

ORGANISED FORCES PROPAGATING FALSEHOODS, MISCONCEPTIONS - PRESIDENT

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Saturday said that the group which spread falsehoods about white vans, crocodiles and sharks are now trying to propagate falsehoods and misconceptions with regard to the environment after their failure in their previous attempt.

The President said that people should counter these organised local and foreign forces that circulate these falsehoods against him and his government in order to protect the ideology of the people that brought him to power.

"I always maintain that, the individual Gotabaya Rajapaksa is not important. What matters is the ideology and force that brought me here. We should protect that ideology. The aim of the false propaganda now being carried out by the hostile forces is to defeat this ideology. What I do is fulfilling the promises I made to the people" President Rajapaksa said. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



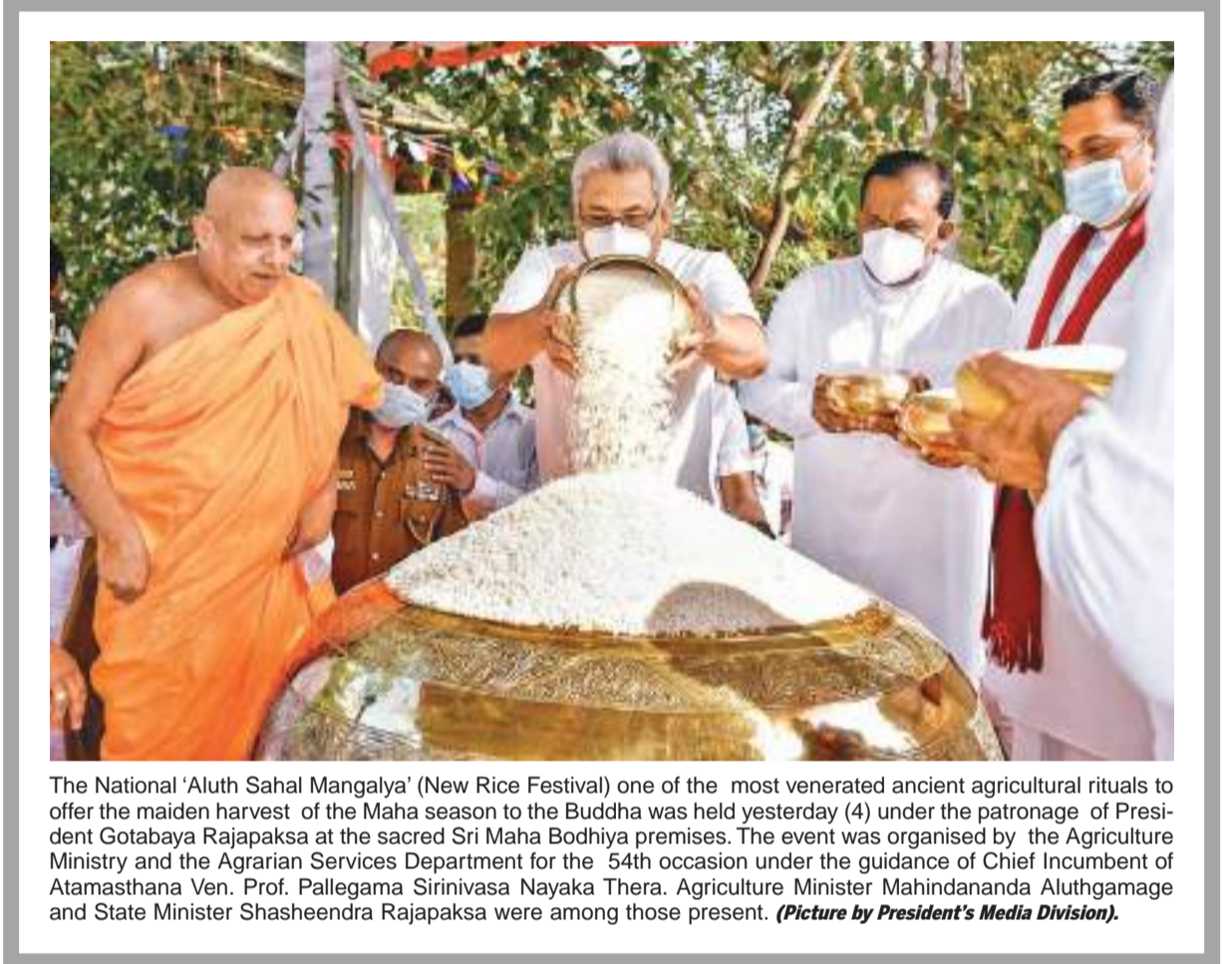
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CARDINAL SAYS ASHAMED OF FORMER PRESIDENT 'NO RIGHT TO SEEK PUBLIC OFFICE AGAIN'

URGES IMMEDIATE LEGAL ACTION

LAHIRU FERNANDO
Colombo Archbishop Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith yesterday questioned as to how a former President is planning to contest an election after acting in an irresponsible manner.

"There is information that a former President is going to contest the elections. We are ashamed of that. I would like to ask how he is going to contest the election with his clothes on. How could it be possible for him to contest again and become a Party Leader after acting irresponsibly once," the Archbishop questioned.



The National 'Aluth Sahal Mangalya' (New Rice Festival) one of the most venerated ancient agricultural rituals to offer the maiden harvest of the Maha season to the Buddha was held yesterday (4) under the patronage of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the sacred Sri Maha Bodhiya premises. The event was organised by the Agriculture Ministry and the Agrarian Services Department for the 54th occasion under the guidance of Chief Incumbent of Atamasthana Ven. Prof. Pallegama Sirinivasa Nayaka Thera. Agriculture Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage and State Minister Shasheendra Rajapaksa were among those present. **(Picture by President's Media Division).**

AstraZeneca
No export ban on India's AstraZeneca jab
India yesterday stressed that no export ban has been imposed on AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines and supplies to many countries in various regions of the world took place last week too.

Parliament meets full week beginning today

Parliament sittings will commence today (5) at 10.00 am. The entire day has been allotted for Questions for Oral Answers by the Members of Parliament. Sessions will be held upto Friday.

Secretary General of Parliament Dhammika Dasanayake said this decision was arrived at the Committee on Parliamentary Business given the motion moved by Minister and Leader of the House Dinesh Gunawardena to allow 50 Questions for Oral Answers by MPs today (5).

The Motion for the appointment of the Select Committee of Parliament to identify appropriate reforms of the election laws and the electoral system and to recommend necessary amendments is scheduled to be moved in Parliament today as well, the Secretary General said.

Secretary General Dasanayake said that the Committee **▶ TO PAGE 02**

False propaganda has delayed Sinopharm vaccine

AMILA PRABATH WANASINGHE
Health State Minister Prof. Channa Jayasumana stated that a political group working against the Chinese vaccine has spread false propaganda among the people.

He said the World Health Organization (WHO) does not approve vaccinations but lists them according to the data available for vaccinations. Due to the false propaganda carried out by these groups, members of expert committees studying this vaccine in Sri Lanka have been discouraged and as a result there has been a delay in administering the Chinese vaccine to Sri Lankans.

He said that Sri Lanka had received 600,000 vaccines from the Chinese government at the request of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and only Chinese nationals in Sri Lanka have been approved to be vaccinated. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

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Sri Lanka is among 80 countries to which a total of over 64 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines made in India have been supplied, as bilateral gifts, through the COVAX facility and on commercial orders many of which were placed last year, a release issued by the Indian High Commission in Colombo quoting a Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman said. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Sale of mixed coconut oil will be banned - Minister

M.P.KUMARA, Kotadeniyawa group
A new gazette notification will be issued soon preventing the sale of mixed coconut oil, Industry Minister Wimal Weerawansa said.

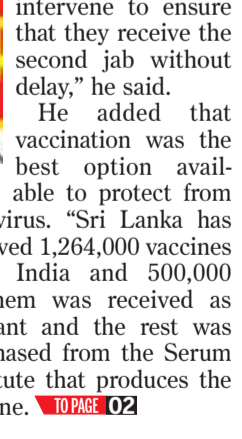
He said that the previous government had allowed blending other oils with coconut oil through a gazette notification. Weerawansa stated that steps have already been taken to provide high quality hygienic coconut oil to the people instead of carcinogenic coconut oil. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

All must receive second jab as planned - JVP

Former JVP MP Dr. Nalinda Jayathissa said the government should have adequate AstraZeneca vaccines stocked for the second jab.

Those who received the first jab should be given the second dose after April 19 and the country does not have adequate stocks. "The government must intervene to ensure that they receive the second jab without delay," he said.

He added that vaccination was the best option available to protect from the virus. "Sri Lanka has received 1,264,000 vaccines from India and 500,000 of them was received as a grant and the rest was purchased from the Serum Institute that produces the vaccine. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Tough laws on registering parties needed - Minister

ASELA KURULUWANS and DINULI FRANCISCO
Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva said a new Constitution must address the issue of political party registrations based on race and ethnicity.

Registration of political parties has become a mere eyewash since after the registration of certain parties, the leaders sell their parties nearing elections, SLFP Senior Vice President, Labour Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva said. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Country must expose UNHRC's double standards - Prelate

ASELA KURULUWANS and DINULI FRANCISCO
The Mahanayake of Asgiri Chapter Most Ven. Warakagoda Sri Gnaratana Thera stated that the whole country should rally against the resolution passed by the Geneva Human Rights Council against Sri Lanka, irrespective of party affiliations.

He also said that if we are not united as a country at this critical juncture, the forces against us will benefit. The Mahanayake Thera made this statement when Education Minister Prof. G.L. Pieris visited the Asgiriya Maha Viharaya yesterday (4) and received the blessings of the Chief Prelate. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

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First 'Discussion with the Village' programme in the North

Water for Vavuniya at a cost of Rs. 60 bn

The first 'Discussion with the Village' programme in the Northern Province was held at the Bogaswewa Maha Vidyalaya premises in the Vedaivaiyakallu Grama Niladhari Division of the Vavuniya North Divisional Secretariat Division in the Vavuniya District under the patronage of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa last Saturday (3).

Listening to the grievances expressed by the people with regard to the shortage of water in the area, the President instructed officials to take steps to resolve the issue which has been inconveniencing the people for decades in the Vavuniya District, within a year.

Ninety-two percent of the population in the district suffers from the shortage of clean drinking water. The water project will be implemented as an accelerated project at a cost of Rs. 60 billion. It was decided to restore all tube wells in the area and to implement a number of community water projects as immediate solutions.

The people pointed out that the shortage of teachers, buildings and desks in the schools in the district was a major problem that needed to be resolved soon. The President instructed the Education Ministry to acquire information and statistics in this regard and allocate funds as required.

Monks who have to take care of their parents are faced with the difficulty to observe their duties to the *Sasana*. Therefore, the President says that he has decided to provide employment opportunities to the families who have offered their children to the *Sasana* under the 100,000 job scheme.

The 'Discussion with the Village' programme commenced on September 25, 2020, from the Badulla District. Thereafter programmes were organized covering the Matale, Ratnapura, Anuradhapura, Ampara, Polonnaruwa, Kalutara, Moneragala, Kegalle, Kandy, Puttalam, Trincomalee, Kurunegala, Galle Nuwara Eliya and Matara districts.

The idea behind this programme is for the President to talk to the rural communities living in remote and difficult areas, without intermediaries, about their long-standing unresolved problems and to present them directly to the officials in order to find solutions. Problems that can be solved on the spot are instantly addressed. The rest which take time to deal with are noted down to find solutions later. The objective of the programme is to reach out to the people of the village, understand their problems and find solutions giving considerations to their own suggestions.

Vedaivaiyakallu Grama Niladhari Division is located about 38 km East and South of Vavuniya town bordering Padaviya and Kebithigollewa Divisional Secretariats and Nandimithra village in the west of the Anuradhapura district. Bogaswewa 1, Bogaswewa 2, Kambiliwewa, Wedi-waiyakallu, Kovilpuliyankulama and Veheratenna villages belong to this Grama



Niladhari Division. The village has a population of 1,520 comprising 478 families. Paddy and Chena farming are the main livelihood of the people.

President Rajapaksa arrived at Bogaswewa and from there he travelled to Bogaswewa Maha Vidyalaya to attend the 'Discussion with the Village' programme. President Rajapaksa conversed with the people gathered on both sides of the road and inquired into the problems that ail them.

The President presented the two lap-

tops donated by SLT Mobitel to Bogaswewa Maha Vidyalaya and Nedunkerni Maha Vidyalaya and the TV and the connection donated by Dialog Axiata to the principals.

Another objective of President Rajapaksa is to develop school library facilities in all areas where the 'Discussion with the Village' programme is held. The President presented sets of books to schools under the programme 'A generation empowered with knowledge'. Each school receives 500 books covering a

Families who offered children to the *Sasana* to receive benefits under 100,000 jobs scheme

Solutions to water shortage in Vavuniya within a year.

Issues affecting schools in the area resolved

number of subjects to assist students in their further education.

A programme to grant title deeds to the families who had been in possession of government lands without clear ownership was started recently. President Rajapaksa symbolically presented title deeds to five families in the Vavuniya North Divisional Secretariat Division during the discussion.

In addition, the President awarded three scholarships for courses conducted by the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka as well.

The Road Development Authority has been entrusted with the development of 37 km of by-roads in Bogaswewa and surrounding villages and two main bridges in the area.

The President advised to renovate 16 tanks in Bogaswewa village and 17 tanks including the Kivul Oya project.

The President said that temples in the area should be renovated preserving the archaeological heritage for future generations.

It was decided to build electric fences to protect the villages that are threatened by wild elephant intrusions.

The need to develop the Bogaswewa Primary Health Centre for inpatient treatment was emphasized.

President Rajapaksa directed the officials to address the shortage of doctors, nurses and other staff members in the hospitals in the area and to meet the infrastructure and other requirements as well.

The resolution of long-standing land ownership disputes and facilitating villagers to engage in agriculture was discussed at length.

Northern Province Governor P.S.M. Charles, Vavuniya District Parliamentarians Cader Mastan and Kulasingham Thilepan, People's Representatives of the district, Principal Adviser to the President Lalith Weeratunga, Secretaries to Ministers, Heads of Government Institutions and the Security Forces participated in the 'Discussion with the Village' programme at the Bogaswewa Maha Vidyalaya premises.





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Remembering Albert A. Page on his 100th birth anniversary

When a colossus leaves this world, he illuminates the path for generations to come. In our mind this is perhaps the greatest tribute anyone could pay the visionary Albert A. Page on his 100th birth anniversary, being celebrated on 4th April 2021. Many of us wonder where the soul of the departed takes flight, but in the case of Albert A. Page, the late patriarch of Cargills and CT Holdings - his soul lives on within each and every employee and each and every accomplishment of the Group today.

As a young student schooling at Manipay Hindu College in Jaffna, the young Albert was shy, methodical and studious. With his grandfather a principal of the local school, Albert had the value of education instilled in him. Even though his world was centred in Jaffna, the young man yearned to pursue higher education, eventually making his way to the commercial capital of Colombo, where he continued high school at the prestigious Ananda College. His thirst for knowledge saw him further qualify as a Chartered Accountant of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka and as a Chartered Secretary of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries, London, joining as Partner at Page & Hulugalla (later, Hulugalle Wickramanayake & Company). The next memorable milestone in his life was his marriage in 1950 to Lucy Aloysius, with whom he went on to have 8 children, relishing his role as the patriarch of a loving and joyful family.



Perhaps steered by destiny, he joined Ceylon Theatres as a Junior Clerk in the accounts section in 1942. From attending an Industrial Welfare Course in Christ College, Cambridge UK, to being the first employee delegate from Sri Lanka at the H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh's First Study Conference in 1956, Albert Page was widening his world view and expanding his influence across all aspects of life. At Ceylon Theatres, he flourished and his natural leadership qualities were apparent

early on. After this there was no looking back, as he rose fast and was eventually appointed Managing Director of Ceylon Theatres in 1980 and Chairman in 1985. Throughout his life Albert Page was led by the yearning to give back to society. This trait was evident in all his ventures. During his time at Ceylon Theatres, he was actively involved with promoting local and international films. Some of the local productions Ceylon Theatres backed; such as Golu Hadawatha, Akkara Paha and Nidhanaya, directed by the great film-maker Lester James Peris went on to win many awards. Albert Page took pride in being the pioneer in promoting Sinhala films. He would often remain in deep discussions with great film makers and artistes such as Lester James Peris and Gamini Fonseka and other Western and local film personalities. But he was a man who was never dazzled by the arc

lights and the glamour; he always remained a simple man with simple tastes, and even when he had built a sizable business, he maintained his simplicity, never forgetting his days commuting to work on a bicycle.

The cinema industry was nationalised in the late 70s and looking for the next challenge Albert Page mulled increasing a bigger share in Ceylon Theatres. In 1978 his vision for diversification was clear. After giving the nation the joy of cinema, he wanted to provide entertainment hubs for families to visit and therefore Majestic Cinema rose in Bambalapitiya. He was pleased to see families pouring into the venue to enjoy themselves. Today his legacy is being carried on with similar malls coming up in Jaffna, Dematagoda and Gampaha, with more planned in Bandarawela, Kandy and Negombo.

Albert Page achieved much in his lifetime, but never lost sight of his passion to contribute to the development of the community and to give back to society. As he determinedly sacrificed and ploughed back the profits earned back into the company to achieve growth, his businesses thrived and was propelled ahead, while his employees benefitted. His development-oriented mindset left a deep imprint on the Cargills Group and his intuitive leadership to ensure sustainability demonstrates his visionary thinking because sustainability is vital in every business today - something he foresaw decades before.

He was a mentor and father figure to employees who looked up to him for advice and guidance, with an eye for spotting exceptional talent and would promote the young men and women to take bigger roles in the organisation. At home, he was a strict but loving father and groomed the next generation subtly to take over the business. Most people who knew him well would aver that he never showed his emotions and remained calm and self-assured in any circumstance he found himself in. Whether the success of Cargills today as a leading group was written in the stars or not, its trajectory was



definitely envisioned by Albert Page whose diary was found years after his passing in 2000, which showed he had wanted to set up a development bank, by which time Cargills Bank has already been established unbeknownst. His diary also held instructions not to take the profits out of the country but to reinvest in the nation so that the country would benefit. Albert Page's strong foundation has paved the way for the success story that is Cargills today. Every aspect of Cargills' operations is focused on giving back to society because it sources fresh produce from a farmer out grower network that is thriving and employs youth from remote areas to give them a chance at a better life.

His generosity knew no bounds. In the early 80s the government was looking to set up a theatre for local plays and the Ceylon Theatres' cinema, Tower Hall (a Theatre which had been converted to a cinema), was handed over to the Government at the time of the late Prime Minister Premadasa to develop local Sinhala theatre. The arts - theatre and cinema - were close to Albert Page's heart and he believed in developing these facets the people of the country were benefited by watching local

home-grown talent rather than consuming western imports. As filmgoers settle comfortably into the seats of Regal Colombo or cinemas in other areas, the presence of the pioneer of the Sri Lankan entertainment industry lingers on.

Although he never returned to live in Jaffna, his strong emotional ties with his birthplace, his school and the school where Albert Page's grandfather served as principal remained.

Nelson Mandela once said - "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world", and Albert Page - who only too well knew the power of education - has the Albert A. Page Institute of Food Business (AAPI) set up in his memory, a non-profit independent entity which is empowering underprivileged youth in rural areas.

Amidst the throes of a global pandemic and economic uncertainty the story of a visionary leader such as Albert A. Page provides a soothing balm to our souls and give us hope and inspiration with the legacy he has left behind. Long after the 100th anniversary remembrances of his extraordinary life fades, his powerful presence will continue to nurture and inspire many generations.



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உள்ளாட்சு இறைவர்து திணைக்களம்
Inland Revenue Department

Seminar on New Tax Changes

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Date April 08, 2021
Duration 8.30 am to 12.30 pm

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Commissioner General of Inland Revenue

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NOTICE

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- Almost all categories of tyres have been allowed to be "FREELY" imported since 24th December 2020.
- All Truck/Bus tyres and Car tyres with rim sizes 14" and above can now be imported without restrictions.
- Import restriction in place for 12" and 13" rim sizes for car and van tyres. 100% of this demand of approximately 31250 tyres per month can be supplied through domestic manufacturers whose production capacity is 35,500 tyres per month.
- Import restriction in place for 3W tyres. 100% of this demand of approximately 61,000 per month can be supplied through domestic manufacturers whose production capacity is 119,500 tyres per month.
- Import restriction in place for 2W tyres (motor cycle and scooter). 100% of this demand of approximately 93,000 tyres per month can be supplied through domestic manufacturers whose production capacity is 109,000 tyres per month.
- Due to the global Covid-19 pandemic, there is a worldwide tyre shortage at the moment and hence the short supply in imports.
- Some orders placed as far back as December 2020 by importers have still not even been shipped from foreign factories due to supply chain disruptions.
- We have kept our prices unchanged for the entirety of the 2020 calendar year and until January 2021. During this period natural rubber prices in the world market have increased by over 50%. CEAT revised prices by 11.8% in January 2021, purely to absorb and only to offset the raw material cost/other cost increases.

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Giving new meaning to 'New Normal'

Burgeoning traffic in major cities such as Colombo and Kandy is the best indication yet that the country has turned the corner in the post-Covid period of economic uncertainty. The fact that traffic has almost reached pre-Covid levels is a sign that there is no fear of a contagion, and that with the vaccine programmes being implemented on a staggered basis, the people have reason to believe that they can get back to living normal lives.

It is almost as if it is the perennial traffic crisis that needs solutions now, and not the Covid problem which is under control. The Sinhala and Tamil New Year period is bound to heighten anxiety among the health authorities though, because there is a fear that people may misuse their newfound 'freedom' vis-à-vis the pandemic to the extent of ignoring all the health-related guidelines.

