking for a pretty and caring daughter for her son who is currently working at an international bank in Canada higher education completed in the UK (BSc / MBA) 5'3", 33 years old. Please respond with the family details and horoscope. piyuml eehand@gmail.com OG160315

Buddhist, Govi, close Colombo, educated, respectable lineage, age 38 (5'10") owning valuable houses, assets, well employed in foreign country, handsome only son, parents seek same caste, demure, virtuous, religious pretty daughter, all details, horoscope copy in first letter. OG160595

B/D parents from Nugegoda seek a well-mannered and caring daughter for our 31 years old 6'1" tall handsome son who works as a Business Class Cabin Crew Officer in a world reputed Airline in Dubai. He is an independent, spiritual person. Caste immaterial. p roposalisu@gmail.com 011-2810263. OG160649

B/G Buddhist parents seek fair slim daughter for son 33 yrs 5 5 1/2" involved in family owned Business. Studied in a leading school in Colombo with Degree in business and Logistics. Kuja / Shani 5, Rahu 7. Owns valuable land. Response with family details and phone no: proposal 007007@gmail.com OG160674

B/G dual citizens 25, 5'6" NS/TT handsome son qualified Nursing Degree in Canadian University, parents seek kind pretty educated daughter. Reply with FB link, details and horoscope to: propjama18@gmail.com OG160647

B/G professional parents seek a kind well-mannered daughter for their professionally and academically qualified son brought up with good qualities and Buddhist values studying for Masters in IT (Enterprise Management) at a leading university in Australia (completing in June) born 1992, 5'5". Only sister is a final year Medical student. Reply with H/C to: palika322@gmail.com OG160702

B/G respectable parents from Colombo seek an educated, well-mannered pretty daughter for their son 26, 5'8" TT/NS Bank Executive (Graduate, ACMA, CGMA, MCSI) owns a two storied house with lands, car, financial assets. proposalscas@gmail.com OG160293

B/G respectable parents from Colombo suburbs seek educated fair, pretty daughter from a respectable family for our son only child with BSc MSc from prestigious British universities, age 35 yrs, NS/TT holds Senior position in a leading private organization. Inherits substantial wealth. Reply with family details and horoscope. p rop.kal176@gmail.com OG160371

B/G respectable parents from Colombo suburb seek a charming, slim daughter for professionally qualified (BSc, CIM) handsome son. 1989 January born, 5'10", teetotaler, non-smoker, employed as a Manager in Singapore. Hopes to visit Sri Lanka in April. Inherits properties in Sri Lanka. Tel: 0112926865 Email: e proposal89@gmail.com OG160689

B/G respectable parents seek a well-mannered, pleasant daughter (medicine is preferred) for their 1996, 5'9" handsome son final year Engineering undergraduate (state university). Please reply with family details & horoscope to: mar ryprops@gmail.com OG160319

Catholic Sinhala parents seek daughter for son 31+ height 5'8" holding a degree in Engineering, CIMA working as a Senior Manager. Email: waprop2022@gmail.com OG160556

Catholic, 1974, 6'4" thin owner IT company living independently in Moratuwa seeking a bride for marriage. Email: desofitit@outlook.com Call: 0115249661. OG160379

Colombo BG respectable retired parents worked abroad seek for younger son 27 yrs, 5'6" qualified with Masters CIMA working in reputed company in Colombo as Assistant General Manager corporate finance a graduate fair slim pretty daughter educated in a leading school as partner. Email: maygajayagoda@gmail.com OG160248

Colombo Buddhist respectable Dewa parents seek a daughter for their son non-smoker, teetotaler 32, Civil Engineer (BSc, MSc) studied at leading school 5'2", fair, slim and handsome. Caste immaterial. Reply with family details and horoscope. OG160359

Colombo G/B parents seek graduate or undergraduate well-mannered fair, slim, pretty daughter for their handsome NS/TT, 5'5" 1994 March born son studied at leading school in Colombo works as a Mechanical Engineer in Australia. Non-malefic horoscope. Reply with family details and horoscope Kuja 3,4,5,6,9,10,11 preferred. Email: slprop94@gmail.com OG160652

Colombo suburbs B/G 31, 5'4", handsome, NS/TT son living abroad with parents, employed owns a house, parents seek suitable girl caste/religion immaterial. vic tory2860@gmail.com OG160704