However, that fear, as with the return of artery-clogging traffic, is in itself an indication that the curtailment of the pandemic is now a reality that calls for some type of celebration. The New Year is a fitting time for such good cheer, as long as the people do not go overboard with the festivities. Compared to where we were one year ago, the recovery has been quite the comeback story.

The issue of traffic and the other irritants that come with normal life have to be addressed now even as we suffer from the hangover left by the contagion. The adjustment period that we are presently in can be confusing. People are not sure about which vaccine they should get and when the new phase of vaccination would begin after the first round of jabs essentially ended after a rather successful programme that was well coordinated, despite some inevitable hiccups.

People who are getting back to work now have to deal with new realities such as the uneven distribution of the workplace burden. Some workers are required to negotiate the traffic gauntlet and report to work daily. Others are not. This could create a certain level of resentment in the office environment, and that makes it incumbent on the authorities to ease the burden on those who have to run the race more rigorously than others who have the luxury of Working From Home (WFH) most of the time.

The Traffic Police themselves are in the former category. Their job is unenviable in the April heat, and the signs are there that some cops are already cracking under pressure. There aren't many among us who have not seen the viral video of the cop in Pannipitiya who lost his cool and physically stomped on a lorry driver in the middle of the road, in broad daylight.

How do the authorities — some of who were themselves the beneficiaries of the WFH work ethic of relative ease in isolation — come up with quick solutions to the traffic issue and traffic control matters when officialdom has for close to a one-year period taken their "eye off the ball" in a manner of speaking?

It is good to hear that at the policy making level, there has been some good decision making. Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa announced that Sky Trains (elevated railways) would be introduced in an accelerated plan to ease the traffic congestion in Colombo. Questions may be raised legitimately about the financing of such mega projects at a time there are obvious economic difficulties related to the pandemic.

However, the State has to ride the wave of recovery and bank on money infusions for key projects as we progress from the first phase of recovery onto Stage 2 and beyond. The money will materialize if the political will is there. This was the case after the War when the coffers were completely depleted in the immediate post-2009 period due to the heavy defence expenditure. The expressways came up in short order after the immediate post recovery phase of resettlement and it is remarkable that what could not be achieved during peacetime by various previous administrations was made a reality in the immediate aftermath of a long period of hostilities that saw untold burdens on the National Exchequer.

This time, in the post-Covid recovery phase, it is probably an even tougher task, to build transport related infrastructure when the entire world is suffering from the economic effects of the pandemic. Some may wager that until the world recovers, Sri Lanka cannot.

But the global recovery will be faster than most people expect. Entrepreneurs are ravenous for new opportunities and there are a host of new areas that are already taking the fancy of adventurous innovators. SpaceX owner and world's second richest man Elon Musk is for example, engineering an entire 'green revolution' with his relatively new "Tesla" brand of electric powered cars — and this is a man who worked as if the pandemic never existed. It is likely that these new technologies will power a global comeback that would be unprecedented, and if any country is ready to ride that wave, it is not sky trains but the sky itself that is the limit.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Some people don't like change, but you need to embrace change if the alternative is disaster. - Elon Musk

(Part 2 of a three-part article)



The Concept of Equality and Elimination of Discrimination in Employment: Scope and Developments



PROF. S SARATH MATHILAL DE SILVA
Attorney-at-Law

The concept of equality which is central to the discussion of justice lies at the root of the democratic idea. Many great revolutions aimed at shaking off arbitrary rule of one form or another have stressed on this concept of equality. The question arises whether increased equality can only be achieved at the expense of liberty or conversely, whether expanding liberty must diminish equality. Learned opinion is divided on this matter. On the one hand, it is clear that certain degree of liberty is necessary to promote the ideal of equality. For example, to achieve economic equality in a society, a measure of liberty is necessary. Lord Acton, one of the outstanding thinkers on the concept of freedom, emphasized that equality unrestrained could destroy freedom.

ASPECTS OF THE CONCEPT OF THE RIGHT TO EQUALITY

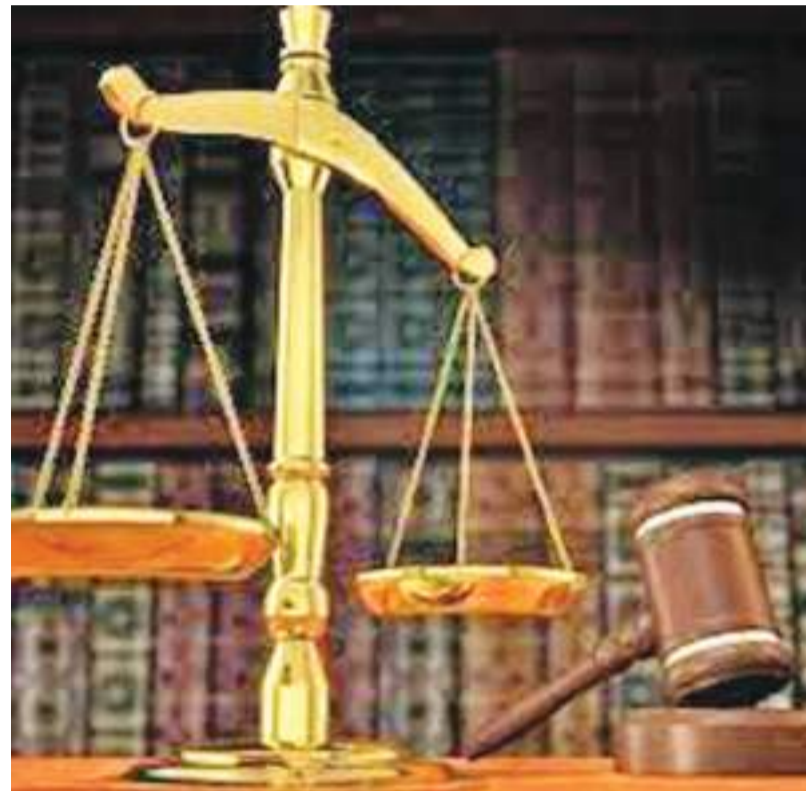
Human beings who by nature are of unequal strength, talent and other attributes, are clearly not units of equal weight in their societies. The inequalities of nature are reinforced by the social and economic circumstances which as people commence life, place some at an advantage over others. Far greater is the impossibility of preserving general equality for any period, however short. A permanent state of equality is only the remotest dream.

There are two famous legal expressions linked to the concept of equality, namely (1) all persons are equal before the law and (2) all persons are entitled to equal protection of the law. The expression "equal protection of the law" is found in the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution. Article 18 of the 1972 Constitution of Sri Lanka embodied both phrases. The Indian Constitution in terms of Article 14 also uses both expressions. Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights contains both expressions. Article 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights also embodies both aspects of the concept of equality.

Equality before the law is the negative aspect implying the absence of any special privilege in favour of any individual and the equal subjection of all classes to the ordinary law. Equal protection of the law is a more positive concept and implies equality of treatment in similar circumstances.

The varying needs of different classes require separate treatment and the concept of equality does not take away from the State the power of classifying persons for legitimate purposes. The State is therefore permitted to make laws that are unequal and to take unequal administrative action when dealing with persons who are placed in different circumstances and situations. It aims at equality by treatment of equals. Equality can be denied, if government fails to distinguish between persons who for equal protection purposes, should be regarded as differently situated. Equal protection guarantees protection from legislative and executive tyranny and abuse of power by the judicial arm of the government by way of discrimination.

Inequality, *per se*, does not violate equal protection, for every selection of persons for regulation pronounces inequality in some degree. The inequality to offend the concept must be actually and palpably unreasonable and arbitrary.



Today it is a well accepted principle, at least in the developing world, that what equal protection of the laws seeks is not mathematical equality or formal equality but substantive equality among various groups in society.

Arbitrary. A classification having some reasonable basis does not violate this principle merely because in practice, it results in some inequality.

It does not forbid reasonable classification. In order however to pass the test of permissible classification, two conditions must be fulfilled, viz. (i) that the classification must be founded on an intelligible differentia which distinguishes persons or things that are grouped together from others left out of the group, and (ii) that the differentia must have a rational relation to the objects sought to be achieved by the Act. What is necessary is that there must be a nexus between the basis of the classification and the objects of the law.

It is now settled that the Equal Protection Clause prohibits discrimination not only by substantive law but also by law of procedure.

FORMAL EQUALITY AND SUBSTANTIVE EQUALITY

Formal equality is premised on an abstract individual, judged on personal merit. The formal equality insists that group-based characteristics are irrelevant, and seeks to replace their use in allocating decision-making by merit-based criteria. One of the key insights of substantive equality is its departure from the symmetry of formal equality. It is not colour, gender or some other group characteristic *per se* which is in issue, but the attendant disadvantage, both social and economic.

This focus on disadvantage moves the anti-discrimination agenda into areas often inhabited by anti-poverty, welfare, or social exclusion policies. A key insight of

substantive equality is that societal discrimination extends well beyond individual acts of prejudice. To bring about real change, the State should act positively to promote equality. This in turn requires the State to take affirmative action. As Sen argues, "Equal consideration for all may demand very unequal treatment in favour of the disadvantaged." Substantive equality entails a duty to provide.

Today it is a well accepted principle, at least in the developing world that what equal protection of the laws seeks is not mathematical equality or formal equality but substantive equality among various groups in society. Formal equality, with its focus on the abstract individual, has failed to address deeply entrenched patterns of social disadvantage.

In framing an alternative concept of substantive equality, distributive justice plays a central role. It calls for a duty upon the State to take positive measures to promote equality, including, where appropriate, allocation of resources. But this poses a dilemma for judges grappling with the contested meaning of substantive equality. Resource allocation requires a complex assessment of wide ranging facts and necessitates the setting of priorities and the balancing of interests.

ROLE OF THE COURTS

Many welfare States make a political commitment to distributive equality by providing for the disadvantaged groups. The political arena is therefore seen as the primary space for developing the positive duty to provide, a space which judges are rightly reluctant to invade.

The courts' role in applying sub-

To bring about real change, the State should act positively to promote equality. This in turn requires the State to take affirmative action.

stantive equality is then limited to scrutinizing the appropriateness of criteria for eligibility for exclusion. But because the aims of substantive equality are broadly in sympathy with provision of benefits, courts have searched for additional criteria, supplementing the grounds prohibited by formal equality, to distinguish appropriateness of criteria for eligibility from inappropriate categorization.

The courts should not be substituting their decisions for those of policymakers on resource allocation. Instead, they should be demanding proper democratic accountability. This entails an explanation of the decision which is reasonable and proportionate and is based on evidence rather than generalizations or judicial notice.

In this way the courts contribute to the democratic process both by strengthening accountability and by ensuring that political deliberation includes those who would otherwise be silenced in the political arena.

The duty to provide, which constitutes the core of substantive equality, remains a primarily political impetus, unless the States' Constitution includes express socio-economic rights or the courts are in a position to imply such rights from civil and political rights.

Nevertheless, even in the absence of such rights, courts have a role to play in furthering substantive equality. To ensure that substantive equality furthers its aims of addressing disadvantage in society, the courts will need to develop criteria to assess the State's policies on resource allocation and the provision of benefits. On the one hand, the tradition of judicial intervention in positive state provision has been detrimental to substantive equality, using negative duties of restraint and formal equality to strike down or subvert positive and social rights.

THE CONCEPT OF EQUALITY AND EMPLOYMENT: COURT'S APPROACH

In November in 1973, in *E.P. Royappa v State of Tamil Nadu*, Bhagwati J with Chandrachud and Krishna Ayer JJ agreeing, claimed to lay bare a 'new dimension' to Article 14 of the Indian Constitution. Dealing with Article 14 and Article 16 (which deals with equality in matters relating to public employment) Bhagwati J stated:

"The basic principle which therefore informs both Articles 14 and 16 is equality and inhibition against discrimination. From a positivistic point of view, equality is antithetic to arbitrariness.

In fact, equality and arbitrariness are sworn enemies: one belongs to the rule of law in a republic while the other, to the whim and caprice of an absolute monarch. Where an act is arbitrary, it is implicit in it that it is unequal according to political logic and constitutional law and is therefore violative of Article 14 and if it affects any matter relating to public employment, it is also violative of Article 16."

(To be continued...)
(The writer is a retired Professor in Law at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, has practised in courts, and holds a PhD. in Law)



The Peace Pagoda, Lumbini, Nepal

KRZYSZTOF IWANEK

When I joined the Oriental Institute at Warsaw University as a student 20 years ago, my specialization was "Indology," but the institution I was studying at was called the Chair of South Asian Studies. The explanation for this combination of words was not hard to grasp, but little did I know back then what emotions could arise from the choice of such terms.

Academia generally prefers the term "South Asia" to refer to the entire region. It's a term that is usually understood to be the same as the geographical notion of the "Indian subcontinent." A phrase like "India studies," it is felt, would marginalize the fact that such a discipline very often includes learning about other modern countries of the region.

And yet, some Indians dislike the expression "South Asia" and the terms built around it. They feel that this dilutes the central role played by India on the subcontinent, both historically and in the present. Then again, some people in countries like Pakistan and Nepal are allergic to the overuse of the word "India," feeling that it indicates India's overgrown ambitions to dominate the region.

One of the best instances of such identity skirmishes are the recurrent discussions between Indians and Nepalis over the birthplace of the Buddha. Nepalis are often unhappy when somebody claims that Buddha was born "in India." His birthplace, now called Lumbini, is located in Nepal (just a stone's throw from the border with India). There was no India, they point out – in the sense of a political entity, a sovereign state called India – when Buddha was born, several centuries before Christ. But this line of argument is a back-and-forth swinging blade that leaves no survivors. The modern state of Nepal also did not exist at the time of the Buddha.

If we really need to be precise historically, and if we need to refer to political entities, then Siddhartha Gautama, later titled Buddha, was

IS THE TERM 'SOUTH ASIA' CORRECT?

born in a place called Ruminidei in the territory ruled by the clan of Shakyas (who formed an independent political entity) and the same Ruminidei was identified with Lumbini in the territory of present-day Nepal. It is easy to understand why, outside the world of academia, we often cannot afford such lengthy explanations and must resort to simplifications.

But even this is just the starting point of such challenges. Suppose we have thus pin-pointed Buddha's birthplace in space, time, and in political terms. But given that he spent most of his life in present-day northern India, where he searched for knowledge and salvation, taught, and eventually attained Parinibbana, what was the territory he lived in? India? South Asia? We could certainly use the latter term, as it is geographically correct and thus neutral – but it is also very general. It does not tell us anything valuable about the cultural milieu in which he operated.

Buddha's teachings were a part of Indian philosophy and they built on and referred to (and sometimes rebelled against) earlier Indian thought and religious customs. The Buddhist canon was preserved in Indian languages (mostly in Pali, also in Sanskrit). If, instead of this, we would say that these were "South Asian philosophy" and "South Asian languages," such descriptions, even though theoretically correct, would fail to explain anything, to paint any context, to understand linkages and divisions.

Is there a good solution to this? It



Map of South Asia

depends on the case, but the above instance of the Buddha is as much a review of some naming challenges as an indication of how we can solve them.



The Buddha was born in present-day Nepal

what it was before any humans lived there (since the Indian subcontinent collided with Asia, that is).

India is historically a broad cultural notion (a civilization), and now a political one as well. As such, it cannot be described only with reference to time and space, but primarily with reference to people, their thoughts and actions. It is true there was no one state called "India" prior to the 20th century but it is also true that there were various Indian states. There were also Indian languages, Indian religious traditions and Indian thinkers. We use the adjective "Indian" to characterize such people and emphasize the affinities they had with each other, such as with "European states" or "Chinese kingdoms."

Buddha was thus born in a broader geographical region called South Asia and in the cultural milieu of the Indian civilization. That we term this civilization "Indian" does not mean we identify it exclusively with the modern-day Republic of India; the historical Indian civilization and modern Indian state overlap to a very large degree, but not completely. For instance, Bengali is a language spoken in India as well as Bangladesh; Hinduism is a religion numerically prevalent both in India and in Nepal.

Similarly, in reference to earlier history, the Indian civilization cannot be treated as completely overlapping with the region of South Asia. Cultures are not only built by people, but also travel with them. How can we speak of "South Asian civilization" when the Buddhist Canon

had been created in India but its Scriptures were copied and preserved in Central Asia, while communities of Indian merchants, Indian Buddhist monks, and Indian Hindu priests thrived across South-east Asia?

Moreover, while geographical regions are usually easier to outline, the borders of cultures often tend to be fuzzy. Bhutan and Nepal, for instance, are today politically separate from India but geographically located in South Asia. On the level of civilization (above myriad local cultures) they had been influenced by both the Indian and Tibetan civilizations. In the case of Nepal, the intensity of such influences from one side depends on the region and people (but is mostly tilted toward India); in the case of Bhutan, the cultural and linguistic affinities are much more with Tibet. Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, in turn, are territories within the state of India, located in South Asia, but they were also similarly historically influenced by both the Indian and Tibetan civilizations (indeed, parts of both territories are claimed by China today as belonging to Tibet).

Thus, we should write of South Asia as a region, just as we write of East Asia as a region. As of now the former includes more countries than India and the latter more countries than China. But with regard to wide cultural terms, we should write of the Indian civilization and the Chinese civilization, both of which historically thrived across various political entities (Indian states, Chinese states).

The influence of these civilizations historically went beyond the borders of modern states bearing their names (one Republic of India and two Chinese republics), thereby heavily influencing other modern states of their respective regions (such as Nepal, the Koreans or Japan). Recognizing those cultural influences of the past should not be misinterpreted as supporting the idea of political hegemony of any state over the others in the present day, however. (*The Diplomat*)

(Krzysztof Iwanek is a South Asia expert and the head of the Asia Research Centre (War Studies University, Poland))

Don't 'gift' COVID to your loved ones this season

Now & Then
BY NADIRA GUNATILLEKE

An important factor of the hour was highlighted by Chief Epidemiologist Dr. Sudath Samaraweera addressing the press conference held at the Health Promotion Bureau in Colombo last Thursday. Addressing journalists, he stated that there is a risk of COVID-19 spreading from Colombo and the Western Province to the other areas of the country during the New Year season through people who are visiting other areas of the country from Colombo to celebrate the Sinhala and Tamil New Year. The Health Ministry has issued a special set of guidelines in connection with celebrating the Sinhala and Tamil New Year.

Last year we did not have a chance to visit our ancestral homes and other areas in order to celebrate the Sinhala and Tamil New Year. But this year we can celebrate the event with our families. However, it is our responsibility to prevent taking COVID-19 from Colombo and the Western Province to the other areas of the country and not 'gift' COVID-19 to our elderly as the 'deadly' New Year gift. Vaccination against COVID-19 took place all over the country successfully but the health authorities very clearly announced that receiving a vaccine should not be considered as a licence to avoid health guidelines introduced by the health authorities and the Government in order to prevent COVID-19. But it is pathetic to see how people of Sri Lanka behave during these days ignoring all health guidelines putting themselves and others at risk.

Every festive season is a golden opportunity for businessmen, traders, etc. to sell extremely low quality stuff, especially food items, to the people putting their health at a huge risk. Not only food, almost all the other things can be found for a very low price in the market these days but most of them are of very low quality and not suitable for consumption. No matter how hard the relevant authorities such as Public Health Inspectors (PHIs) try to curb this mafia, the fraudulent traders sell low quality and dangerous goods to the people. It is up to the people to be vigilant and spend money wisely only for essentials without giving away hard earned money to these 'crooks'. Buying only essentials will save people from COVID-19 because it limits the number of places people visit and time spent in crowded places.

It is pathetic to see that almost all celebrations include liquor. Liquor brings evil and nothing else. The very first thing that happens just after taking liquor is losing mindfulness. During this time the first thing that catches you once you lose mindfulness is COVID-19. It does not stop there. You take it home to your elderly parents, other elderly relations, children and especially your loved ones who suffer from Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, cancer, heart diseases, kidney diseases, liver diseases, hypertension and loved ones who take drugs to lower their immunity after organ transplant surgeries and similar health conditions.

You will be able to celebrate until one or more of them die at home even without knowing that they got infected with COVID-19. When you discover that it was you who gave them COVID-19, it will be too late for you to reverse things. Your 'celebration'



Avurudu brings Sri Lankans together, but authorities have advised people to observe all health precautions

will become an unforgettable celebration which will bring the bitter memory back every April.

All types of celebrations promote COVID-19 because sharing things, moving very closely to each other, hugging, laughing, etc., are very common in every celebration. Sharing plates, glasses, etc., can spread COVID-19 quickly. Moving closely and hugging each other is another way to spread COVID-19 and that is why people were asked to maintain at least a one-and-a-half metre distance from each other. Shouting and laughing splash COVID-19 droplets to a long distance because a person cannot keep his or her mask on and eat or drink. Therefore it can quickly distribute the virus among participants of the event, no matter whether it is a New Year celebration or not. Musical shows are the deadliest.

Drunk driving will kill many innocent people just as happened in the recent past. If infants, elders and

people in high risk categories take part in New Year festivities and other events, the outcome of COVID-19 can be witnessed quickly because they can get infected and die even before seeking medical treatment. We can say we really celebrated this New Year if we can save the lives of our grandparents, aged parents, infants, sick loved ones, etc., to see the New Year celebration of the next year, 2022. That will be the measurement of our good or bad behaviour of this New Year.

The other most serious issue is transporting COVID-19 virus to other areas of the country from the Western Province. We saw how some people living in the Western Province packed their bags and left the Province just before a three-day curfew was imposed last year. The problem is not leaving the Western Province per se. The problem was taking COVID-19 with them to all the other areas of the country, especially to their ancestral



Ganu Denu is a well-known New Year tradition

homes where their elderly parents and adult relations with Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and other chronic diseases live.

Last year health authorities, Armed Forces and the police appealed to the residents of the Western Province not to leave the Province for any reason but this appeal was totally ignored. We cannot violate other people's right to live and other human rights. We can enjoy freedom without violating the freedom of other people. What the people who left the Western Province before the curfew did was bring death very close to the elderly and sick people living in other areas of the country. This is an offence which cannot be forgiven on any grounds.

Our parents and all the other elderly relations never say in their lifetime not to visit them. They are eagerly waiting to see their children, grand children and other youngsters in their families. That is their nature. They never say, "Don't come home". They

value their children and grandchildren more than their own lives. They prefer death after seeing them. This is the nature of the majority of Sri Lankan parents and grandparents.

It is our duty to protect them. We should not take COVID-19 as a 'deadly gift' to our elderly parents and other adult relations who may suffer from NCDs or any other chronic disease. The elderly and people who suffer from NCDs and other chronic diseases survive COVID-19 rarely. If we really care about our elderly parents and other relations, first of all we need to protect ourselves from COVID-19.

People who leave Colombo and the Western Province usually stop their vehicles at various places to buy things and see the beauty of nature contaminating the entire route. They distribute COVID-19 on their way to whatever destination located outside the Western Province.

Then they 'gift' COVID-19 to the relations, staff of the hotel or any other place where they stay. They may infect the innocent family who accommodates them. Then what about the other people in those unaffected areas who come and stay in contaminated hotels and other places without knowing that the places had been contaminated?

They never stop there. They infect another route on their way back to home located in the Western Province. We should not do the same for this New Year and we should not allow anyone to commit the same crime again and again. Innocent aged and sick people who do not use Facebook should not die because of the 'Facebook post menace' of the people. The majority of people want to show the whole world about their 'celebration'. Showing off their 'celebration' is their one and only aim.



Victoria Dam

A tea plantation

Ancient Sri Lanka was known for its Buddhist eco-centric approach to life. The origin of the contemporary ecological and social crisis can be traced to the colonial period and the incorporation of the country into the global capitalist economy.

‘HUMAN RIGHTS’ AND ECOLOGICAL CRISIS IN SRI LANKA

DR. ASOKA BANDARAGE

The recent UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) Resolution A/HRC/46/L.1/Rev.1 of March 16 has brought extensive charges against Sri Lanka over alleged human rights violations, but is arguably seriously flawed.

Opportunistic and strategic use of human rights by the Western powers to maintain hegemony continually ignore violations of the rights of nature and humanity rooted in the destructive model of economic development the same powers introduced to the world.

Ancient Sri Lanka was known for its Buddhist eco-centric approach to life. The origin of the contemporary ecological and social crisis can be traced to the colonial period and the incorporation of the country into the global capitalist economy.

Vast tracts of forest were cut to establish mono-cultural coffee, tea and rubber plantations and local people lost rights to ancestral lands and resources. Deforestation destroyed water resources that irrigated the rivers leaving village tanks dry. Multi-crop subsistence agriculture was undermined, leaving people to become dependent on imported food supplies.

Sri Lanka's forest cover declined from 84 percent in 1881 to 70 percent in 1900 and to around 50 percent in 1948, when the British left. Deforestation and plantation development laid the basis for land erosion and loss of animal habitats and biodiversity.

The origin of the current human-elephant conflict is attributed to deforestation starting in the British era, along with the widespread colonial practice of killing animals for sport and trade. The revered elephant was declared a pest and a reward of a few shillings was given for the head of an elephant.

With the introduction of the Open Economy in 1977, Sri Lanka became subjected to neo-liberal policies such as privatization and structural adjustment, largely as conditions to loans from the World Bank and the IMF.

The massive Mahaweli River Development Programme of this period provided access to land for the poor and a significant increase in the country's food production and power resources.

However, the construction of dams and irrigation networks, roads, and similar infrastructure also radically altered soil and water systems including degradation of watershed conditions and loss of wildlife habitat and populations.

A related agricultural reform began in the 1960s (the 'Green Revolution'), with a campaign to promote the use of agrochemicals and transgenic crop varieties, resulting in the loss of original indigenous seed varieties.

The Mahaweli programme and irrigation have supplied the water for most of the rice cultivation in the North Central Province. This area is also — likely not coincidentally — the site of the nation's highest incidence of chronic kidney disease among poor farming communities.

CURRENT REALITIES

The rich industrialized countries in the Global North are responsible for nearly 80 percent of historical global carbon emissions. Yet poor countries in the global South, such as Sri Lanka — whose carbon footprint is negligible — are the greatest victims of climate disasters. The current and loom-



A flooded street after heavy rains



Coastal erosion

ing impact of climate change on Sri Lanka is massive: Annual mean air temperature has significantly increased by between 1961 and 1990 increasing 0.016 °C per year; Annual average rainfall over Sri Lanka has decreased by about seven per cent between the 1931 to 1960 period and the 1961 to 1990 period; Forecasting the rise in sea level, Sri Lanka is faced with a predicted devastating coastal erosion rate of 0.30 to 0.35 metres a year, with adverse impact on nearly 55 percent of the shoreline.

The 2004 tsunami drastically highlighted the vulnerability of the low-lying plains in the coastal zone to any future rise in sea level. The Northern and Eastern coastal areas claimed as traditional 'Tamil homelands', are vulnerable to submersion as they are flatter than other coastal areas.

This has serious implications for population displacement and renewed political conflict, concerns totally absent in UNHCR Resolutions calling for political devolution.

In 2015, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), an international aid NGO, identified Sri Lanka "as the country with the highest relative risk of being displaced by disaster in South Asia. For every million inhabitants, 15,000 are at risk of being displaced every year in Sri Lanka." In 2017 alone, the country experienced seven disaster events, mainly floods and landslides, and "135,000 new displacements due to disaster. Sri Lanka is also at risk from slow-onset impacts like soil degradation, saltwater intrusion, water scarcity, and crop failure."

Sri Lanka was ranked second among countries most affected by extreme weather events in the Global Climate Risk Index 2019 and sixth in 2020.

DEFORESTATION

Deforestation is considered the

greatest environmental threat facing Sri Lanka today. Sri Lanka ranked fourth among countries with the worst deforestation of primary forests in the world in the 2000–2005 period.

Forest cover, which had declined to about 50 percent at the end of British rule, has further declined to 44 percent in 1956 and 16.5 percent in 2019.

A highly controversial current case is the housing development supposedly constructed for internally displaced persons (IDPs) on Wilpattu National Wildlife Park. The housing will remain despite a recent court judgement that declared it illegal.

The 'polluter pays' principle was upheld, but this only requires that the offender reforests other lands "in any area equivalent to the reserve forest area used for re-settlement of IDPs."

Even this court decision is under appeal by the seventh respondent, former Industry and Commerce Minister Rishad Badiuddin. Moreover, as ecologists point out, mere tree planting elsewhere will not lead to recovery of the intricate forest eco-systems that were destroyed.

Another major controversy involves the Sinharaja Rainforest covering an area of 18,900 acres. It is home to over 50 percent of the country's endemic species and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Deforestation is now taking place in the Sinharaja area for the construction of a road for an isolated village bordering the Forest Reserve and for the suspected building of hotels, shops and other encroachments.

A National Plan based on surveys and clear demarcation of boundaries of Forest Reserves, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Conservation Areas and enforcement is urgently needed to avoid conflict and encroachment over remaining forests.

A recent announcement was made by Irrigation Minister Chamal Raja-



Agriculture is the lifeblood of Sri Lanka



Renewable energy plants are coming up in North

paks regarding proposals to construct two irrigation tanks inside the Sinharaja, each spanning an area of five acres, with Chinese involvement.

A 30-kilometre water tunnel to transport freshwater to areas in the South (including possibly the Chinese-controlled Hambantota Port) is also reported. This announcement has raised alarm over environmental impact and likely loss of the UNESCO World Heritage status.

MINING, DUMPING AND EXPORT-LED GROWTH

There are, unfortunately, many other environmental controversies, the most destructive of which involve export-led growth and foreign companies.

In 2017, 263 waste containers carrying biomedical, plastic and other waste from the UK was brought for illegal dumping in Sri Lanka. Such toxic dumping by rich Northern countries in the poor countries of the South is sadly a common practice. After a legal victory by environmentalists, the containers are being sent back to the UK.

A proposed new project in the Eastern Province is the Eastern Minerals Project of Capital Metal, a company from the UK which plans to mine the 'highest-grade' mineral sands containing ilmenite, rutile, zircon and garnet. While it promises to be a highly profitable venture, environmentalists fear massive and irreversible damage to the vulnerable Eastern coastline.

Yet another controversial mining project is proposed by Titanium Sands, an Australian company, that wants to mine titanium on the island of Mannar. Mannar is a bird paradise and local environmentalists blame the Australian company for 'illegal conduct' and plans to dramatically trans-

form the ecosystem and limit land use by the local community.

NEO-COLONIALISM

Just as the world is at the cusp of a new era of technological and corporate authoritarianism, Sri Lanka, with its strategic location in the Indian Ocean, is also at a decisive historical juncture.

The island is facing new forms of external intervention and competition primarily involving the expansionist and national security efforts of China, USA and India.

These three countries are also the biggest carbon polluters, pursuing unbridled economic growth despite the impending global climate catastrophe.

Sri Lanka is centrally placed in the maritime route of China's Belt and Road Initiative. China is now in control of the Hambantota Port, the Colombo Port City, a terminal of the Colombo Port and a hybrid renewable energy project on three islands off the Jaffna peninsula, just 50 km from the Tamil Nadu coast.

The Quadrilateral Alliance of the USA, India, Australia and Japan is challenging this Chinese expansion, and is, in turn, in control of key strategic positions and natural resources.

India, for example, is in control of the British colonial era Oil Tank Farm in the seaport town of Trincomalee. It is reported that the development of the west terminal of the Colombo Port will also be given to the company of Indian billionaire Adani.

The US Millennium Challenge Corporation's proposed Compact with Sri Lanka was turned down by Sri Lanka due to local protests over resource exploitation, land grab and an effort to splinter Sri Lanka into two separate entities under the control of the United States.

However, there is suspicion that some of the main objectives of the

MCC to digitalize land registers and privatize land to make them available for development by transnational corporations may be continuing in other ways.

The US signed an Acquisitions and Cross Services Agreement (ACSA) with Sri Lanka in 2017 making the island a 'logistics hub' allowing US military vessels open-ended access to Sri Lanka's seaports and airports.

The ACSA is part of the "grand strategy of a united military front between the US and India in the Indo-Pacific."

A Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) between the USA and Sri Lanka, which could turn Sri Lanka into a US military base, has been proposed but not yet signed due to local protest.

NEO-COLONIALISM AND ECO-SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

While the implications of Neo-colonialism for Sri Lanka's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity have been much discussed in recent media, the ecological and social implications remain relatively unexplored. Some of these include: Conflicts between Chinese interests and farming families around the Hambantota Port over Chinese offers to buy ancestral properties of locals. Protests and legal action by environmentalists over the Chinese Port City, especially coastal sand excavation and dumping of chemical waste. Control of the West terminal of the Colombo harbour by India's controversial Adani Group, which has a history of environmental and financial violations in Australia and India. Effects of militarization of the island under the ACSA and possible SOFA agreements and military confrontation between the Quadrilateral Alliance and China in the Indian Ocean.

FUTURE SURVIVAL WITH THE WISDOM OF THE PAST

Sustainable agriculture has a long history on the island, as in any long-lasting indigenous culture, and it needs to be brought back to the fore. Local self-sufficiency and agro-ecology are the only solutions to future food scarcity and surviving the vicissitudes of the global economy.

Both Sri Lanka and the world have enough natural resources to support people if resources are shared equitably and sustainably used. It is the apocalyptic destruction of the unregulated greed of neoliberalism that must end.

For this to happen, policies of corporate regulation must be put in place at both the national and global levels. These policies also need to incorporate a broader definition of human rights that includes the rights of nature and people's rights to natural resources and livelihoods.

There is an urgent concurrent need for environmental education that transcends political party and ethno-religious divisions and unites people both with each other and with a survivable environment. Environmentalism is also humanism that looks to the future, and the rights and survival of future generations. (*IDN-InDepth-News*)

(The writer, a scholar and practitioner, has taught at Yale, Brandeis, Mount Holyoke (where she received tenure), Georgetown, American and other universities and colleges in the U.S. and abroad.)



Buddhist monks held a march from Sama Viharaya in Anuradhapura to the New Town yesterday urging the Government to hold the Provincial Council Elections soon. Anuradhapura District Bhikku Front organised the march.
Picture by Amila Prabath Wanasinghe, Anuradhapura Additional Group Corr.

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Friday
Date: 02.04.2021
Draw No.: 3571
Colour: Orange

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 4,381,880/-

Winning Numbers
30 | 44 | 57 | 58

English Letter
N

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 9112 333 546-47
Fax: 9112 333 546-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 776 or 1919
SMS: DL-Superball-01-appeal-09 & send to 999
For Results: www.dlb.lk
For Interactive Voice Response Service: Call 0114 825 825

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

ADA KOTIPATHI
ආදා කොටපති

Friday
Date: 02.04.2021
Draw No.: 1241
Colour: Purple

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 5,349,300/-

Winning Numbers
29 | 42 | 60 | 77

English Letter
E

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 9112 333 546-47
Fax: 9112 333 546-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 776 or 1919
SMS: DL-AdaKotipathi-01-appeal-09 & send to 999
For Results: www.dlb.lk
For Interactive Voice Response Service: Call 0114 825 825

Winning tickets are valid only for six months



The location after the blast.

Worker killed, three others injured in blast at scrap metal depot

One person was killed and three others were injured in an explosion at a scrap metal depot in Madola, Avissawella on April 2, Avissawella Police said.

The deceased had been identified as Arumugam Sundara Murthy (51), a resident of Puwakpitiya, Avissawella.

The explosion had occurred, while the workers were cutting iron. Only 19 workers were at the location at the time of the blast. Two of the injured have been admitted to the Avissawella Hospital, while one was admitted to the Colombo National Hospital.

Nadaraja Mohan Raj (40), a resident of Madola, Avissawella and Renshami Raj (41), a resident of Hingurala Kanda, Dehiowita are under treatment at the Avissawella Rural Hospital while Sathasivam Ganesh Murthy (23), a resident of Badulla, is under treatment at the Colombo National Hospital.

Parts of the blasted items have been sent to the Government Analyst. Avissawella Police are investigating.

SUPER BALL
සුපර් බෝල්

Draw Number: 1416
Colour: Blue
Date: 03.04.2021
Date: Saturday

Winning English Letter and Numbers
Y | 15 | 20 | 59 | 67

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 3,600,700/-

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 9112 333 546-47
Fax: 9112 333 546-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 776 or 1919
SMS: DL-Superball-01-appeal-09 & send to 999
For Results: www.dlb.lk
For Interactive Voice Response Service: Call 0114 825 825

The winning tickets will be valid for 6 months.

කංචර්ධන වාසනාව
Development Fortune

Date: 03-04-2021
Draw Number: 424 | Colour: Red

SUPER JACKPOT
Rs. 11,743,232/-

English Letter: V
Winning Numbers: 39 40 51
Fate Number: 8

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 3,373,920/-

Next Super Jackpot
Rs. 11,886,900/-

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 9112 333 546-47
Fax: 9112 333 546-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 776 or 1919
SMS: DL-Kanvadhan-01-appeal-09 & send to 999
For Results: www.dlb.lk
For Interactive Voice Response Service: Call 0114 825 825

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

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Lagna

Date: 02-04-2021
Draw Number: 3122
Colour: Blue

SUPER JACKPOT
Rs. 2,716,670.40

Winning Numbers
07 | 41 | 52 | 55

Libra

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 12,169,180/-

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 9112 333 546-47
Fax: 9112 333 546-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 776 or 1919
SMS: DL-Lagna-01-appeal-09 & send to 999
For Results: www.dlb.lk
For Interactive Voice Response Service: Call 0114 825 825

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

සාසිරි
Sasiri

Draw Number: 066
Date: 03.04.2021
Saturday

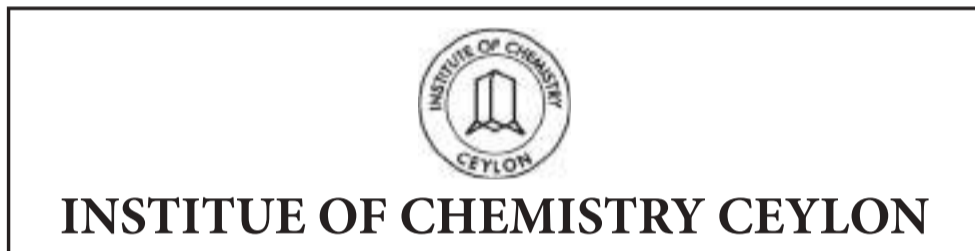
Winning Numbers
11 | 15 | 23

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 2,469,620/-

Total no of Rs. 100,000 winners | 14

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 9112 333 546-47
Fax: 9112 333 546-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 776 or 1919
SMS: DL-Sasiri-01-appeal-09 & send to 999
For Results: www.dlb.lk
For Interactive Voice Response Service: Call 0114 825 825

The blue and orange tickets are respectively valid on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The winning tickets will be valid for 6 months.



INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTRY CEYLON INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

- The President, Institute of Chemistry Ceylon, No.341/22, Kotte Road, Welkada, Rajagiriya, now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Proposed building for Institute of Chemistry Ceylon (ICHEMC) as described below and estimated to cost (Approx.) Rs. 616 Million excluding VAT (Rupees Six Hundred Sixteen Million excluding VAT)
- The Work consists the construction of first phase of eight storied building complex, which consist of four storied building (First phase) to accommodate Lecture rooms, Laboratories and Offices etc. The total floor area is 4900 sq.m. (Including 900 sq.m. roof terrace) with the facility of Water Supply & Drainage, Fire Detection and Protection, Electrical work, Air-Condition System, Telephone, CCTV, Gas, Lifts and Data Network etc.
- The Site is located at Nawa Pubudu Kreedangana Mawatha, IT Park, Malabe.
- The Time for Completion for the whole of Works shall be 900 Calendar Days from the Date of commencement of work.
- Bidding will be conducted through a Bidding Procedure of ICHEMC. Note that ICHEMC is an independent organization governed by a Council as per Act No. 15 of 1972 and utilizing own funds independently. The Council of ICHEMC has the right to accept or reject any bid by its own decision without given any reasons.
- To be eligible for Contract award, the successful bidders shall not have been blacklisted by ICHEMC and shall be registered with the CIDA Grade C2 or above in the category of building Construction subjected to above Item No. 02.
- Qualification requirements to qualify for Contract award subjected to above Item No. 02.
 - Average annual turnover of construction works performed in last Five (5) years shall be at least Rs. 370 Million. (Three Hundred Seventy Million only) excluding VAT.
 - Experience in the Construction of at least two buildings (2) of similar nature with Piling work and similar value and complexity equivalent to the proposed building work and value at least Rs. 600 Million completed within 900 Days or higher value project within a proportionate period completed during the last Five (5) years. (to comply with this requirements, works cited should be at least 70% complete)
 - The minimum amount of liquid assets and/or credit facilities net of the contractual commitment and exclusive of any advance payment under this Contract shall not be less than Rs. 154 Million (Rupees One Hundred Fifty Four Million) only (Latest statement from the official bankers of the bidder regarding the availability of credit facilities is required).
- Bidding documents may be inspected free of charge at the office of the ICHEMC, No.341/22, Kotte Road, Welkada, Rajagiriya, during working days from 0900 hrs to 1430 hrs from 6th April 2021 until 4th May 2021. It is strictly recommended to inspect and check the Bidding Document including Special Conditions before purchasing the Bid Document.
- A complete set of bidding document in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the President, ICHEMC, No.341/22, Kotte Road, Welkada, Rajagiriya, on any working day from 0900 hrs. to 1430 hrs. from 6th April 2021 until 4th May 2021, upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rs. 25,000 including VAT only (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand). The method of payment will be in cash.
- Sealed Bids shall be deposited in duplicate in the tender box available at the office of the President, Institute of Chemistry Ceylon, No.341/22, Kotte Road, Welkada, Rajagiriya, or sent by registered post addressed to the President, Institute of Chemistry Ceylon of the above address to reach him on or before 1430 hrs on 10th May 2021. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after closing. Bidders or their representatives may attend the Bid opening.
- The Bid shall be valid up to 4th October 2021.
- Bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security for Rs. 6,000,000.00 (Rupees Six Million) only obtained from a Licensed commercial bank to the Employer using the form of Bid Security (unconditional, irrevocable and on demand guarantee) included in Section 11 Standard Forms which shall be valid up to 1st November 2021.
- The Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 22nd April 2021 at No.341/22, Kotte Road, Welkada, Rajagiriya, at 1300 hrs and Site visit after the meeting.
- For further details, please contact the ICHEMC, No.341/22, Kotte Road, Welkada, Rajagiriya on Telephone No. 0778 656650, 075 9406041, 011 2861653.

President
Institute of Chemistry Ceylon
No.341/22, Kotte Road, Welkada, Rajagiriya

Date: 06th April 2021

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Development Fortune

English Letter & Winning Numbers
R | 06 | 22 | 39 | 56

Draw No: 710
Date: 02.04.2021
Friday
Colour: Green

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 4,013,520/-

Next Super Jackpot
Rs. 79,078,330/-

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 9112 333 546-47
Fax: 9112 333 546-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 776 or 1919
SMS: DL-Kanvadhan-01-appeal-09 & send to 999
For Results: www.dlb.lk
For Interactive Voice Response Service: Call 0114 825 825

Yellow, Pink and Green coloured tickets are valid on Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays respectively. Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.

Trees at schools in Marawila cut down

PRASAD PURNAMAL,
Puttalam District Group Corr.