Colombo suburbs Sinhala Buddhist Govi/Deva respectable family, retired Senior Government Officer father seeks a well educated pretty daughter (above 5'6") for elder son 1994/02 a handsome Pilot, height 6'1", educated in a leading Colombo School, BA, MBA Graduate who inherits valuable assets. Only brother is an Engineer. Please reply with details and all details in first letter. Email: mp9402@yahoo.com OG160501

Colombo, Buddhist, Govi, born 1986, height 6', studied at leading school, passed higher examinations, preparing for PhD, Executive Officer at a leading bank, handsome son, parents seek educated pretty daughter. 0117322455. success4pa2020@gmail.com OG160499

Dehiwala Muslim parents seek pretty educated girl below 30 years for their 32 years old 5'5" tall MBA qualified smart son divorced, employed as Business Development Manager at a private firm in Colombo, widow/divorcee considered. Tel. 0773716596 / 0112714352. OG160528

Educated, pleasant and well-mannered B/G daughter sought by Teacher mother for 1991 born, 5'5", Buddhist Govi son, from Gampaha District. Educated at a leading School in Colombo, holding an MSc. He is N/S, T/T and is the only child. Employed as an Airline Executive and inherits substantial assets. Please reply with details and horoscope to: p rop91m@gmail.com OG160396

Expat SGB 6'2", 53 from a distinguished family, devout Buddhist, non-drinker / smoker seeks bride from a similar English speaking background. Tel. 0112500220. nor dmendespectra@gmail.com OG160242

Father seeks a bride with an unblemished character, for his British citizen sporty music loving Dr son, towards the end of consultant training in the UK, 39 yrs and 5'7". Reply: virginpr oposal@yahoo.com OG160577

Govi Buddhist family seeks a suitable daughter for 30 yrs., 5'7" fair handsome professionally academically qualified employed NS/TT religious son. Email - m cprop05@gmail.com OG160250

Govi Catholic retired professional parents from Colombo suburbs seek fair pretty educated accomplished daughter for younger son BSc. FCCA (UK) CPA (Canada) working as Financial Analyst born 1991, 5'9" fair handsome teetotaler non-smoker dual citizen with assets. Elder son Doctor married. mproposalson@yand ex.com OG160254

Govi / Catholic parents Kelaniya seek 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 OG160354

G/B Doctor parents seek an educated daughter settled in overseas probably in Australia for son 1992 November born 5'6" N/S T/T educated at Royal College Colombo completed BSc Aeronautical Engineering Masters in IT from Australia currently reading for MBA in Sydney while part-time working. He is willing to migrate, caste, religion, horoscope two years age difference immaterial. Kuja 7th House. Owns substantial assets in Sri Lanka. csenadeera@gmail.com OG160282

G/B established business parents seek a suitable daughter for their only son. Educated, established businessman with sober habits born in 1988, sole proprietor of his established business, height 5'11" and handsome. Email: nilmini.k1961@gmail.com OG160663

G/B parents of a respectable family in Melbourne seek a professionally qualified, well-mannered daughter for their only son 1992, 6' graduated from Monash University with a double Degree in Engineering and Commerce. He is currently working as an IT Specialist. He also has substantial assets both in Sri Lanka and Australia. Please reply with horoscope and family details to: kgmpproposal@gmail.com OG160261

Invitation is for a pretty, fair educated young lady 30 year or less with a good family background for a 1986 born 5'7" fair, handsome, Buddhist, British Qualified NS/TT son, employed as Head of Finance in an Organization in Colombo. He inherits valuable & substantial assets. Please reply with copy of horoscope. Email address, contact numbers. OG160536

Kalutara Buddhist Govi, born 1984, working at a State Bank, Meena Lagna, Uthrapal Nekatha, Kuja Shani 8, own house, lands, only son in family, parents seek suitable partner. OG160346

Kandyan G/B retired mother (deceased father was a Bank Manager) seeks an academically & professionally qualified slim, fair, pretty daughter below 31 above 5'2" for her only son 34, 5'9" well-mannered TT/NS Australian qualified Software Engineer dual citizen works in a leading Australian Software company, lives in Melbourne, only sister married settled abroad. Please reply with family details HC via marriage8628@gmail.com 081-2219365. OG160285