Nearly 20 trees at the Marawila Mudukatuwa Sumanadhamma Government College have been felled during the last two days, residents of the area said. Jack, Coconut, Kohlrabi, Mango, Cotton and Halmilla trees have been felled, they said.

The College Principal said that permission had been obtained in this regard, but the Letter of Permission was missing.

Chilaw Zonal Director of Education Sudda Mangala Subhasinghe said that he will look into the matter.

A tree felling is being carried out at schools in the Chilaw Education Zone now and a few months ago, over 30 trees have been felled at a college in Mahagama, the residents said.



A felled tree.

Garbage recycling begins in Kirinda

P.P.G.SUGATHADASA,
Thihagoda Group Corr.

A garbage recycling project has commenced in the Kirinda Puhulwella Pradeshiya Sabha (PS). PS Chairman S.Hetiarachchi said that the project is functioning now in Wahtucolankanda, Puhulwella.

Farmer organisations of Kirinda, Puhulwella use compost manure since the prices are very low.

The PS Chairman said that the project will boost compost manure production.

It will also protect the environment, he said.

ADA KOTIPATHI
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Saturday
Date: 03.04.2021
Draw No.: 1242
Colour: Yellow

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 4,857,220/-

Winning Numbers
07 | 09 | 44 | 75

English Letter
I

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 9112 333 546-47
Fax: 9112 333 546-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 776 or 1919
SMS: DL-AdaKotipathi-01-appeal-09 & send to 999
For Results: www.dlb.lk
For Interactive Voice Response Service: Call 0114 825 825

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

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Lagna

Date: 03-04-2021
Draw Number: 3123
Colour: Light Blue

Super Jackpot has been won
Rs. 2,949,419/-

Winning Numbers
08 | 17 | 33 | 39

Gemini

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 13,692,639/-

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 9112 333 546-47
Fax: 9112 333 546-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 776 or 1919
SMS: DL-Lagna-01-appeal-09 & send to 999
For Results: www.dlb.lk
For Interactive Voice Response Service: Call 0114 825 825

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

SUPER BALL
සුපර් බෝල්

Draw Number: 1415
Colour: Pink
Date: 02.04.2021
Date: Friday

Winning English Letter and Numbers
H | 03 | 18 | 30 | 77

Super Jackpot has been won
Rs. 52,144,365.60

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 55,720,805.60

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 9112 333 546-47
Fax: 9112 333 546-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 776 or 1919
SMS: DL-Superball-01-appeal-09 & send to 999
For Results: www.dlb.lk
For Interactive Voice Response Service: Call 0114 825 825

The winning tickets will be valid for 6 months.

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ශ්‍රීදා - Shanida
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Saturday
Date: 03.04.2021
Draw No.: 3572
Colour: Green

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 4,600,140/-

Winning Numbers
10 | 49 | 59 | 66

English Letter
G

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 9112 333 546-47
Fax: 9112 333 546-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 776 or 1919
SMS: DL-Shanida-01-appeal-09 & send to 999
For Results: www.dlb.lk
For Interactive Voice Response Service: Call 0114 825 825

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

The Lord is Risen: An Easter Reflection



REV. FR. DON ANTON SAMAN HETTIARACHCHI
St. Anthony's Church Mount Lavinia

“On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.” So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and

believed. For they did not yet understand the scripture that He had to rise from the dead.”

EXEGESIS:

In the Gospel scene of this Easter day, all attention is confined to Mary Magdalene.

At first, she seems to visit the tomb alone. But her later words, “We do not know...” suggests that she has not gone alone.

Here the ‘We’ is not a genuine plural; it reflects an oriental mode of speech whereby plural is used for singular (cf. R. Bultmann). Also the use of ‘we’ is a regular mode of John’s writing as already seen in 3, 2.11 – “we know”: Nicodemus is referred to as ‘we’ and so is Jesus, as ‘we’ (cf. E. L. Bode).

Mary Magdalene having taken one look at the tomb runs to Peter and the other disciple to tell, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb.” What Mary thinks is that either enemies or robbers have taken Jesus’ Body. So the theme of robbery dominates in the narrative.

The robbing of tombs was so common at that time and she fears such robbery.

The copy of the decree of the Roman Emperor Claudius (41-54 AD), discovered at Nazareth, orders capital punishment for those destroying tombs, removing bodies, displacing the sealing or other stones – (cf. BARRETT, *The New Testament Background*). Selected Documents (London, 1957) 15. Such official action had to be taken because the robbing of tombs was so common at that time.

The Nazareth Inscription reads: “It is my decision [concerning] graves and tombs—whoever has made them for the religious observances of parents, or children, or household members—that these remain undisturbed forever. But if anyone legally charges that another person has destroyed, or has in any manner extracted those who have been buried, or has moved with wicked intent those who have been buried to other places, committing a crime against them, or has moved sepulchre-sealing stones, against such a person, I order that a judicial tribunal be created, just as [is done] concerning the gods in human religious observances, even more so will it be obligatory to treat with honour those

who have been entombed. You are absolutely not to allow anyone to move [those who have been entombed]. But if [someone does], I wish that [violiator] to suffer capital punishment under the title of tomb-breaker.”

Nevertheless the details of the state of the burial clothes – “... and the cloth that had covered his [Jesus’] head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place” – emphasize that the tomb is not robbed and cause the beloved disciple to believe, “... he saw and believed.”

The story does not end there. The Risen Lord – the One missing in the empty tomb, the One who left His burial cloths behind in the tomb – begins to appear to them and then they will see and believe. The light of Easter will shine on their hearts, darkened with disbelief and then, they will all become Easter people.

CONTEXTUALIZATION:

Mary Magdalene is named, in the Passion Narratives, as one of the female disciples present at Jesus’ crucifixion and death. This was the time

Jesus would have wanted His disciples most. So she remained with Him with greater loyalty right up to the bitter end looking on either from a distance (Mark 15:40; Matthew 27:55; Luke 23:49) or near the cross (John 19: 25).

This was also the only thing she could do at that moment. But in God’s plan it was going to be the ‘foundation’ for being able later to function as witness to the Resurrection: i.e. if she was to be witness to the Resurrection then it was important that she could attest the truth about Jesus’ cruel death.

Then dawns the next more significant and climactic scene where the role of Mary Magdalene together with other women is highlighted in all the Gospels – Mark 16:1-8; Matthew 28:1-10; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-2,11-18. Here we see how she participates in the Resurrection. In lists of female disciples, she is often mentioned first just as in lists of the Twelve Peter’s name comes first.

This consistent pre-eminence is because of Mary’s important role related to the Resurrection and her fidelity to Jesus to the end. The Church has

thus duly honoured, in the sacred Page, her vital role.

What did the Evangelists expect by depicting so adorably the figure of Mary Magdalene? The Gospels were addressed to Christians of whom a vast multitude had been brutally martyred since Nero the Roman Emperor. The Christian Communities had to endure this severe testing. Some Christians, especially the leaders, left the faith, due to persistent persecution.

Hence the Evangelists portrayed the image of Mary Magdalene in a way to encourage the Christians in faith in Jesus.

The Martyrs of Mannar in the days of the Portuguese and the martyrs of Jaffna like Dom Pedro under the Dutch rule remain within our shores a fine example of Christian discipleship which stood firm against all winds of persecution.

May the unflinching fidelity of Mary and our local martyrs – including those who were killed on April 21– be a tower of strength to our daily following of Jesus in all times and seasons.

THE CONCEPT OF FORGIVENESS: A SOCIO-RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVE



ANUJA RAVINDRAN

When He rose from the dead, Jesus forgave those who had sentenced him to death and killed him. The world celebrated that great act of forgiveness yesterday. To forgive someone who has done you a great or heinous wrong is something not humanly easy. It is easier said than done.

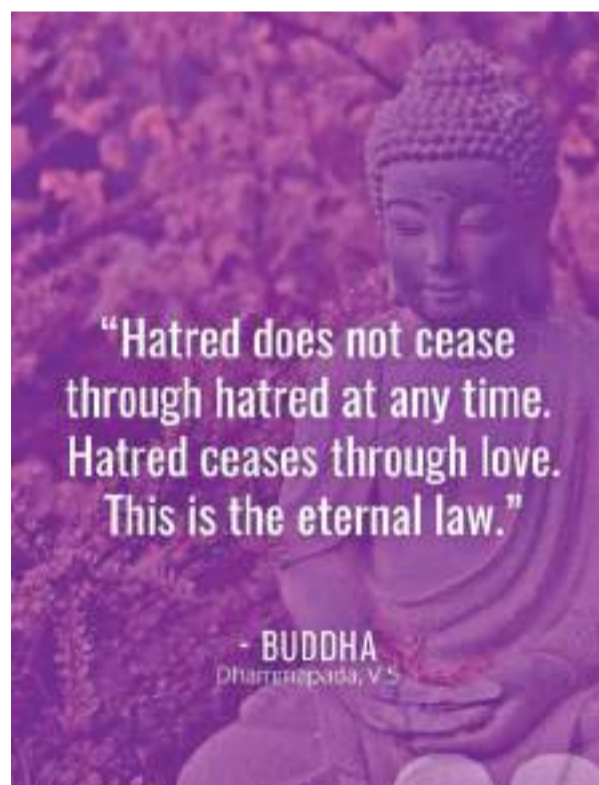
If you are the sufferer of this heinous wrong that is done on you, how can you bring yourself to forgive? Even with the passing of years or decades, the pain is still there and the deed can be clearly recalled in our memory.

But we know that to hold on to this anger and not overcoming this entrenched thorn in our mind, we are forever imprisoned within ourselves and could not attain the inner peace of mind. From time immemorial, there has been a plethora of explanations and meanings for forgiveness. There is no universal definition of forgiveness accepted by all people, but forgiveness is simply defined as “forgiving someone for their wrongdoing.” This is done instead of accusing or wanting to penalize someone. The main point is that some people forgive because they have good understanding skills, some are forgiving because of their compulsive situation and others forgive because of their institutionalized relationship with someone such as in a marriage. This means that they give



more importance to managing their time instead of wasting time with someone. So, they simply conclude “I forgive your mistake, just do not repeat it.” People normally express what The Bible says: “Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbour as yourself” (Leviticus 19:18). Accordingly, if one is truly forgiving with his or her whole heart, then he or she must have a strong personality that insists on tolerance, sacrifice and love. It is not just about forgiveness; it also brings peace of mind to the heart. Forgiveness is not easy when someone regularly does bad things, even if you do them no

harm. People usually do things like this because they don’t want to see the growth and development of someone, so they start to do bad things and destroy that person’s future. In such situations, it is very difficult to forgive. And also, when people hurt someone so badly that they kill someone close to them, damaging things and hurting them violently it is not easily forgiven. It may lead to brutal revenge which means that the victim wants the person to feel the same pain that he or she has gone through. On the other hand, some people do not want to take revenge even when they are so badly hurt because they feel that the pain they have suffered



should not engulf their enemy. Even at the peak of their grief, they will forgive the enemy who gave them that pain.

Someone may admit immediately after being involved in a malfeasance and they feel sorry for it, but some others take time to realize it. Some will not even realize that they have done something erroneous, in lieu of which they give a logical reason for not forgiving. According to the religious perspective, it is very essential to forgive. Forgiveness seems like a good value or custom in religions. The Bible says, “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you” (Matthew 6:14). In the Holy Quran “Let them pardon and overlook. Would you not love for Allah to forgive you? Allah is Forgiving and Merciful” (Surat An-Nur 24:22). And in the Bhagavad Gita, “a

man must elevate himself by his own mind, not degrade himself. The mind is the friend of the conditioned soul, and his enemy as well (Bhagavad Gita-6.5). The core scriptures of Buddhism, taken from the teachings of the Buddha nearly 2,500 years ago, state the importance of forgiveness. Buddhism teaches the importance of a peaceful state of mind as well as a peaceful way of life. Buddhists believe that forgiveness is a critical step to achieving this peaceful state. According to the timeless Dhamma-

pada (Verse 5), “Hatred does not cease by hatred at any time: hatred ceases by love, this is an eternal rule.” This stanza was in fact quoted by President J.R. Jayewardene at the San Francisco Peace Conference in 1951, whereby the Western powers decided to forgive Japan for its role in World War II and pledged help to rebuild it in a spirit of cooperation and friendship. President Jayewardene is still held in high regard in Japan due to this singular act of forgiveness. According to Buddhism, if you do good, good will come to you, if you do bad then you will receive bad outcomes. Therefore you do not have to take revenge, you forgive them. You also get the benefit of good

karma for forgiving your enemy. On the basis of religious aspects, people believe that God is the judge of wrongdoing and He alone has the power to punish them for their offence. Therefore, it is assumed that religion supports maintaining the social order and acts as a tool for social control by emphasizing the value of forgiveness. It also ensures external peace and inner peace of the individual.

LEARNING FROM THE WORLD’S RELIGIONS

Commonly forgiveness and retaliation are two contrasting aspects that a person can have. These are just characteristics for the secular



“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven.”

LUKE 6:37

Western society, because they may not have a norm or value regarding these aspects. They practically rationalize the true value of forgiveness in real life; they refuse to accept the theoretical perspective of forgiveness.

As rational thinkers, they associate it with ‘human rights’. In their perspective, it is extremely very difficult to forgive, in case, if one is forgiven for his or her offence, it is questionable whether he or she is will not be repeating the same mistake.

On the other hand, forgiveness has some distinctive characteristics and meaningful sense, when a person decides to forgive someone’s transgression; he or she must have a strong heart and confidence; it helps the particular person to move forward with his life with a peaceful mind. Moreover, the incident will not bother anyone anymore after they are forgiven. Another important point is, you may earn more hearts by forgiving others’ faults.

Forgiving will help one to move on with the social life and it gives a big relief from pain, anxiety, and distress. The impact of forgiveness leads to optimism which means that one will feel self-confidence, happiness, and peace.

(The writer is a Sociologist and Senior Consultant holding a B.A. in Sociology and Anthropology and a M.A. in Sociology.)

Prof. G.L. Peiris tells Int'l Development Partners Dialogue

Major legislative reform process underway

The people must have confidence that justice will be delivered effectively and expeditiously by the court system, Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris told a high-profile gathering in Colombo.

He was addressing the International Development Partners Dialogue at the Hilton Colombo over the weekend.

Minister Prof. Peiris said the Government was now involved in the constitutional reforms and revisiting and critically evaluating the law.

The event was attended by heads and representatives of international organisations and missions including UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, KOICA, The Asia Foundation, IOM, JICA, ADB, ICRC, UNODC, USAID, The World Bank, IOM, The European Union, Switzerland, and Australia.

"Many items of pending legislation will be amended and debated in the upcoming months. It covers the entire spectrum - judicial infrastructure, coordination, civil reform, criminal reform and commercial reform. A whole range of legislation in each of these areas is going to be presented to Parliament in the next few months," the Minister said.

"Donor institutions are making



Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris, Justice Minister Ali Sabry, PC, State Minister Lohan Ratwatte and Attorney General Dappula de Livera at the event.

the right choice as it is not an unrealistic expectation but a well-founded expectation that this country has an institutional strength to get to our destination," he added.

Opening remarks were made by Justice Minister Ali Sabry, PC, who spoke on the need for reform and the objectives sought to be achieved by the event and working together with the Development Partners.

The Minister noted the lack of coordination among all the institutions and the efforts, which have been made where certain things have been duplicated, or not properly evaluated, or at the end of the

day result into irresolute circumstances.

The Minister commented on legal reforms where a number of committees were reforming laws where 10 new reforms were suggested through two reports, which will be progressed in a few months.

Attorney General Dappula De Livera and Prison Management and Prisoners Rehabilitation State Minister Lohan Ratwatte, Secretary to the Justice Ministry M.M.P.K Mayadunne and the Heads of several State Institutions were present.

The objective of the event was to set out in detail the justice reform programme of the Justice

Ministry to the organisations along with the areas that require technical assistance, capacity building, and institutional development and also serve as a forum for the organisations' plan and to partner with the Justice Ministry/GOSL inefficiently attaining the objectives of the Justice Sector Reform Drive.

A presentation on the Overall Legal and Policy Reforms was made by Coordinating Secretary at the Justice Ministry Attorney-at-law Shamir Zavahir, followed by presentations on the specific areas by Additional Secretary to the Justice Ministry Tushara Suraweera, Sub-Committee on Digitisation and Court Automation Chief Legal Advisor Navin Marapana, PC, Sub-Committee on Commercial Law Reforms Chief Legal Advisor Attorney-at-law Kaushalya Navaratne, Commissioner General of Prisons H.M.T.N Upuldeniya and Consultant-ADB Bank Attorney-at-law Harsha Fernando.

The presentations were followed by a dialogue between the Development Partners and Justice Ministry. It included discussions on the mechanism to move forward and the efficient collaboration on projects.



State Minister Nimal Lanza opening the Magul Pokuna Church Road in Wattala yesterday.

Testing coconut oil commenced after our Government came into power - State Minister Lanza

Coconut oil testing commenced after our Government came into power last year, Rural Roads and Other Infrastructure State Minister Nimal Lanza said.

He said that the tests proved that the recently imported coconut oil contained carcinogens thereby preventing the public from consuming the oil.

State Minister Nimal Lanza was participating in the opening ceremony of the Magul Pokuna Church Road in the Wattala Electorate yesterday.

He said that some allege that the carcinogenic coconut oil is in the market today. He said that the coconut oil from overseas was tested for carcinogens from 2020. After Gotabaya Rajapaksa became the President, this racket was busted because he asked to commence investigation. The coconut oil was not tested before 2020. Even though they had contained carcinogens, people would have consumed the oil. It has been ordered now to re-export the carcinogenic coconut oil. If anyone has violated the order, we would enforce the law against that one. However, carcinogenic coconut oil has not been found in the market. We will not allow the people to be given substances with harmful carcinogens or substances," the State Minister said.

He said that after the Easter bomb attacks, the Easter Sunday was not celebrated here. Instead, those died in the Easter attacks were commemorated. The Masterminds in the Easter attacks will be punished. The President will take the necessary steps in this regard. The ruling party at that time is in the Opposition today. Those who are accused by the people of the Easter attacks are on Sajith Premadasa's stage today," the State Minister said.

He said that the Government must be protected. "President Gotabaya Rajapaksa loves the environment. He has entrusted the task of protecting the environment to the Army today. Anyone who destroys the environment will be arrested. The President has instructed us to protect the environment while carrying out development," State Minister Nimal Lanza said.



Prayers for the victims of the Easter Sunday bomb attacks are carried out throughout the country yesterday. Here a special holy mass at the St Mary's Church, Nayakakanda. Picture by Joseph Pius, Wattala Special Corr.

India will get renewable energy from Sri Lanka - State Minister Duminda

NIMAL WIJESINGHE, Anuradhapura Additional District Group Corr,

Renewable Energy Resources Development State Minister Duminda Disanayake said that there is a high possibility of transmitting electricity to India from Sri Lanka in near future. He said that Mannar will be the hub of wind power

Generation before long.

"Already 33 wind turbines along Mannar coastal belt generate 110 MW electricity. Another 350 Mw will be produced in the near future. The Mannar District has a huge potential for harnessing wind power and solar electricity and the surplus of renewable electricity will be transmitted to India via Dhanushcuddy," the State Minister said.

"Bilateral talks between the two countries have commenced in the recent past on sharing electricity even before Mannar was earmarked as a suitable location to promote renewable electricity generation. India will use our renewable energy to meet its electricity requirement," he said.

"The sand deposits in seas between Dhanushcuddy and Mannar called 'Adam's Bridge' will make it easy to transmit renewable energy to India from Sri Lanka," State Minister Disanayake said.

"The Adams Bridge has been inspected recently by the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA) and the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB). The country will receive 80 per cent of its power from renewable energy by 2030," the State Minister said.



DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

ISSUE OF TREASURY BILLS

Rs. 45,000 million Treasury bills are to be issued through an auction on 07th April 2021

The details of these Treasury bill issues are as follows:

Maturity Period	91 Days	182 Days	364 Days	Total
ISIN*	LKA09121G091	LKA18221J084	LKA36422D089***	-
Amount Offered (Rs. Mn)	10,000	15,000	20,000	45,000
Maximum yield rate for acceptance (%)**	-	-	5.15	-

Date of Auction : 07th April 2021
 Date of Settlement : 09th April 2021
 Date of Issue : 09th April 2021
 Closing date and time of bid submission : Tuesday 07th April 2021, at 11.00 a.m.
 Minimum amount of a bid : Rupees five million (Rs. 5,000,000/-) and multiples of Rupees one million (Rs. 1,000,000/-) there onwards.

Bids are invited from the Primary Dealers in Government Securities. Bids should be made only through the electronic bidding facility provided by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL). The CBSL may accept a higher or lower amount than the offered amounts for each maturity by reallocating amounts between the maturities, depending on the market conditions, but without exceeding the total amount on offer at this auction.

The general public is invited to purchase Treasury bills from the following Primary Dealers or any other Licensed commercial banks.

Acuity Securities Ltd	2206297	NSB Fund Management Co. Ltd	2425010
Bank of Ceylon	2541938	People's Bank	2206783
Capital Alliance Ltd.	2317777	Sampath Bank PLC	2305842
Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC	2332319	Seylan Bank PLC	2456340
First Capital Treasuries PLC	2639883	Wealth Trust Securities Ltd	2675096

* International Securities Identification Number
 ** The yield rates of 91 day and 182 day maturities will be decided below the level of 364 day maturity at the auction.
 *** New holiday treatment for Treasury Bill maturities applies, i.e. effective from 2022, in the event the maturity falls on a bank holiday, payments will be made on the immediate following business day.

M.Z.M. Aazim
 Superintendent / Registrar of Public Debt.

Issuing Office
 Public Debt Department
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA
 30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo 01.
 Telephone: +94 112477011, Fax: +94 112477687
 Web: www.cbsl.gov.lk

DATE 02.04.2021 FRIDAY OFFICIAL RESULTS www.nlb.lk

MAHAJANA SAMPATHA DRAW NUMBER: 4445 Prizes won in this draw

Rs. 12,158,080.00

WONNING LETTER: S WINNING NUMBERS: 9 3 7 3 5 4

The super prize of next draw: **Rs. 11,439,004.00**

Govisetha DRAW NUMBER: 2740 TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW

Rs. 7,637,580.00

WINNING LETTER: K WINNING NUMBERS: 14 28 50 74

THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW: **Rs. 61,661,415.20**

Mega POWER 10 DRAW NUMBER: 806 TOTAL PRIZES WON IN THIS DRAW

Rs. 3,525,000.00

WONNING LETTER: Q SUPER NUMBER: 15 WINNING NUMBERS: 28 58 72 80

NEXT MEGA SUPER PRIZE: **Rs. 126,554,483.60**
 NEXT POWER SUPER PRIZE: **Rs. 20,938,204.80**
 NEXT GRAND SUPER: **Rs. 10,000,000.00**

Dhana Nidhanaya DRAW NUMBER: 482 TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW

Rs. 4,840,140.00

WONNING LETTER: D WINNING NUMBERS: 03 36 77 78

THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW: **Rs. 91,199,463.20**

SUPIRI VASANA DRAW NUMBER: 1588 TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW

Rs. 3,335,560.00

WONNING LETTER: SUPER NUMBER: 05 WINNING NUMBERS: 02 17 35 37

THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW: **Rs. 3,141,790.00**

02.04.2021 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 748,887

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS Rs. 31,496,360.00

Rs. 2,000,000 PRIZES 01 | Rs. 1,000,000 PRIZES 02
Rs. 500,000 PRIZES 01 | Rs. 1,00,000 PRIZES 32

- All Winning Prizes above Rs. 500,000 are subject to government taxes
- Winner has to submit National ID when receiving Prizes
- All Winning lotteries are valid only for 06 months from Draw Date

National Lotteries Board
 32, Deshamanya N. W. J. Mudalige Mawatha, Colombo - 01.

DATE 03.04.2021 SATURDAY OFFICIAL RESULTS www.nlb.lk

MAHAJANA SAMPATHA DRAW NUMBER: 4446 Prizes won in this draw

Rs. 11,969,620.00

WONNING LETTER: H WINNING NUMBERS: 8 5 2 0 4 6

The super prize of next draw: **Rs. 12,555,225.00**

Govisetha DRAW NUMBER: 2741 TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW

Rs. 6,702,760.00

WINNING LETTER: S WINNING NUMBERS: 31 36 54 67

THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW: **Rs. 62,109,720.80**

Mega POWER 10 DRAW NUMBER: 807 TOTAL PRIZES WON IN THIS DRAW

Rs. 24,186,564.80

WONNING LETTER: E SUPER NUMBER: 03 WINNING NUMBERS: 45 50 58 68

NEXT MEGA SUPER PRIZE: **Rs. 126,891,710.80**
 NEXT POWER SUPER PRIZE: **Rs. 10,000,000.00**
 NEXT GRAND SUPER: **Rs. 10,000,000.00**

Dhana Nidhanaya DRAW NUMBER: 483 TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW

Rs. 4,631,020.00

WONNING LETTER: A WINNING NUMBERS: 12 33 36 67

THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW: **Rs. 91,257,157.20**

JATHIKA SAMPATHA DRAW NUMBER: 1110 TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW

Rs. 3,351,780.00

WONNING ZODIAC: WINNING NUMBERS: 5 4 3 1 4 6

THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW: **Rs. 15,540,712.34**

03.04.2021 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 717,163

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS Rs. 50,841,744.80

POWER SUPER PRIZES Rs. 20,938,204.80 | Rs. 2,000,000 PRIZES 01
Rs. 1,000,000 PRIZES 01 | Rs. 1,00,000 PRIZES 33

- All Winning Prizes above Rs. 500,000 are subject to government taxes
- Winner has to submit National ID when receiving Prizes
- All Winning lotteries are valid only for 06 months from Draw Date

National Lotteries Board
 32, Deshamanya N. W. J. Mudalige Mawatha, Colombo - 01.

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WORLD OF SPORTS

(APRIL 5) LOCAL EVENTS CRICKET

(Major Club Limited Over Tournament):
CCC vs Army SC at CCC Grounds
Bloomfield vs Kandy Customs SC at Bloomfield Grounds
Badureliya CC vs BRC at Maggona
Saracens SC vs Colts CC at Colts Grounds
Moors SC vs Sebastianites CC at NCC Grounds
Kurunegala YCC vs Police SC at Welagedara

TENNIS

Clay Court Nationals at SLTA Courts, Green Path

BASKETBALL

Masters Tournament at Sugathadasa Indoor Stadium

FOREIGN EVENTS CRICKET

(Sheffield Shield):
New South Wales vs Queensland at Wollongong
Victoria vs South Australia at Melbourne
Western Australia vs Tasmania at Perth

FOOTBALL

(Premier League):
Everton vs Crystal Palace
Wolverhampton Wanderers vs West Ham United
(Spanish League):
Barcelona vs Real Valladolid

Big cash bonanza for Super League Soccer Tourney

ALTHAF NAWAZ
A cash Bonanza of 23.5 million rupees will be on offer for the 10 participating teams at the inaugural Super League Soccer Tournament scheduled to kick-off at Sugathadasa Stadium from April.19

After several months of immaculate discussions and pre-planning, the governing body, Football Federation of Sri Lanka (FFSL), is launching this inaugural professional football League, which will give away the biggest cash rewards in the history of Sri Lankan football.

FFSL is embarking on this all-important tournament which will also play a key role in scouting new talent for the National team. World Football body FIFA has supported the super league immensely with financial assistance

towards its success.

FFSL has initially selected the ten top tier teams in the country with implementation of strict club licensing criteria on par with International standards. The ten teams, namely: Renown SC, Ratnam SC, Blue Star SC, Defenders SC, Red Star SC, Up Country Lions SC, Sea-Hawks SC, New Young FC, Colombo FC and Blue Eagle SC will vie for honours, with the first match scheduled to commence at 4.30 p.m. and the second at 7.30 p.m. respectively under closed doors.

A total of 45 matches will be played from the commencement until the end of this tournament on



a league basis, which is scheduled to conclude by the second week of August. All teams will be ranked on their performance and the number of points they accrue at the end of the tournament. The top team with the highest number of points will be adjudged the winner, while the other teams will be lined up as per their performance respectively.

The winner will carry away a cash prize of five million rupees and the Prestigious 'Super League Championship Cup', while the runner-up and the third placed teams will receive rupees 3.5 and 3.25 million respectively.

The other unique feature of this tournament is that all participating teams will be rewarded an attractive prize, including the tenth placed team, which will be entitled for one million, whereas in most other tournaments they will leave empty handed.

All participating teams were involved in a pre-season tournament to gain match practice and to get their team combinations in proper order before the big



An incident in a Super League Soccer match

bash. With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic some clubs in the fray were under isolation and were deprived of conducting

practice sessions for their players. Considering all these facts, FFSL executed this pre-season tournament at

an additional cost. All matches are to be conducted under strict health guidelines directed by the Ministry of Health.

Kingswood win by 24 runs

HAFIZ MARIKAR
Kingswood College defeated Kegala Vidyalaya by 24 runs in their Inter-Schools Under-19 Limited Overs Cricket Tournament match worked off at Pallekele yesterday.

Chief scores
Kingswood: 163 in 45.1 overs (Mahasen Ranasinghe 50) **Kegala Vidyalaya:** 139 in 38 overs.

Spieth seizes share of 54-hole lead

LOS ANGELES: Jordan Spieth roared home with five birdies in his final seven holes on Saturday to shoot a five-under 67 grab a share of the lead with Matt Wallace heading into the final round of the Texas Open.

Spieth has won 11 times on the PGA Tour but is hoping to end a lengthy dry spell dating back over three years to the 2017 British Open.

His game has been trending in the right direction with the Masters looming at Augusta National next week. The 27-year old American highlighted that with a stellar back nine to get to 12-under 204 and a tie with England's four-time European Tour winner Wallace, who also shot a 67.

"I left the ball in the right spots when it was missed and really, I did a great job managing today," he said. **AFP**



Marius Asanka Suwaris captain of team Blue receives the over 35-Trophy from Gayath Jayasinghe, CEO of Gaja Holdings-the sponsors of Masters Basketball Inter-League Tournament held recently. Also in the picture is Basil de Silva acting Secretary of MBSL

Blues, Police, Carlton and NBC share major honours

The teams Blues, Police, Carlton and NBC shared the major honours as they went on to win several age group Championships at the Masters Basketball Inter-League Tournament conducted by Masters Basketball Sri Lanka (MBSL) at Sugathadasa Indoor Stadium recently.

After some intensive competition with the participation of 31 teams, the Blues, Police, Carlton and NBC stole the limelight by winning several age groups championships.

This event was a reintroduction of the game after almost two years

which involved most of the yesteryear players participation for three days.

MBSL with a view of revamping the game in the country encouraged both men and women in various categories starting up from over 35 and above. Gaja Sports, one of the top sports promoting companies sponsored this event.

Semi-finals Over 35 Mens- Blues beat Wattala 32-17
Bulls Black beat Colombo Spartans 25-16

40 Women's-NBC beat Angels 22-7
Carlton Moratuwa beat Penguins 31-04

40 men's-Police SC beat

Old Bens 25-10
Carlton Moratuwa beat Wattala Bc 28-25

45 men's-Carlton Moratuwa beat Bulls 19-16
76ers Beat Untouchaballs 23-12

50 Men's-Police SC beat Old Bens 17-08
Bulls beat Old Sokians 29-14

Finals-35 Mens - Blues beat Bulls black 26-18

Over 40 Men's- Police SC beat Carlton, Moratuwa 21-17

Over 45 Men's- Carlton Moratuwa beat 76 ers 23-17

Over 50 men's- Bulls beat Police SC 14-7

Over 35 women's- NBC beat Penguins 33-10

Over 40 women's-Carlton Mortuwa beat NBC 22-17 **(AN)**

Senuk advance to Boys' U-14 fourth round

Senuk Herath produced a fine performance to book a place in the fourth round of the Boys' Under-14 Singles at the HNB-Hutch Clay Court Tennis Nationals, which continued at the SLTA Courts in Green Path yesterday.

The promising schoolboy got his act together well from the start and went on to beat Uvain Samaraweera in straight sets 6-0, 6-1 in the third round encounter.

The results:
Boys' Under-14 Singles third round:
Senuk Herath beat Uvain Samaraweera 6-0, 6-1.
Amrik Wettimuny beat R. Wanigasooriya 7-6, 6-2.
R. Akuretiyagama beat Hitushka de Silva 6-0, 6-4.
Ganuka Fernando beat Nenuka Geeganage 6-3, 6-0.
Dhanushka Dias beat Aahil Kaleel 6-1, 7-6.
R. Gunawardane beat J a m a l Sabry 6-3, 6-3.
Jayin De Seram beat Aweesh Ganegoda 6-3, 0-6, 10-6. **(C.D)**



Senuk Herath in action

Sports Minister gifts bicycles to encourage active lifestyle

Minister of Sports Namal Rajapaksa gifted Milo campaign winners with bicycles at a special event, to help children stay physically active.

The Minister recently launched a National Cycling Sunday, and

strongly believes cycling is a great way to spend time outdoors and get some exercise.

The brand Milo has awarded bicycles to 8,000 winners so far, and will be gifting 1,000 winners every week until April 18.



(From left): Fabrice Cavallin, Managing Director of Nestle Lanka PLC, Namal Rajapaksa, Minister of Sports, and Bandula Egodage, Vice President - Corporate and Regulatory Affairs, Nestle Lanka PLC



Charith Asalanka of SSC is the highest run-getter

Army eye L/O quarter-final spot against CCC

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

CCC and Army SC will clash in a vital fixture of the SLC Major Club Limited Overs Cricket Tournament at the CCC Grounds in Maitland Crescent today.

Both teams are vying for a quarter-final place from Group 'A' along with the table leaders Badureliya SC who are currently on top of the group with 20 points.

Army SC are in second place with 19 points while the CCC are in third place with a total of 15 points. Only the top two teams will qualify for the quarter-finals. Another quarter-final spot in Group 'D' is still open with Moors SC and Colts CC battling for a place. SSC have already secured their place in the quarter-finals from this group. Meanwhile, Chairth Asalanka of SSC is the highest run-getter so far in the tournament with an aggregate of 348 runs from six matches. In the bowling department, Ragama CC pacesman Binura Fernando is still on top of the list with 14 wickets from five matches. **Pix courtesy SLC**



Binura Fernando of Ragama CC is the highest wicket-taker

Colombo Football Club to usher in a new era

Colombo Football Club (CFC), one of Sri Lanka's Premier Football Teams in the country is in the process of moving into their new head office located at Galle Road, Dehiwala.

On the 8th of April, the club will celebrate their 13th year since it was founded by Saif Yusoof along with their initial coach Dixon Silva and team Manager Andy Sampoo conducted the first open trials for the then newly established football team way back in 8th April 2008 at Campbell Park

Grounds, Borella. This celebration marks a significant stepping stone with the opening of the head office, as their humble start as a Division Three Team, in a relatively short period are now regarded as one of the Premier Clubs which achieved National Championship status which is represented in the International Arena. After their inauguration, in its first six months saw the tragic demise of their coach, the administration and structure took a radical turn.

With the appointment of

the new coach Hassan Roomy, infused success while maintaining discipline in the team. The appointment of the new General Secretary, Premadasa veteran in the field of soccer saw the administration of the club was in safe hands directing it on the right path. The appointment of General Manager Aabid Akram saw the uplift of the club off the field and brought more focus to the journey of professional football while Sayed M. Iqbal is the team manager. These numerous adminis-

trative personalities are responsible for the success and all they need is a new realignment to professional football management.

The CFC's new administrative home provides all the facilities for management, players, students and even fans to have a single location to fulfill their club needs and requirements. The office will feature an onsite futsal training court, a merchandise store, a club cafe and changing rooms for girls and boys so students feel secure. The Club's dream



Colombo FC players and officials are seen here at the new location

and goal is to have their own football ground some-

day. Till then, they have found a base that will uplift

the club and inspire many clubs in Sri Lanka to look

at football more professionally. **(AN)**

Daily News Business

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JEDB turns to profitable path

SHIRAJIV SIRIMANE

Government-owned Janatha Estates Development Board" (JEDB) which was making huge losses and depended on government Treasury handouts for many years has made a dramatic U-turn and is on its way to break even and make profits from this year.

JEDB which was set up in 1976 after the Land Reform act to manage lands taken over by the government posted a net loss of Rs. 757 million and also received a hand out of Rs. 450 million from the Treasury to shoulder the burden for paying salaries in 2019.

However, with prudent economic management systems and initiating several other initiatives JEDB was successful in moving out of taking the 'Treasury dole' of Rs. 450 million for staff from the in 2020.

"In addition, we have reduced

our expenses by more than half and losses were narrowed to Rs. 357 million," said Chairman, JEDB, Rtd. Wg. Cmdr. Buwaneka D. Abeysuriya was appointed in January 2020.

Successive management of the JEDB had defaulted on EPF/ETF payments and there was a huge Rs. 1.8 billion payments due and there also were shocking 1,700 plus cases against JEDB Chairman from former employees. In addition, JEDB also was in debt for nearly Rs. 700 million for state banks, Tea Board, Mineral Sands, Fertilizer Corporation and several other institutions. This also includes Rs. 80 million in arrears to the Ceylon Municipal Council. "Some of these were settled while we have started paying EPF/ETF for others.

One of the other biggest challenges was the non-finalizing of



Rtd. Wg. Cmdr. Buwaneka D. Abeysuriya

annual accounts for eight years which was also finally corrected last year.

"We currently have around 20,000 hectares of land, tea factories, small power plants, in different parts of Sri Lanka and have 18 estates of tea and rubber which we manage. (16 tea estates and 02 rubber Estates).

He identified one of the biggest revenue losses were due to

non-performing estates/factories and we have reinvested to provide them fertilizer, replanting material and other needed infrastructure to correct these on requests made by Estate heads whose mindsets have now changed from 'lethargic' to 'positive thinking'.

Cost of production was another major issue and here again, we have intervened and brought it down from Rs. 550 to 470. He said that with the subject Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamae and a well-educated and quailed Board comprising Professionals, they looked at the JEDB with a new professional mindset and originated several changes and reduced expenses as well as corruption. "We now see a steady increase of revenue and despite the impact of COVID-19 pandemic we look to break even and earn profits this year," he said.

JEDB to set up a Property Management Arm

The previously heavily politicized JEDB has leased out several of its prime estates, factories and locations to the private sector and plans are now underway to set up a new Property Management arm to review and manage them.

"We have observed that there were 158 lease agreements executed under very unprofessional terms and some of these have already expired and released again with better conditions after following proper tender procedures. The proposed Property Management arm will renegotiate the other agreements and bring them in line with current 'lease rates'."

He said that some of their lands in Mattakkuliyaya used as warehouses have been sold/leased to Urban Development Authority and Ministry of Education and dues for these amounting to over Rs. 100 million were not collated. "However we have now been able to collect most of them and remaining the balance too would be taken soon."

Our Head office is located on five acres of land at Vauxhall Street we also have three acres of land on Darley Road, Colombo given out on lease. "We plan to lease out several other properties after finalizing tenders under government tender procedure soon."



DIALOG PARTNERS WITH ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY... PAGE 20

Ambani bomb scare

Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh on Monday said that the state's Anti-Terrorism Squad has filed a murder case in connection with the death of Mansukh Hire, the reported owner of the explosives-laden car found outside Reliance Industries chairperson Mukesh Ambani's residence in Mumbai last month.

The case filed by the Anti-Terrorism Squad against unidentified people includes charges under Sections 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence) of the Indian Penal Code. It was filed after the 45-year-old's wife Vimala Hire alleged that he had been killed. Meanwhile, the National Investigation Agency took over the inquiry into the bomb threat, PTI reported, quoting the agency's spokesperson. (Scroll.in)

CBSL reacts to fake news

The Central Bank observes, with disappointment, a certain newspaper publishing an erroneous and unsubstantiated report of a planned delay in settlement of dues on account of Sri Lanka Development Bonds (SLDBs) and Foreign Currency Loans obtained by the Government from Domestic Banks.

In a release, the Central Bank informs investors and the general public that debt service payments, interest and capital, are being met in a timely manner on account of SLDBs and Foreign Currency Loans from Domestic Banks, as

well as all other debt obligations of the Government.

There is no plan to delay or defer such payments as reported in the said newspaper, and accordingly, the newspaper report is completely erroneous with no basis for the contents reported. The Government has no intention to tarnish its unblemished debt service record by delaying the settlement of maturing debt obligations. So far, during 2021, on account of SLDBs and Foreign Currency Loans from Domestic Banks, debt service payments of close to US\$ 1.2 billion have been met, and all due obligations will also be serviced in a timely manner.

Investors and the general public are advised not to get unduly concerned about such baseless and erroneous newspaper reports.



Ministry of Youth, SME Business Trust Guarantee ink MoU

To promote young SME entrepreneurs

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the SME Business Trust Guarantee Limited, to encourage small and medium scale entrepreneurs under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Youth and Sports in Colombo.

The MoU was signed with the objective of uplifting small and medium scale entrepreneurs for the development of the youth community in the country by the SME Business Trust Guarantee Limited.

Minister of Youth and Sports Namal Rajapaksa said that with the participation of the public and private sector, (Public-Private-Partnership) small and medium scale entrepreneurs could be pro-

motored to the global market by providing them with opportunities and encouragement.

He also pointed that this will help in minimizing the high popularity of Public sector employment opportunities among the younger generation in the country and will be a worthy opportunity for the development of the island.

The Minister said that small scale entrepreneurs should be brought to the middle level and the existing policy framework should be changed and they should be encouraged to come up with new project proposals.

He further said that when creating industrial areas, they should be established outside Colombo and investors should be encouraged to



set them up in an eco-friendly manner in different Divisional Secretariat Areas.

Saman Waduge, Additional Secretary (Youth Affairs) of the Ministry, Sudheera

Jayaratne, Director of Small Enterprise Development and senior representatives of

SME Business Trust Guarantee Limited were also present on the occasion.

New Bill to amend Provident Fund

THARAKA WICKREMASEKERA

A new Bill will be presented in parliament next month to expedite solving of problems of employees of the private sector and state corporations as well as statutory boards regarding Provident Fund, gratuity and compensation issues.

Minister of Labour, Nimal Siripala De

Silva said that this initiative will provide huge security for over 3.6 million employees working in state corporations, statutory boards and the private sector.

He also said that certain Provident Fund cases are still active in courts for about 10 years and as a result, a retired employee is subject to much inconvenience

when obtaining the provident fund contributions.

"According to the new bill if someone goes to a higher court regarding the provident fund or ex-gratia payments or against the sum ordered by the Commissioner-General of Labour to be paid by the employer that money should be

compulsorily deposited with either the Commissioner General of Labour or at the court where the initial verdict was given.

The Minister also said that at present 15,078 cases in connection with provident fund and ex-gratia payments are being heard at Courts.



Minister of Labour Nimal Siripala de Silva

SLIC staff donates PCR machine to Ratnapura Teaching Hospital



SLIC Chairman Jagath Wellawatta hands over the PCR machine to Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi.

Sri Lanka Insurance staff members have joined hands to contribute towards the effort to donate essential PCR Machine to the Teaching Hospital Ratnapura.

The Teaching Hospital Ratnapura is the largest tertiary care hospital in Sabaragamuwa province administered under the purview of the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine. It provides specialized health care services mainly to the Sabaragamuwa province, which consists of Ratnapura and Kegalle Districts covering a pop-

ulation of 2,009,000 in an extent of 4968 km2 area. People coming from other provinces such as Uva, Southern and Eastern seek specialized medical care from the hospital.