Kurunegala Bodu Govi family seeks a well-mannered and educated daughter for their son who is currently working as an Engineer for a private company. He is 5'6" tall, BSc Engineer - Moratuwa university. Since he is expecting to move abroad for his higher studies, a daughter with similar expectations is preferred. Race, Caste and religion immaterial. Please reply to: Email: mproposal7563@gmail.com OG160688

Malay mother seeks suitable working bride for son 35 yrs height 5'11" with MSc in strategic marketing working as Manager, Cargills Bank, bride expected to follow Islamic values, kind and loving. Send details to Tel: 2933422. Email: salimst50@gmail.com OG160579

Moor parents from a well connected family in Colombo seek a pious pretty bride from Sunnath Jamath family background for their Engineer cum accountant son 33 yrs, 5'10". Email: fmo homed61@gmail.com OG160438

Moor parents seeks a partner for their son 29 years degree holder working as Assistant Manager for a Mercantile firm receiving 270,000/- p.m. looking for a degree holder bride age (23-26) not Abaya from Colombo not from outstation. Call: 0112321084. OG160373

Moor respectable parents seek for son 33 yrs professionally qualified working for a leading establishment as Product Manager, an educated bride below 30 yrs with a religious background from Colombo / suburbs. Email: nahmed2c@gamil.com OG160368

Mother invites proposals, for her son - Christian (a widower with no encumbrances) 47 years, 5'5", a corporate trainer, counsellor with over 23 years of banking experience in senior positions and qualified in Marketing, lives in Colombo with adequate assets. Seeks a god fearing Christian girl with good education and family background. Please respond with details to email: proposalrmt1973@gmail.com OG160650

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 OG159844

Professional parents seek a pretty, slim educated partner for academically and professionally qualified BSc. (Colombo), MSc. (prestigious foreign University) well-mannered handsome NS/TT son from a respectable B/G family. 1990, 5'8" University Lecturer, educated at a leading Colombo School. Reply with horoscope and family details to mpbri de2021@gmail.com OG160514

Respectable Buddhist Deva caste parents seek a fair, educated, pleasant daughter for their eldest son, 1980 born, fair, good looking, Senior Doctor, in a leading Govt. Hospital, seeks a partner with good Buddhist qualities from a respectable family caste immaterial. He is 5ft. 5inch tall very good practising Buddhist teetotaler. Please reply with family and birth details, place, time, date, contact nos. Email: sirima 3000@gmail.com OG160546

Respectable well-established B/G business parents seek beautiful, educated daughter from a socially compatible family for handsome son. 1986, 5'6", educated in a leading school in Colombo, Electrical Engineer also engaged in our family business, inherits valuable assets. c pj2015@gmail.com OG160686

Sabaragamuwa Buddhist Govi parents seek a virtuous daughter from Govi or upcountry Radala family, for 39 years, 5'10" tall, landed proprietor, planter, educated well-mannered son, from a traditional respectable family, studied in leading Colombo school, owning hundreds of acres property. All details in first letter. propo 818489@gmail.com OG160575

Seeking a suitable and caring partner for never married son 1978 born, 5'7", BK affluent business family. Working as a director of own group of companies. Partner's caste and religion immaterial. Please respond with family and horoscope details to; mproplanka@gmail.com OG160321

Seeking kind hearted considerate educated daughter willing to relocate for son overseas born 1982 dual citizen Chartered Engineer, currently working and residing in Western Australia. Never been married own property slim fair, 5'6" well behaved from respectable family. Preferable Australian citizen or PR. Contact :kidallana@hotmail.com OG160491

Sinhala Buddhist parents seek academically and professionally qualified daughter from a family living in Canada for their son, professionally engineer, 26 years, 5'9", living and working in Canada. Please respond with family details, HC and contact information. Email: mp4sun2021@gmail.com OG160468

Sinhala GB 33 years residing in the USA handsome son Doctor mother seeks a well-mannered virtuous daughter preferably a resident in the USA son owns assets in USA and Sri Lanka. OG160239

Sinhala Govi Buddhist affluent and professional parents seek a very pretty fair educated professionally qualified kind cultured daughter from same family background for 31, tall handsome smart NS/TT kind and talented, well qualified Engineer youngest son who possesses an excellent character. He currently serves as an Engineer in Australia and holds PR and will also inherit substantial family assets. Please forward horoscope, family details and contact details to: flyshare1234@gmail.com OG160313