Understanding the essential requirement of a PCR machine to conduct regular PCR tests in the hospital, staff members of SLIC volunteered to contribute a one day salary to purchase the machine worth of LKR 5,000,000 approximately. This is yet another initiative of Sri Lanka Insurance to support the mission of bat-

ting Covid 19 pandemic in Sri Lanka by reinforcing the state health care sector with necessary equipment.

The much needed machine was donated to the Teaching Hospital Ratnapura on 30th March 2021. Minister of Health Ms.Pavithra Devi Wanniarachchi, State Minister Janaka Wakkumbura, Governor of Sabaragamuwa Province Tikiri Kobbekaduwa, management and staff members of SLIC, management and staff members of Teaching Hospital Ratnapura, were present at the occasion.

Bangladesh economy to grow at 3.6%

The World Bank on Wednesday forecasted that the Bangladesh economy would grow between 2.6 per cent to 5.6 per cent in fiscal 2020-21 depending on the ongoing pace of the ongoing vaccination campaign, whether new restrictions to mobility are required and how quickly the world economy recovers.

Growth could very well be 3.6 per cent, which is much lower than the government's target of 8.2 per cent.

But earlier in January, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the GDP growth this fiscal year would be 7.4 per cent, which is close to the Asian Development Bank's projection of 7.5 per cent.

"The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the economy profoundly," said the Washington-based lender in its twice-a-year regional update.

A national shutdown from March to May 2020 resulted in severe supply-side disruptions in all sectors of the economy.

On the demand side, losses in employment income dampened consumption growth, although remittance inflows provided some buffer. The government's COVID-19 stimulus pro-

WB'S GROWTH FORECAST FOR SOUTH ASIA THIS FISCAL YEAR

Bangladesh	2.6-5.6%	Afghanistan	1%
India	7.5-12.5%	Nepal	5.10%
Pakistan	1.3-2%	Bhutan	-1.80%
Sri Lanka	3.40%	Maldives	17%

gramme provided firms with access to working capital and low-cost loans to sustain operations and maintain employee wages in fiscals 2019-20 and 2020-21.

From June onward, movement restrictions have been progressively lifted, and transit and workplace movement patterns returned to pre-pandemic levels by October. Officially recorded infections peaked in July 2020 and declined gradually in subsequent months.

Downside risks to the outlook are likely to persist if new waves of COVID-19 re-emerge in Bangladesh or its trading partner countries.

Bangladesh's expected graduation from the UN's Least Developed Country status in coming years will present

opportunities but also challenges, including the eventual loss of preferential access to advanced economy markets.

Fiscal risks include weak domestic revenue growth (if tax reforms are delayed) and higher expenditure for COVID-19 vaccinations (if external financing is limited) and for supporting the Rohingya refugees (if donor fatigue sets in).

While external demand for garment appears to be stabilising, the recovery is fragile and could be vulnerable to new waves of COVID-19 infections.

Demand for Bangladesh's overseas workforce in the Gulf region may also be impaired by the ongoing recession in that region, impairing future remittance inflows.

(www.dhakatribune.com)

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The signing of the MoU by all parties.



Exchange of MoU by Harsha Samaranyake and Minister Mahinda Amaraweera. Dr. Anil Jasinghe and Dr. Nihal Jayatilake are also pictured.

Dialog partners with Environment Ministry to empower “Husma Dena Thuru” Initiative

In collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (SLRC), Dialog Axiata PLC (Dialog) signed an MoU to empower the “Nakethata Palayak” programme under the “Husma Dena Thuru” initiative,

in lieu of the upcoming Sinhala and Tamil New Year. These two programmes were initiated to create awareness and inculcate a culture of preservation and urban forestry across Sri Lankan homes. The “Nakethata Palayak” initiative aims to promote urban forestry at homes during this Sinhala and Tamil New Year, where if one home plants one seedling during the designated ‘tree planting’ auspicious time at 6.40 AM on 16th April 2021, 5 million trees would

be planted across the nation simultaneously. This initiative strives to invoke a sense of motivation, further uniting the citizens of Sri Lanka to work towards a common environmental goal for the betterment of the nation.

With climate change posing as a growing global threat, the “Husma Dena Thuru” campaign was implemented by the Ministry of Environment, to increase the country’s forest density to 30% and with the objective to reduce the

rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere while creating a healthy, habitable environment. The two initiatives will pave a path towards a greener community and healthier lifestyle for generations to come.

As the first to introduce a branded minor savings account in 1991, HNB is committed to protecting the interests of Singithi account holders. Consequently, working in partnership with HNB Assurance, the bank launched a special insurance scheme that will operate on standing orders issued from parents for Singithi and Teen savings accounts.

HNB announces ‘Singithi Jumbo Avurudu’ campaign

In celebration of Avurudu this year HNB PLC announced the launch of the ‘Singithi Jumbo Avurudu’ campaign for its minor savers, with a wide range of exciting presents and gift vouchers.

Commencing from March 23 until April 20, HNB is offering an array of benefits for all HNB Singithi and Teen account holders below 16 years of age.

“We’re extremely pleased to share the joy of Avurudu by supplementing our Singithi Savings scheme for our young savers. With these promotions, we’re able to encourage the youth on their path towards a financially secure future, while providing exciting gifts that will boost their academic journey. In the coming years, we’re hoping to look at expanding the scope of these schemes so we can continue supporting our young savers,”



HNB Head of Deposits Viranga Gamage said. In addition to encouraging the continuous academic progress of Singithi account holders, the bank also provides an exciting array of gifts for its young savers. These range from items such as pen-holders and caps for deposits of Rs. 5,000, to umbrellas or school bags for deposits of Rs. 10,000, to a white-board fully equipped with accessories for deposits of Rs. 25,000.

As the first to introduce a branded minor savings account in 1991, HNB is committed to protecting the interests of Singithi account holders. Consequently, working in partnership with HNB Assurance, the bank launched a special insurance scheme that will operate on standing orders issued from parents for Singithi and Teen savings accounts.

In addition, since the inception of the Singithi account, HNB has embarked on numerous initiatives to encourage a savings habit among the student population by linking consistent saving to tangible rewards for the youth.

HNB is a pioneer in minor savings, offering a comprehensive range of services designed to provide the most value to its youngest customers.

DFCC Bank launches ‘Bike to Work’ initiative

‘Achieving Sustainable Work-Lifestyles by 2030’ is one of the Big Goals that DFCC Bank has identified in its Sustainability Strategy for 2020 – 2030.

The Bank seeks to advance sustainable workplaces and lifestyles via governance, including sustainable workplace practices, as well as lifestyles for clients and staff in general.

This includes a range of elements from promoting diversity and inclusivity to productivity-oriented wellness and sustainable consumption and lifestyle practices.

In this regard, the new ‘Bike to Work’ initiative which was launched by the Bank’s wellness committee, “OMMM”, was the latest bank-wide initiative launched to encourage its employees to maintain a sustainable and healthy lifestyle.

This is not a one-off activity as a “Bike to Work” day will be organized each month to



propagate a healthy lifestyle across the Bank network. DFCC Bank has also committed to giving cycling high priority by

encouraging staff to take on cycling as a hobby. As this was the first time that a Bank of this magnitude arranged an official cycle

to work day, DFCC Bank intends to dominate the cycling space in the country and make it a lifestyle choice.

Not only does this initiative demonstrate DFCC Bank’s strong commitment to nurturing the wellbeing of its staff, but it also highlights the financial institution’s stance on caring for the environment.

As cycling to work has an undeniable impact on the reduction of the bank’s carbon footprint, the “Bike to Work” initiative aligns well with the DFCC Bank’s focus on ensuring a meaningful and sustainable contribution to climate change mitigation and responsible resource utilization.

The OMMM initiative, launched by DFCC Bank in 2021, will be introducing many more projects designed to focus on the mental and physical health and wellbeing of staff and their families.

Selco Lanka receives Central Province Star Award

Selco Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, a leading company in manufacturing chemicals such as thinner, wood preservatives and turpentine was the recipient of the Star Award in the manufacturing sector, medium category at the Central Province Star Award 2020 organized by the Department of Industrial Development and Enterprise Promotions, Ministry of Industries of Central Province.

Nuwana Jayasooriya, MD, Selco Lanka received the award from Lalith U. Gamage, the Governor, Central Province, who was the chief guest at the awards

night held at Grand Kandyan Hotel, Kandy. “This achievement can be considered as a result of our commitment to keeping customers’ satisfaction is our top priority in line with our main objective of providing high quality, durable products,” said Nuwan Jayasooriya MD.

Selco Lanka has successfully remained in the industry for over seven years distributing their products mainly in the central province and earning customers trust. Plans are in the pipeline to expand its distribution network all over the country.



Selco Lanka MD Nuwan Jayasooriya receives the award.

Dr Dewasiri as Emerald Publishing brand ambassador

Dr Jayantha N. Dewasiri, senior lecturer, attached to the Faculty of Management Studies, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Emerald Publishing for its South Asian region.

This is the first time that Emerald has appointed a brand ambassador for its South Asian region and it is a privilege to have a Sri Lankan academic representing a global publishing

giant in the world. Dr Jayantha is a well-known researcher who has published in high-ranked journals such as Managerial Finance (Emerald), Qualitative Research in Financial Markets (Emerald), Journal of Public Affairs (Wiley) and International Journal of Qualitative Methods (Sage).

He is a pioneer in applying triangulation research approaches in the management discipline. He has been awarded several times



Dr Jayantha N. Dewasiri

for his outstanding research performance. Dr Jayantha is an eminent

researcher in finance who has introduced the data triangulation approach to the finance discipline. Further, he is the first researcher to propose the rationale and research designs for the mixed methods approaches in the finance discipline.

Jayantha has conducted several programs in collaboration with publishers such as Emerald and SAGE to develop the researchers’ skills during the past few years.

Lanka Hospitals tops in LMD’s Most Awarded Entities

Lanka hospitals topped the healthcare sector in the Most Awarded list compiled by LMD magazine for the 2019/20 season.

Designed to rank the most awarded entities in Sri Lanka LMD has conducted this research, the first of its kind in the island, involving 204 corporate entities based on the cumulative tallies of awards received from 52 awarding bodies between January 2019 to September 2020. Having received a total of 5 awards and secured the overall rank of 67 Lanka Hospitals came first in the healthcare sector.

According to Deepthi Lokurachchi, Group CEO, Lanka Hospitals there are three factors contributing to Lanka Hospitals’ award-winning process; an unwavering commitment to quality, service standard in healthcare and the accreditation of Joint Commission International (JCI). “Our stringent standards for quality have earned accolades and accreditations from numerous national and international agencies.”



“As a result of superior facilities, customer care and quality of service Lanka Hospitals offer, growth was experienced in terms of medical tourists during the Covid-19 pandemic even though the inbound international population was restricted. JCI is a US-based accreditation agency rates healthcare services based on several criteria related to medical as well as non-medical

services.” Lanka Hospitals is the first hospital in Sri Lanka to be awarded some of the most prestigious accreditations in the world for its healthcare service standards including the Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation 6th edition and the world-respected Medical Tourism Certification from the Medical Travel Quality Alliance (MTQUA).

Dental Association and Unilever partner to restore focus on oral health during the pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has nudged people to reprioritise their overall health and well-being, reorienting healthier habits overall. However, this positive shift did not translate into better oral care, a cornerstone of physical health. Global research commissioned by Unilever found that two in three (64%) people admitted they are not worried about their oral health, despite 70% having experienced oral care issues such as tooth pain and cavities since the COVID-19 outbreak. In this context, the Sri Lanka Dental Association (SLDA), FDI (Fédération Dentaire Internationale – World Dental Federation) and Unilever Sri Lanka came together on World Oral Health Day (WOHD) 2021, to highlight the importance of oral health on overall health in a pandemic struck the world.



President - College of Community Dentistry Dr. P. L. P Jayashantha handing over the first publication of the book on oral health during COVID-19 to Former DG Health Services Dr. J. M. W. Jayasundarabandara.

One key highlight of the celebrations was the launch of a publication on oral health issues during the pandemic titled ‘Your Oral Health in the Presence of COVID-19.’ The book, which will be made available to all dental professionals, was launched in keeping with this year’s WOHD global

theme ‘Be Proud of your mouth’. Compiled by the SLDA, the book focuses on how oral health in Sri Lanka has gradually diminished due to the change in people’s habits during the pandemic and highlights good oral habits each person can adopt in their day-to-day lives to improve their oral hygiene.

In his welcome speech, Dr A. Sundar, President of the SLDA said, “COVID-19 has changed the lives of everyone not sparing the dental industry. Dental professionals world over call the consequences of the pandemic on people’s oral health a dental disaster. Higher incidence of tooth decay and more advanced gum diseases have been reported. People have changed their routines, skipping twice a day brushing, snacking between meals at home and not visiting the dentist.”

Kumarika hair receives SLS certification

Kumarika, a leading hair care solutions provider owned by Hemas Manufacturing, became the first-ever hair oil brand to receive the SLS certification.

The certification was awarded to Kumarika by the Sri Lanka Standard Institution (SLSI) at a ceremony held at the Sri Lanka Standard Institution, Colombo with the participation of SLSI Chairman, Dr Nushad Perera, Director Marketing at Hemas Manufacturing, Fiona Juriansz Munasinghe, Director R&D at Hemas Manufacturing, Dimuthu Jayasinghe and Hemas Manufacturing team.

The SLS, which is the topmost certification awarded for products manufactured in compliance with Sri Lanka standard specifications is a testament to Kumarika’s high quality and consumer-friendly products which are manufactured to the highest possible standards throughout the entire process from sourcing raw materials to manufacturing, packaging and beyond.

Director R&D at Hemas Manufacturing, Dimuthu Jayasinghe said, “We are truly honoured to be the first hair oil brand to be awarded the SLS certification and this is a significant

milestone in our long-cherished journey. This achievement speaks volumes for our commitment to providing nourishing hair care solutions with a strong focus on health and wellbeing of our consumers who have placed immense trust in us.”

SLSI Chairman, Dr Nushad Perera said, “We congratulate Kumarika on becoming the first hair oil brand to reach this achievement. SLS certification is awarded after a thorough inspection of the quality of products, standards in the manufacturing process and Kumarika met the due requirements in all aspects. We are

proud that Sri Lankan brands like Kumarika continue to set high standards and lead by example.”

Kumarika nourishing hair oil, the market leader in hair oil is a 100% locally manufactured brand that consists of four variants: Hair fall control, Dandruff Control, Split end control and the newly launched Hair Thinning Control oil- infused with a mix of natural ingredients. Since its origin in 1995, as a brand, Kumarika has propelled to be a trendsetter in the hair care category introducing innovative hair care solutions on par with the industry standards.



T.S. Senarathne, S.U. Narangoda, Dr. Nushad Perera, Fiona Juriansz Munasinghe, Dimuthu Jayasinghe, and Himali Ranasinghe with the SLS certification award.

T'ng

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Natascha McElhone as Clarissa Parry (young Mrs. Dalloway) and Robert Portal as young Richard Dalloway

Life, London, THIS MOMENT

ADITHA DISSANAYAKE

I have always loved Virginia Woolf. Not only because of the books she wrote and definitely not because she was married to Leonard Woolf, but because I read once long ago, and came across it again, recently, in a Paris Review article that Virginia Woolf had a special connection with the sea and the waves. Having spent the best years of my childhood in Galle, with the Indian ocean for a playmate, I knew exactly what she meant when she wrote her most important memory of growing up was of lying in bed in a house in Cornwall listening to waves break on the beach as sunlight pressed against a yellow blind. It was “of lying and hearing this splash and seeing this light, and feeling, it is almost impossible that I should be here; of feeling the purest ecstasy I can conceive.” This radiance and the connection with water appears in several of her novels; Jacob’s Room, The Waves, and To the Lighthouse. As Hermione Lee notes in her biography of Woolf, “Happiness is always measured for her against the memory of being a child in that house,” and let me add, listening to the waves, for if you live near the sea it’s impossible not to hear them.

But in ‘Mrs. Dalloway,’ things are different. Naturally. After all, the entire story lasts only for 24 hours and describes a day in the life of 52-year-old Mrs. Clarissa Dalloway, wife to Richard and mother to teenage daughter Elizabeth. She runs a few errands, sees an old suitor and gives a dull party. And yet, the book is considered a masterpiece, a revolutionary novel of profound scope and depth, a story told brilliantly, so thoroughly and documented so absolutely that Woolf’s book, in the words of Constantin Stanislavsky, might be said to have been written “inviolably and for all time.”

The brilliance of the story lies in the fact that it was created out of the humblest narrative materials. Clarissa, is a society hostess, well-heeled and gracious, a little false, no longer young, as she walks through London on a balmy day in June. Like Clarissa herself, neither the day’s tasks nor the evening’s party is particularly remarkable. London, after all, produces 30 June days every year, and you could say that for Clarissa, the wife of a Conservative member of Parliament, giving parties is simply part of her job description. Yet, as Michael Cunningham claims in his article in

the New York Times, in “Mrs. Dalloway,” Woolf insists that a single, outwardly ordinary day in the life of a woman named Clarissa Dalloway, an outwardly rather ordinary person, contains just about everything one needs to know about human life, in more or less the way nearly every cell contains the entirety of an organism’s DNA.” “Still. If in “Mrs. Dalloway” there’s no such thing as an insignificant person, there is, as well, no such thing as a usual day,” writes Cunningham. “Clarissa’s pleasant but seemingly normal day is nevertheless infused with “life; London; this moment of June.” And one ignores the marvels of all three, in their lyrically descending order, at risk to one’s soul.”

Cunningham narrates that the book wasn’t always called ‘Mrs. Dalloway.’ When she first started to work on the manuscript it was called ‘The Hours.’ In an early draft, Woolf opened the book with Peter Walsh walking among the still-intact steeples and statues of central London as a troop of soldiers marched by to lay a memorial wreath in Trafalgar Square. Peter, musing on his own failures and frailties, thought of a woman he had once loved, named Clarissa.

And, at that moment, a book titled “The Hours” became one called “Mrs. Dalloway.” At that moment a book that had opened with the line “In Westminster, where temples, meeting houses, conventicles, & steeples of all kinds are congregated together, there is at all hours & half hours, a round of bells, correcting each other, asseverating that time has come a little earlier, or stayed a little later, here or here,” became a book that opened with the line “Mrs. Dalloway said she would buy the flowers herself.”

Yet “Mrs. Dalloway” is considerably more than an ode to the celebration of normal life. It is also a dark and disquieting book. For one thing, critics point out, “Mrs. Dalloway” is haunted by the restless ghosts of the living. One such is Peter Walsh, the man Clarissa might have married but didn’t; Sally Seton, the woman with whom she might have allowed herself to fall in love (but didn’t); and Septimus Warren Smith, a delusional, shellshocked veteran of World War I, who walks through London on the same day, in the same neighbourhood and who might have exchanged the time of day with Clarissa (but didn’t).



Vanessa Redgrave as Mrs. Clarissa Dalloway



Not surprisingly, therefore, “Mrs. Dalloway” is almost as densely populated as a novel by Charles Dickens. This is because Woolf makes consciousness pass from one character to another in more or less the same way electricity flows through metal. So when a young Scottish woman, newly arrived in London, wanders lost and disconsolate through Regent’s Park, we briefly enter her mind, and feel her unhappiness (“the stone basins, the prim flowers ... all seemed, after Edinburgh, so queer ... She had left her people; they had warned her what would happen”) until she is noticed by an older woman, at which moment we switch to the consciousness of the old woman, who, envying the first woman’s youth, mourns the loss of her own (“it’s been a hard life. ... What hadn’t she given to it? Roses; figure; her feet too.”) until we are snapped back to Clarissa, as she returns home to her husband will be dining out, invited by a woman and that she herself was excluded from the invitation.

Thus, in spite of its outward appearance the world of “Mrs. Dalloway” is not in any way a simple, or simplified, world. If, as Henry James put it, a writer is someone “on whom nothing is lost,” one might presume to add, in Woolf’s name, that a writer is also someone on whom no one is lost.

The book also encompasses, almost infinite shades and degrees of happiness, loss, satisfaction, regret and tragedy. It invokes, over and over, the choices we make, those that are made for us by others, and their sometimes lifelong consequences, many of which we could not possibly have imagined at the time.

And it is a book about growing old. Peter Walsh, describes how getting older has changed him. He talks about how it is a relief to retreat from the obsessiveness of his youthful passions:

“A terrible confession it was (he put his hat on again), but now, at the age of fifty-three, one scarcely needed people any more. Life itself, every moment of it, every drop of it, here, this instant, now, in the sun, in Regent’s Park, was enough. Too much, indeed. A whole lifetime was too short to bring out, now that one had acquired the power, the full flavour; to extract every ounce of pleasure, every shade of meaning; which both were so much more solid than they used to.”

The crucial words here are, ‘So much less personal!’ This is almost the same kind of detachment we come across in the Buddha Dhamma. And it is disturbing, especially if like Clarissa, you have never been good at detachment. If your own relationships are opposite of detachment. If they are like those described by Gary Lutz in a short story. “Are you involved with anyone?” a character is asked. “Everybody,” he answers.

As Jenny Offill writes in the New Yorker, to become less personal is a terrible fate, though Peter Walsh speaks of it calmly, as if it is a pleasant thing. “But how could it be pleasant to withdraw from this blooming, buzzing world of people? Woolf seems to imply that this desire for distance grows gradually, almost imperceptibly, as you get older—until, one day, you find yourself noticing the petals of the flowers instead of the person holding the bouquet.”

I wonder if you agree. When you reach your fifties and beyond, will you see only the petals and not the hand holding the flowers? Perhaps ‘Mrs. Dalloway’ will tell you.

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Lena Headey as young Sally Seton

WHEN THE rain comes!

GREEN THUMBS



ISHARA JAYAWARDANE
In August 2017, the Atacama desert in Chile, widely referred to as the world's driest desert, experienced a truly breathtaking phenomenon. After a surprise heavy rainstorm showered the region, thousands of colorful flowers bloomed to blanket its surface. It was a magnificent sight. This is the power of rain. In a similar way your home garden can become a place of beauty with fruits and vegetables in abundance if it receives just the right amount of rain. Just like fruit juice is a nectar to us, rain in correct quantities is vital for plants. Green Thumbs speaks to Co-Founder Green Care Organic, Brand development and export consultant, Udara Rathnayake on how to deal with too much rainfall and how to take advantage of it.



Udara Rathnayake

(dead or alive), tall grasses, and even rock piles provide great places for butterflies to hide during bad weather. Butterflies also use these shelters at night, when they rest. This is also how they protect themselves from strong winds. If your Home Garden is running smoothly then you want it to keep on functioning automatically right?

New members!

"However remember some invisible and visible members will come into your garden because of the rain. It will be a natural habit and your home garden food chain will develop through these newcomers. But you have to make sure that you use proper methods to welcome these newcomers into your home garden and that means not adding artificial chemicals," stated Rathnayake.

A word of warning! Slugs and snails come into your home garden during the rain! They are frequently seen in gardens during or after a rainfall, munching away on plants, fruits and vegetables. So you have your work cut out for you! Too much rain spells doom for the earthworms. Frogs and toads prefer a cool, wet, dark environment. They are busiest after a steady rainfall, making a meal out of earthworms who crawl out of the water-logged soil for air.

She added that our plants love rain and, after the dry season it is very refreshing. However, heavy rains and heavy winds can do a lot of harm to your home garden, sometimes causing damage to your trees and plants. So when there is heavy rain, either you can keep these plants inside or give them a proper support structure that will assist the plants during these times. Plants can be anchored using 2 to 3-foot stakes pounded about 20 inches into the ground. Stakes should be angled away from the plant before twine is tied to the plant and attached to the stakes.

Adequate drainage

"To avoid water collecting in your home garden and potentially drowning the nearby plants you have to make sure there is adequate drainage. Make sure there is a proper runoff that slopes away from that garden and most importantly make sure it is not blocked. Also, you can use good covers to protect your harvest. You can use waterproof covers such as polythene or tarpaulin," pointed out Rathnayake.

Smaller plants can be easily damaged or even wiped out during inclement weather. Fortunately, smaller plants are easier to protect. Cover your plants with

overturned pots, bowls, buckets, or other appropriately-sized containers to keep them from suffering wind and rain damage. Be sure to weigh down the coverings in order to hold them in place—rocks, cement blocks, and bricks will work just fine.

We need to keep in mind that the soil can't absorb too much of water. After it has reached its limit the water can gather, flooding your plants and washing the seeds away. Weeds can also grow rampant. It's even difficult for you to get into your garden and tend to your plants without sinking several inches in the mud. Unfortunately, you may end up with stunted plants after too much rain. Some of the plants like to grow with less water content and those plants can't survive with too much of water.

It is safe to use water collected from rain barrels in your hydroponic system. Unlike tap water, rainwater does not contain added chlorine or chloramines. In addition, rainwater does not contain as many dissolved minerals as tap water. Finally, rainwater is slightly acidic which makes it well-suited for plant growth.

Be prepared

"Hydroponics growing system is a type of horticulture and a subset of hydroculture, which is a method of growing plants, usually crops without soil by using mineral nutrient solutions. It may be grown with only the roots exposed to the nutritious liquid. In addition the roots may be physically supported by an inert medium such as perlite, gravel, or other substrates. Also, through the hydroponic system you can save more water as you can connect this system to your fish tank or indoor pool. You can try any kind of vegetables such as tomatoes, green chili, lettuce and any kind of salad leaves. Also it can save your garden space as well," said Rathnayake

Saween Karunanayaka's interest in hydroponic cultivation developed after accidentally seeing it on YouTube. After watching several videos about hydroponic cultivation units, he drew his own hydroponic system. Together with his parents' assistance he developed the plan further. In five days he completed the project. He encourages other young people to also do this as a hobby since it is very rewarding.

Monsoon rain can beat down on your garden and you need to be prepared. The strong wind combined with relentless rain can rip even the oldest trees down along with your small plants. So you can trim your trees before it rains.

You can also keep your potted plants closer to a wall. You can manage your flood water while keeping an eye on soil erosion.



Young Saween Karunanayaka created his own hydroponic garden with his father's help.



Hydroponic system



Protecting your garden from heavy rain

GROWING AN ORGANIC GARDEN

THE 5 SIMPLE KEYS TO INCREDIBLE SUCCESS!

You might be surprised at just how easy it is to create, grow and maintain an incredible, highly productive organic garden. And, in the process, supply you and your family with delicious, chemical-free vegetables!

Growing organically means growing with peace of mind. There is nothing quite like knowing that your fruits and vegetables are completely free of pesticides and non-organic fertilizers.

Contrary to popular belief, organic gardening is not more expensive than non-organic growing methods. Nor is it more labor intensive. In fact, speaking from 10+ years of experience, an organic garden is far less costly and tremendously easier to maintain.

But perhaps even better, growing organically gives you peace of mind. Like knowing exactly what is in and on your fruits and vegetables. And more importantly, what isn't!

There is simply nothing better than picking a fresh vegetable and taking a bite out of it right in the garden. And when you grow organically, you can do that every single day!

Here is a look at the 5 key elements to growing organically. And, how they can work together to help you produce a low maintenance garden that will produce an amazing harvest of natural produce, all of which you can consume without worry.

1. MULCH

When it comes to creating an organic garden with less weeds and watering, mulch is the answer! In fact, mulch is the absolute foundation of low-maintenance, productive gardening.

Instead of tilling and re-tilling your garden and rows throughout the season, a layer of natural mulch can be used to control weeds and conserve moisture in the soil.

A four to six inch layer of straw, shredded leaves or grass clippings around plants suppresses weed growth and germination. Weeds that if left to grow compete for the same nutrients and water your vegetable plants compete for.

Mulch also keeps the soil from drying out. It conserves moisture below the soil surface, helping to keep roots hydrated. And with less evaporation, that means less watering chores for you as well.

Grass clippings are an incredible organic mulch for gardens. Green grass clippings actually contain nitrogen which can help power plants as the grass decomposes.

But as natural mulch decomposes, it also adds nutrients back to the soil. Nutrients that help keep your soil strong and healthy year after year. And that, above all else, may be the most important benefit for mulching of all.

2. COMPOST & COMPOSTING

If mulch is the foundation of organic gardening, composting is the backbone. Compost works in many ways to power plants and build strong, healthy soil.

It helps add structure and balance to poor soil. It also acts as a slow release fertilizer for plants. And it helps to retain moisture in the soil too. In fact, quite frankly, you can never use or have enough compost!

We use compost in every single planting hole as we plant. In addition, we place a two to three inch layer of compost around each plant as a fertilizing mulch. Every time it rains or we water, the compost leaches its nutrients into the soil.

Nothing will power an organic garden more than compost! It is teeming with minerals and nutrients



that help build powerful soil, and grow strong, healthy plants.

Compost can also be used to top dress rows to recharge and energize soil. But, as you will see in the next section, it can also be used to make one of the most powerful natural fertilizers around.

There are a million ways to go about making compost – in a bin, a tub, a barrel or a plain old pile in the middle of the garden. But whatever you do, get that pile started! See : How To Make Your Own Compost Bins With Ease

3. NATURAL FERTILIZERS

One of the biggest misconceptions about organic gardening is that fertilizer shouldn't be used. We use a whole slew of fertilizers in our garden, but it just so happens they are all natural and organic.

And the best part of organic fertilizers is that they enhance the soil every time you use them. The same can't be said for synthetic fertilizers that can rob the soil of other nutrients. Or even worse, create weak soil that then requires even more fertilizer to help plants survive.

One of our favorite go to fertilizers is compost tea.

Made from soaking water in fresh compost, this powerful liquid fertilizer can help power plants to incredible growth.

One of the best all-natural and organic fertilizers around – worm castings! Worm castings act a slow release fertilizer to power plants with a steady diet of nutrients. All while helping to build great soil.

In addition to compost tea, worm castings have become a big part of our organic fertilizing regimen. Worm castings slowly release their nutrients back into the soil. And while doing so, help to build great soil structure in the process.

We use worm castings in every planting hole in the garden. In fact, we use them everywhere to power plants organically – in the vegetable garden, our hanging baskets, planters, container plants and more. Product Link : Worm Castings

4. PEST & DISEASE CONTROL

"How do you handle pests and disease in an organic garden?" That question certainly is one that is asked quite often when it comes to life in an organic garden.

First and foremost, it is important to realize that in any setting, spraying doesn't only kill the bad insects, but good ones too. And the more you spray, the more you upset the balance of nature. Likewise, the more problems you will have.

The simple truth is, you don't need to run out and spray just because you have a few beetles or aphids. Most often, small insect infestations can be controlled by hand picking. A little damage to a plant here and there is okay if it means that insect populations are balanced to keep it all under control.

When you spray pesticides, you kill the good bugs too – like these lady bugs which help to keep aphids in check.

If you spray and kill all of the lady bugs, they can't be around to help keep the aphid population in check. And those bees that were killed off while spraying? Well, now they aren't around to pollinate.

It is also important to realize that insects and disease tend to attack weak plants and weak soil. So if your soil is strong and healthy, your plants will be too. Think of it as a natural immunity for plants.

There are natural sprays and powders that can be used if necessary. But by practicing good organic principals, most garden pests and disease issues will take care of themselves. And two of the best practices just happen to make up our 5th and final point!

5. CROP ROTATION & COVER CROPS

Whether you garden organically or not, crop rotation and cover crops are two of the most important methods a gardener can practice to keep their garden healthy and productive.

Here is a fact. If you keep planting your pepper, tomato and cucumber plants in the same spot, year after year, you simply won't keep getting the same results. Crop rotation, just like the big farms practice, is critical in keeping soil healthy. It also helps keep insect populations to a minimum as well.

Why? Because specific plants use specific nutrients from the soil. And the soil becomes depleted of those nutrients when the same crop keep going into the same place.



SPECIAL STAMP AND PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION ON APRIL 6, 7 AND 8 AT THE RUSSIAN HOUSE IN COLOMBO

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF YURI GAGARIN'S SPACE FLIGHT AND VISIT TO CEYLON



Following the successful first manned space flight by Yuri Gagarin on April 12, 1961, earning the title of 'First Cosmonaut', he made his first visit to Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) a mere 8 months later on December 7, 1961. The year 2021 marks 60 years since this historic moment and the Russian House in Colombo jointly with the Sri Lanka Russia Friendship Society have organized a special Stamp and Photographic Exhibition to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's Space Flight and Visit to Ceylon on April 6, 7 and 8, 2021, comprising over a thousand rare and original post stamps on the first manned space mission and space exploration which will be on display for the general public at the Russian House in Colombo.

The inauguration ceremony of the event will be held on April 6 at the Russian House in Colombo

with the presence of Skills Development Vocational Education, Research and Innovation State Minister Dr. Seetha Arambepola as the Chief Guest, Education Reforms, Open Universities and Distance Learning Promotion State Minister and Sri Lanka Russia Friendship Society President Susil Premajayantha, Ambassador of the Russian Federation Yuri Materiy and Advisor to the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and General Secretary of the Sri Lanka Russia Friendship Society Dr. Saman Weerasinghe.

The stamp exhibition has been organized in collaboration with Philatelic Expert and Assistant Treasurer of the Philatelic Society of Sri Lanka Anura Samaraweera. He is also a member of the International Association of Philatelic Journalists. He has been maintaining his ties with the Russian House in Colombo since younger days where he was a member of the Soviet Cultural House in the year

1973 while being the guitarist of the first musical group of the Soviet Cultural House.

In addition to the stamp exhibition, there will also be a photo exhibition pertaining to Yuri Gagarin's Spaceflight and Visit to Ceylon. These materials were obtained from the Russian House archives as well as with the assistance of the Department of National Archives. Adding more colour to the event, a special guest will be present to share her experience as 'the girl who was chosen to garland Gagarin' in 1961; Magilin Nona, a local hero of the country who is a living witness of that glorious day. We invite all enthusiasts to join us in celebrating this momentous occasion as we will open the exhibition for the public from 10 am to 5 pm on April 7 and 8 to walk through this unique experience.

-CA



MARMADUKE

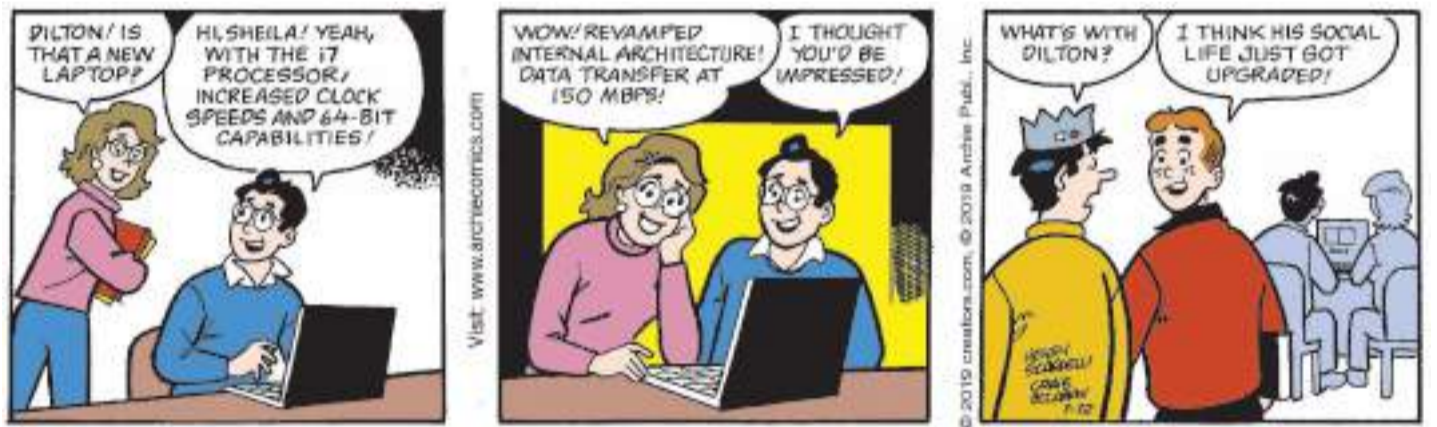


"He won't be impressed with virtual reality until they make a real steak."

MUTT AND JEFF



ARCHIE



FISH TALES



UP & RUNNING



THE SNOW QUEEN: MIRRORLANDS A FROSTY ADVENTURE

RUWINI JAYAWARDANA

Ever since the box office spinner 'Frozen' hit the screens any tale which concerns the powers to freeze have kindled interest. This inspired many productions not only on the wide and mini screens but also live on stage as well. The 'Snow Queen' saga is one such example among many.

Starting off with 2012's 'The Snow Queen' the series soon produced 'The Snow Queen 2' and 'The Snow Queen: Fire and Ice'. 2018 saw the fourth film in the series, 'The Snow Queen: Mirrorlands' making it to the picture. Directed by Robert Lence and Aleksey Tsitsilin, this Russian 3D computer animated movie appeals to the senses due to its simplicity and feel-good nature.

Set in a fairytale land, a powerful king who nearly loses his family due to the Snow Queen's evil deeds. In response, the king seeks a way to withdraw all magic from the world. The result is that all those with master magical powers are banished to the Mirrorlands where the Snow Queen too is kept imprisoned.

The only one who can stop this injustice is a little girl named Gerda. Born into a magical family, Gerda is the only one who is born without magical powers. However she needs to form an alliance with the Snow Queen to rescue her loved ones. The duo engage in an adventure which spells courage, faith and trust to free all those who have been banished from the kingdom.

Revolving around the themes of forgiveness and friendship, 'The Snow Queen: Mirrorlands' captivated the young and old due to its colourful settings. Viewers can also watch this production without having watched the previous film's as it concerns a stand alone storyline. However question marks may arise in certain instances if you are looking for a clear story. There are also lots of positive messages concerning family, friendship and forgiveness.

Another feature which works in favour of the film is in its rich artwork. From intricate city scenes to sweeping landscapes, the visuals never cease to please the eyes. The characters too are well rounded and developed. Both children and adults can appreciate the family-friendly storyline that results in a pleasant ending for two females who thought neither had anything more to offer to improve their lives and save others in the process.

One aspect that the filmmakers should have worked on is the comedy of the film. It is mostly slapstick and fails to generate some genuine laughs. Humour is mostly generated when certain characters find themselves in situations which they make errors in. The monotony of this bored the audience.

Armed with a solid and compelling storyline, 'The Snow Queen: Mirrorlands' is a fitting end to the highly appreciated series, drawing curtains down on the well loved productions in a justifiable and unique manner.



'MOM PENALTY' IN FOCUS

Highlighting one of the most grueling issues faced by women during the global COVID-19 pandemic, Women Empowered Global launched a short film on the "Mom Penalty" on International Women's Day that fell on March 8.

"The Mom Penalty" is a touching, nearly three-minute film that depicts just how challenging the past year has been for women.

Undoubtedly the months of pandemic lockdown have been harsh on all of us. But it has been especially brutal for working moms. They have had to juggle endless workplace demands alongside managing an unequal load of housework, childcare and remote schooling. As a result, four times more women than men dropped out of the workforce.

To highlight this concern, Women Empowered Global launched this film on International Women's Day around the world, to address the elephant in the room - the Mom Penalty.

"I am so excited to announce this beautiful, meaningful and powerful short film to commemorate International Women's Day, to celebrate, recognize and appreciate ALL Women around the world. This beautiful production was conceptualized by my dear friend and Personal Growth Officer at Women Empowered Global Ruchi Sharma, as it takes us on a deep reflective and relatable journey of a working mother",



Senela Jayasuriya



Ruchi Sharma

commented Senela Jayasuriya, Founder & CEO of Women Empowered Global.

"There have been many times in my own path as a working mom and woman where I faced so many struggles and personal challenges that tried to stop me from reaching my goal. Some of the toughest personal challenges for me have been the battles inside my own mind. There have been many days I questioned myself, my abilities and my worth. But I learnt to channel that energy into new growth opportunities, and struggles into more courage and momentum. This is my truth and I want to encourage and inspire as many women as I possibly can in my lifetime, with my truth and vision, that you have the power inside you, you are already strong, and sometimes we just need to remind ourselves and each

other of our own power and our strength. And remember together, we are stronger" Senela continued.

The short film can be viewed on Women Empowered Global's Facebook and Instagram page @WomenEmpGlobal or via the link <https://youtu.be/JFFkFmy3H1I> on its YouTube page WOMEN EMPOWERED GLOBAL.

"As a working mom myself, this subject is very dear to my heart. From having to give up a high-profile overseas job to starting on my own from scratch, juggling demanding deadlines, working longer hours, navigating the world of remote learning with a young kid, endless housework and the anxiety of ageing parent" said Ruchi Sharma, Founder and Chief Creative Officer of HumanSense, the creative agency behind this humane work.

Video Credits:
Creative Agency: HumanSense, Sri Lanka
Writer & Creative Director: Ruchi Sharma
Production team: X10 Productions, Sri Lanka
Executive Producer: Prasanna Kithalagama
Editor: Arngelo Pereira
Producer: Muevendra Premaratne
Audio Mix: Kasun Wickramasinghe
Project Manager: Amaashie Mahahewage
Visual Footage: www.pexels.com & www.mixkit.co
Music Track: CinematicAudioGroup

'COLOMBO' GALA PREMIERE

The premiere of Two Asama Randil Liyanage's 'Colombo' produced by Anusha Sanjeeva Ediruni was held recently at Savoy Premiere. The cast, crew, fans and well wishers flocked to the cinema to get a glimpse of what is in store for movie buffs. Here are a few colourful moments from the event.



THE GOOD, BAD, AND THE BEST OF THE 93RD ACADEMY AWARDS!

The Oscars are upon us, and this year we had Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas unveil the nominations for the 93rd Academy Awards, no less. After being called out for the lack of diversity in nominations with the #OscarsSoWhite campaign, the Academy shone bright by nominating as many as nine people of color. And women led the way, scoring a record 76 nominations in all categories. In this week's #BigStory, we laud the Academy for its diverse nomination that promises to turn 2021 into a milestone year for the awards and explore why India is yet to get its due at the prestigious ceremony that honours cinema from around the world.



Salaam Bombay!



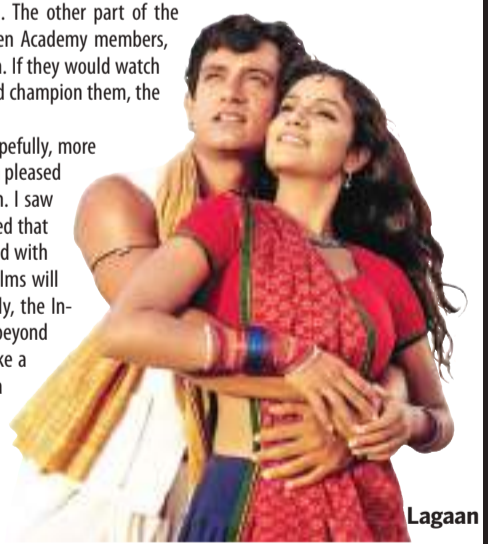
Mother India

THE BAD: WHY IS OSCAR STILL A DISTANT DREAM FOR INDIA?