Sinhala Govi Roman Catholic business parents from Kadawatha 27 years, 5'7" studied at leading Catholic College Colombo Civil Engineer, he owns business and assets over 800 Million elder sister is a Management Graduate married to a Specialist Engineer and well settled down in Australia youngest sister currently reading for a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management in a private university looking for a genuine kind educated fair pretty and understanding partner. Please reply with family details T.P. 0112901932. Email - proposal.kadawatha@gmail.com OG160523

Sinhala Roman Catholic parents residing in Colombo, looking for a fair, beautiful, educated and well-mannered daughter for their son born in April 1993, 5'10", handsome, fair and attractive, having substantial assets. CIMA (UK) fully qualified and has a 1st class degree in Business Management. Currently working as an Accountant in a group of companies. Please respond with details or jayperera52@gmail.com OG160692

Sinhala, Bodu, Govi, Kandyan, educated parents. Colombo suburbs. Seeking partner for son, 5'6", 30 yrs. Currently Management Working as a Chef. Seeking a respectable, qualified, caring and pleasant daughter. Preferably willing to migrate or living in Australia. Please reply with family details & horoscope. Email: c handisri17@gmail.com 0112563448. OG160553

Sri Lankan Buddhist professional family from Colombo suburbs seeks a New Zealand or Australian resident, pretty, slim, fair, well-mannered, educated, daughter for our only son. He is handsome, fair, 5'6", born 1990, has a Masters degree. Currently, he is working as Insights Analyst at a popular financial services firm on a permanent working visa in New Zealand. Reply with your family details, copy of horoscope by e-mail: props990@gmail.com Tel. No. 011-2918198. OG160695

Tamil Christian parents from Colombo seek for their educated, handsome nice looking son 36 years old born in 1984 a bride from a respectable family. Son is a degree holder and works as the Managing Director for a front line Sri Lanka Board of Investment approved export organization in Colombo. Please contact: 0777760446 or 0777396952 for more details 2325633. OG160428

UK citizen, born in Sri Lanka, mature, 5'8", fair complexion, employed as a legal professional seeks a suitable bride aged between 35-50. Reply with details - cksivakumar@hotmail.com OG160386

Wanted good looking educated girl age above 32 well settled family for a good looking well educated well settled Kandyan boy age 37, good caste Roman Catholic Sri Lankan Tamil boy, working as a Senior Cashier. 054 5683690. rpdcf romnp@gmail.com OG160685

Well-connected family from Colombo (Bodu Govi) seek a suitable partner for the second son 84 born, 5'10" with good personality, down to earth & a former rugby player. His tertiary education from Italy & employed in Italy with PR. He has properties in Sri Lanka too. Legally separated from a few months' marriage being plaintiff. No encumbrances. Looking for an educated, charming, pleasant daughter with religious values. Caste & religion immaterial. Son is currently in Sri Lanka for a holiday. Please reply with family and horoscope details. Confidentiality assured. Email: p roposal4email@gmail.com Phone: 011-2822356. OG160453

1989 B/K business parents seek pretty educated daughter for their 31 year son, educated at an International School in Colombo, 5'8" in height, fair, handsome and well-mannered. He has a BSc. in Business Management and he is running his own Earth Moving and Heavy Machinery Business. He inherits substantial assets. Please respond with full family details & horoscope. I can be contacted on 0112633601 or Email : janaki1030@gmail.com OG160516

BRIDEGROOM

A very wealthy, respectable, Sinhala Buddhist family, of a well-known ancestry from Colombo, is searching for a kind-hearted and beautiful daughter between the ages of 23 and 30 and taller than 5'1", for 34-year-old, 6'2" tall, intelligent, kind, very handsome son with Buddhist values. He studied at Royal College, has an excellent personality, and is highly educated (university education was in the U.K.) and does not drink alcohol or smoke. He owns two companies and is a shareholder and director of another company in Colombo and he hopes to continue to live in Sri Lanka. He is financially very stable and owns a house in Colombo 3 and a large commercial building and will inherit a substantial amount of wealth, including very valuable income-generating commercial buildings in Colombo and many more assets. Please email relevant details, which will be treated as confidential, to happymarprop@gmail.com

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