Indian movies have been appreciated the world over but are yet to get validation from the Oscars. While several Indians have walked away with the coveted award, a film is yet to get there. "There are lots of obstacles, one of the main ones is that there is the committee (whose members aren't necessarily audiences of world cinema), which decides the film that gets selected to represent India at the Oscars. For example 'The Lunchbox' was the best film that year and would have stood a chance of winning in the foreign-language category. However, the jury in India chose a film called 'The Good Road' which, for us making films for world cinema, knew would not come anywhere near winning the award. I say this with no disrespect to the makers of that film. The box office numbers of 'The Lunchbox', too, proved the point," shares Dina Dattani.

So far, only three Indian movies have reached the nominations category—'Mother India' (1957), 'Salaam Bombay!' (1988), and 'Lagaan' (2001). This year, the Malayalam film, Lijo Jose Pellissery's 'Jallikattu' was announced as India's official entry for the Best International Feature category. However, the movie failed to be shortlisted in the top 15 movies at the 93rd Academy Awards. Explaining why India is still struggling to win an Oscar nod, Aseem Chhabra says, "There are two reasons why Indian films do not get nominated for the best international film. First, our selection commission is often not clued in on what kind of films, or which film will appeal to American and other foreign Academy members. This year they selected a well-made Indian film 'Jallikattu', but still they should have gone with a film like 'The Disciple', which had everything going for it—name, recognition in the West (it played very well at the Venice, Toronto and New York film festivals too and even won awards), and it was executive produced by the four-time Oscar-winning Mexican filmmaker, Alfonso Cuarón. The other part of the problem concerns Western critics, bloggers and even Academy members, who are not open to discovering new Indian cinema. If they would watch more Indian films at festivals, write about them, and champion them, the Academy will begin to notice these works."

Offering a different perspective, Alex shares, "Hopefully, more Indian films will end up with nominations soon. I am pleased to see 'The White Tiger' get at least one nomination. I saw many filmmakers talking about how much they loved that film. But it all depends on the quality of the film and with more emphasis on excellent Indian cinema, more films will earn the attention of the Academy voters. Hopefully, the Indian selection committee can be improved, but beyond that, I think critics and journalists really need to take a chance and watch more Indian films—from Chaitanya Tamhane's 'The Disciple' to Madhumita Sundararaman's 'K.D.' to Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh's 'Writing with Fire'. Plus, I will always mention Ritesh Batra's 'The Lunchbox', one of my all-time favorites."



Lagaan

PRIYANKA AND NICK'S QUALIFICATION TO BE OSCAR NOMINATION ANNOUNCERS QUESTIONED

Soon after Priyanka and Nick Jonas announced the nominations, a Twitter user questioned the actress and her husband Nick Jonas's contribution to cinema that qualified them for announcing the nominations. The netizen, whose bio claimed that he was an entertainment journalist from Australia, wrote, "No disrespect to these two but I'm not sure their contribution to the movies qualifies them to be announcing Oscar nominees." Responding to him, Priyanka shared a clip of her movie credentials and wrote, "Would love your thoughts on what qualifies someone. Here are my 60+ film credentials for your adept consideration."

Lauding Priyanka's representation on the prestigious global platform, Oscar-winner Resul shares, "When we see Priyanka announcing the nominations, it is amazing recognition for Indian talent. She has become one of the mainstream stars today, a proud moment for Indian cinema."

Times of India



REEL REVIEWS

THE GOOD: WOMEN ALL THE WAY!

The Academy Award nominations this year were all about 'girl power'. In fact, Oscar 2021 nominations created history, with 70 women scoring 76 nominations in various categories. Besides this, it's the year of many new firsts for the Academy Awards. Chloé Zhao and Emerald Fennell were nominated together for Best Director, making it the first time when two women have ever been nominated in the category. And this prestigious nod also made them the sixth and seventh women to have earned the honour of being nominated in the category.



Chloé Zhao

Zhao also became the first woman to ever receive four nominations in a single year. She bagged herself Best Director, Best Film Editing, Best Adapted Screenplay, and Best Picture as a Producer nods.

Meanwhile, Viola Davis set a record of her own with Oscar nominations. The 55-year-old actress received her fourth Academy nomination for her performance in Ma Rainey's 'Black Bottom'. This nod makes her the most-nominated black actress.



Emerald Fennell



THE BEST: #NOTSOWHITE THIS YEAR

The Academy has been drawing a lot of flak for its acting nominations, which have, over the years, been dominated by white actors. But seems like this year, the Academy has been conscious about its choices to be #NotSoWhite! The 93rd Academy Awards are being hailed for their 'diverse' nominations with nine out of the 20 acting nominees being people of colour. Yuh-jung Youn and Steven Yeun ('Minari'), Riz Ahmed ('Sound of Metal'), Daniel Kaluuya and Lakeith Stanfield ('Judas and the Black Messiah'), Viola Davis and Chadwick Boseman ('Ma Rainey's Black Bottom'), Leslie Odom Jr. ('One Night in Miami'), and Andra Day ('The United States vs Billie Holiday') are the ones who have been nominated in the acting category. Also, 'Judas and the Black Messiah' made history by becoming the first Best Picture nominee with all-black producers.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has, over the past few years, expanded its membership to make it more inclusive and global. In 2019, they invited 842 new

members from 59 countries, of which 50 per cent were women, and 29 per cent were people of colour. "Such changes have been welcome and long overdue. The world changed in 2020 not only because of the pandemic but because finally, people across the globe (more particularly the youth), rose against the injustices against people of colour. The Black Lives Matter movement saw the largest demonstrations against this centuries-long injustice. It is only going to grow bigger from now; all of us people of colour will speak, walk, and take action against any institutions that are not prepared to change. I think most companies, organisations, institutions have received the message loud and clear," shares Dina Dattani, a film producer, who has been associated with films like 'Slumdog Millionaire' and 'Life of Pi'.

Aseem Chhabra, Festival director of the New York Indian Film Festival, feels that the hashtag #OscarSoWhite has finally done some good. He shares, "Over the past few years the Academy has made conscious efforts to increase its member base by including many more artists from around the world. The nominations announced on Monday were the most

diverse one can remember in the recent years." US-based journalist Alex Billington welcomes the noticeable change in the Oscar nominations, saying, "I'm always happy to see a more diverse set of Oscar nominees every year that still reflect the high quality of films released. The changes really began with the #OscarsSoWhite campaign in 2015, which pushed the Academy to try and add more diverse members to deal with the problem." He feels that this diversity began a few years ago. "I also think 'Moonlight's' Best Picture win in 2017 made a strong impact and was a reminder that black filmmakers often do make Best Picture level films. The Academy has been adding a more diverse membership ever since and this seems to be making a big difference, as the nominations not only highlight the roles truly worthy of acclaim (Riz Ahmed and Paul Raci from 'Sound of Metal', Yuh-jung and Steven Yeun from 'Minari', Daniel Kaluuya and Lakeith Stanfield from 'Judas and the Black Messiah') but they also accurately reflect the diverse world of filmmakers (Chloe Zhao, Lee Isaac Chung, Ritesh Batra) and film lovers around the world."



Judas and the Black Messiah



Ma Rainey's Black Bottom



Minari

ICT

BOC partners FITIS as Platinum Sponsor for 'Sri Lanka's First-Ever Internet Day'

As the Federation of Information Technology Industry Sri Lanka (FITIS) is geared to unveil 'Sri Lanka Internet Day 2021', a first-time occurrence in the country, The Bank of Ceylon too collaborates as the "Platinum Sponsor" for the event.

The event will span two full days and bring IT industry experts, startup entrepreneurs, top delegates, and business decision-makers from across the globe together. The Bank's Chairman Kanchana Ratwatte handed the sponsorship to Aruna Alwis FITIS Organizing Committee for "Sri Lanka Internet Day 2021".

The event will be held from April 6-7, themed 'Digital Inclusion, an initiative driven by the Digital



Bank of Ceylon Chairman Kanchana Ratwatte hands the sponsorship cheque to Organiser Jiffy Zulfar. R. Bakmedeniya, D.P.K. Gunasekera, Channa De Silva, and Aruna Alwis are also in the picture.

Services Chapter of FITIS, including citizen engagement in a digital society; topics to participants Sri Lanka's overall digital

strategy and the current public plus private sector digitization efforts in key areas; and the national vision for improving the island's digital infrastruc-

ture in supporting a digital-driven ecosystem and economy. Further, the engaging content presented across both days will carry a strong emphasis on Sri Lanka's re-energized prioritization of strengthening its digital economy, to boldly face and overcome future economic and social challenges experienced.

BOC's continued support of novel digital initiatives such as FITIS-led 'Sri Lanka Internet Day 2021', parallel to the bank's strong digital focus in streamlining internal processes as well as enhancing services and experience for customers, reinforces their standing as a digital pacesetter in banking with particular emphasis on strengthening the national economy through wider digital adoption.

SLT-Mobitel address privacy concerns

SLT in response to recent privacy concerns has released the following statement;

It has come to our attention that there are certain statements and malicious messages circulating on social media about the installation and propagation of a spyware claiming that SLT-Mobitel is complicit in an alleged unlawful activity meant to compromise the information of our valued customers.

SLT-Mobitel categorically denies such allegations and considers the origination of these claims about the installation and propagation of a malicious spyware as absolutely baseless and defamatory. We sincerely

assure every Sri Lankan that the company will not in any way engage in any activity that would compromise the trust placed in us by the nation.

Further, we would like to reiterate that SLT-Mobitel always operates in complete compliance with the Sri Lanka Telecommunications Act and under the regulation of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (TRCSL).

As the National ICT and Telecommunications Service Provider, we place utmost priority in safeguarding our customers' privacy and retaining their trust at all times.

Facebook users to have more control over their news feed

Facebook has introduced a new tool to give more control to users over what they share to news feed by managing who can comment on their public posts. Now Sri Lankan public figures, creators, and brands can choose to limit their commenting audience in order to engage in more meaningful conversations with their communities.

The goal of news feed is to connect people to what matters most to them: their loved ones, interesting content, and the world around them. Facebook is investing in new ways to give more control and context to users by offering a menu of options ranging from anyone who can see their public posts to only the people and Pages they tag. Users can go to their news feed preferences and privacy settings to choose the options that work for them.

More about newsfeed controls can be found at Facebook's newsroom post. In addition to this announcement, Nick Clegg, VP of Global Affairs at Facebook



New Features

- 1. Favorites:** Allows users to control and prioritize posts from the friends and Pages they care about most in News Feed.
- 2. Most Recent:** Switch between an algorithmically-ranked news feed and a feed sorted chronologically with the newest posts first.
- 3. Feed Filter Bar:** A new toggle at the top of news feed that makes it easier to switch between the Most Recent feed, the standard News Feed, and the new Favorites feed.
- 4. Expanding the "Why am I seeing this?" feature:** now, people will be able to tap on posts suggested in news feed and get more context on why they're appearing in their news feed.

has released an essay, where he explains how content is ranked in the Facebook news feed, and addresses common criticisms and misconceptions about the algorithms' impact on users and society.

LinearSix collaborates with Infosys to help NBFIs in Sri Lanka

LinearSix, a leading banking and financial solutions provider, today announced a collaboration with Infosys Finacle, part of EdgeVerve Systems, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Infosys (NYSE: INFY), to help non-banking financial companies (NBFIs) in Sri Lanka accelerate the digital transformation of their operations and scale their business growth. Through this collaboration, LinearSix will combine its financial services expertise with Infosys Finacle's industry-leading digital banking solution suite, to help NBFIs rapidly digitize with best-in-class technology.

With this offering, NBFIs will be able to automate their front and back-office opera-



Venkatramana Gosavi

tions, reduce customer acquisition costs, and deliver unique and personalized customer experiences. The componentized and integrated Infosys Finacle solution suite will allow the NBFIs to modernize with minimum

risk, while empowering them with actionable customer insights, an API-driven architecture for easy partnerships and an in-built product factory to rapidly launch new offerings, in response to emerging market demands. Mario Gooneratne, Co-founder and CEO of LinearSix stated, "NBFIs play a crucial role in meeting the financial needs of individuals and businesses that are largely unorganized and have traditionally remained un-served or underserved by banks. Our partnership with Infosys Finacle aims to strengthen the position of NBFIs in the tech ecosystem and drive Sri Lanka towards greater economic prosperity. LinearSix and Infosys Fina-



Mario Gooneratne

cle are both trusted brands within the banking community in Sri Lanka, and we will continue to combine our efforts to deliver unprecedented levels of performance and customer delight."

Senior Vice President & Global Head of Sales, Infosys Finacle said, "With a growing deployment base, Infosys Finacle has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to power innovation-driven growth for the Sri Lankan banking industry. We are delighted to collaborate with LinearSix, to help the country's NBFIs gain a digital edge with the industry-leading Finacle Digital Banking solution suite. We are confident that Sri Lanka's NBFIs will gain from Finacle's proven capabilities and openness to improve efficiencies, deliver differentiated offerings, and provide world-class banking experiences to their customers."

PS5 yet to be restocked in India

Sony has yet to restock the PS5 in India after a February 2, 2021 release date.

It's been over two months and while Sony has been silent on PS5 India restocks, it's safe to say we should see the popular console avail-

able very soon at a host of stores including Amazon, Flipkart, and Sony's own Sony Centers to name a few.

Much like the PS5 launch in markets the world over, Sony's PS5 India release

was fraught with several high-profile controversies that could have been avoided. From bait-and-switch tactics employed by seemingly respectable e-commerce platforms to scalping by Sony's own retailers

leading the gaming community to take matters into its own hands, it's safe to say that the company could have handled things better. And this now extends to PS5 India restocks.

According to several

sources at Sony familiar with the matter who asked not to be identified discussing private information, there has been a delay in the arrival of the next PS5 shipment for the country. (IGN India)

SLIIT hosts third Annual Reviewing Research Colloquium

Recognised as an institution that moulds independent and critical thinking aimed at providing avenues for focused research, and also extending contributions to the society, SLIIT held its third annual colloquium via virtual platforms recently.

Organised by SLIIT's Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR), 'Reviewing Research 2020' was organised to provide incentives, encouragement and promoting research-related activities among academics, thus benefitting SLIIT, students and society.

Held since 2018, the colloquium affords a platform for researchers in all SLIIT faculties to come together and present their findings. This ensures all faculties are in sync with each other on key elements of research being conducted and the ability to plan. The event highlighted the research activities, outputs, outcomes and direct and indirect benefits for the betterment of society based on SLIIT's vision. This was the third consecutive year that the event was being held.

A new dimension was included in this year's colloquium with researchers being recognised and incentivized for the work done, and awarded certificates and plaques based on their research performance dur-



Prof. Gamage, Vice-Chancellor, SLIIT, and Prof. Rahula Attalage, Dean, present FGSR Recognition Award to Dr. Ruwan Jayathilaka.



Prof. Gamage, Vice-Chancellor, SLIIT, and Prof. Rahula Attalage, Dean, present FGSR Recognition Award to Dr. Muditth Karunaratne.

awards. Similarly, researchers who achieved success in the top 25% of the respected journal were recognised with a merit award.

During the sessions, each faculty presented three selected most impactful research work and findings. This was followed by Q & A sessions and deliberations by the respective Dean.

Commenting on the event Prof. Rahula Attalage, Dean Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research said, "SLIIT's Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research has over the years supported the mission of the Institute to enhance knowledge and research activities. As the world advances, research and innovations are crucial aspects for knowledge-intensive activities, and providing advanced research facilities in various areas is invaluable."

"Further, this colloquium is an ideal platform for the academic staff to present their research and receive feedback from fellow academics, building multi-disciplinary research teams in view of jointly working with national and international research teams to serve the society. This year we not only promoted research but were also able to incentivize researchers and bring value to the society through these research platforms."

ing the past year. Awards were presented to selected recipients based on their publications of highly-rated scientific research work in top-end international journals and citations received during 2020. In this regard,

there were two categories of awards encompassing, Merit and Special awards. The basis of recognition was for researchers who published their work in the top 10% of acclaimed global journals received special

Cyberattacks increase on stagnant budgets

Cyberattacks increase while stagnant budgets and apathetic leadership remain major cybersecurity barriers in APAC and Japan.

Sophos study of 900 business decision makers indicates COVID-19 accelerated period of digitisation and was a catalyst for improving cybersecurity.

Sri Lanka - 02 April, 2021 - Sophos, a global leader in next-generation cybersecurity, today announced the findings of the second edition of its survey report, The Future of Cybersecurity in Asia Pacific and Japan, in collaboration with Tech Research Asia (TRA). The study reveals that despite cyberattacks increasing, cybersecurity budgets have remained stagnant and executive teams continue to underestimate the level of damage threats can do to organisations.

Attacks rise, budgets stay the same. Nearly 70 percent of Asia Pacific organisations surveyed suffered a data breach in 2020, an increase of 36 percent from 2019. Of these successful breaches, 55 percent of companies rated the loss of data as either "very serious" (24 percent) or "serious" (31 percent). Nearly 17 percent of organisations surveyed suffered 50 attacks, per week.

While attacks are increasing in frequency and severity, cybersecurity budgets remained largely unchanged as a percentage of revenue between 2019 and 2021. At the same time, 59 percent of businesses stated that their

cybersecurity budget is below where it needs to be, the same percentage it was in 2019.

"Ultimately, security is about right sizing the risk. If the risk increases, budgets should also increase, but in this climate of uncertainty, we've seen organisations take a conservative approach to security spending, which is impacting their ability to stay ahead of cybercriminals," said Trevor Clarke, Lead Analyst & Director at

cybersecurity incidents are exaggerated. It is confounding that this attitude prevails even when the end of 2020 showed us just how bad a global supply-chain attack could be. If that wasn't enough, the more recent zero-day vulnerabilities in widely deployed email platforms demonstrates the desperate need for unification when it comes to cyber resilience. Everybody needs to play a part. And to play a part, we all need to under-

stand the risk," said Aaron Bugal, global solutions engineer, Sophos.

The industry skills shortage continues to create challenges. There has been nominal improvement on the cybersecurity skills gap issue in 2021. Nearly 60 percent of businesses agree that their company's lack of cybersecurity skills is challenging for their organisation, compared to 62 percent in 2019.

A lack of suitable staff and budget constraints continue to hinder organisations from obtaining the skills they require in-house. More than

60 percent of companies struggle to recruit candidates with the necessary skills, which is only a five percent improvement from 67 percent in 2019.

COVID-19's impact on remote working accelerated transformation, but exposed vulnerabilities

COVID-19 had a positive impact on cybersecurity, with 69 percent of companies agreeing that the outbreak of COVID-19 was the strongest catalyst for upgrading cybersecurity strategy and tools in the past 12 months.

At the same time, just over half of organisations indicated they were unprepared for the security requirements driven by the sudden need for secure remote working at the onset of the pandemic.

"COVID-19 compelled companies to refresh their cybersecurity strategies, yet the transformational shift to remote working also exposed additional weaknesses. Businesses have transformed their workplace environments, undergone an accelerated period of digitisation, yet continue to confront systemic cybersecurity issues, including executive apathy, low budgets and a lack of skilled cybersecurity professionals.

"Despite improvements made, progress remains slow, reinforcing our belief that cybersecurity is never 'finished' and requires a constant focus, both from technological and cultural viewpoints," said Trevor Clarke, Lead Analyst & Director at Tech Research Asia.



PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF AYURVEDA NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Provincial Department of Ayurveda of the North Central Provincial Council, invites sealed bids under National Competitive Bidding from eligible and qualified bidders for the following construction works.

Contract No.	Name of the Contract	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Contract Period (Days)	Minimum Grade of ICTAD Required	Bid Security Value (Rs.)	Validity Period of Bid Security	Non-refundable Document Fee (Rs.)
NCP/Ayur/B5/1/299	Construction of the Kitchen of the Ayurvedic Hospital, Manampitiya	8.1 Million	90	C6 or C7	81,000.00	up to 10th August, 2021	3,500.00

- To be eligible for the award of contract the successful bidders should have not been blacklisted and should have been registered for the grade maintained in the table above with ICTAD.
- Interested bidders could obtain further information from the Province Commissioner of Ayurveda, Provincial Department of Ayurveda, Dharmapala Mawatha, Anuradhapura (Telephone 025-2225397) during office hours and inspect the bidding documents at the same office.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English could be obtained by the interested bidders from the office of the Provincial Department of Ayurveda, Dharmapala Mawatha, Anuradhapura on production of a written request to the Provincial Commissioner of Ayurveda, Provincial Department of Ayurveda, North Central Province from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on office working days from 05.04.2021 to 27.04.2021 up on payment of the relevant non-refundable bid document fee as given in the table above.
- Duly completed bids in duplicate (two copies) indicating the name of the project on the top left-hand corner of the envelope should either be sent by registered post addressed to the Provincial Commissioner of Ayurveda, Chairman, Procurement Committee, Provincial Department of Ayurveda, Dharmapala Mawatha, Anuradhapura, if hand delivered deposited in the Tender Box kept at the office room of the Provincial Commissioner of Ayurveda to be received at or before 2.00 p.m. on 28.04.2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after closing in the presence of the agents of the bidders who choose to attend.
- All the bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security to the value mentioned in the table above, issued by a commercial bank, approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka or by the Construction Guarantee Fund (CGF), valid upto the date mentioned in the table above from the date of opening of bids.

Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee,
Provincial Department of Ayurveda
North Central Province
05.04.2021

PEOPLE'S BANK

TENDER NOTICE Attractive Gift Items

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed suppliers, manufacturers for the supply of following items.

Tender No.	Description of the Item	Qty.	Value of Bid Security (Rs.)	Date & Time of Closing Tender
P/042	TAB	368	100,000/-	21.04.2021 at 2.00 p.m.
P/043	Remote Rechargeable Helicopter	4660	70,000/-	
P/044	Electric Doll	2535	40,000/-	
P/045	Rechargeable Self Driving Car	216	35,000/-	

- Tender documents could be obtained from People's Bank, Supplies Department, 30/101, Kew Road, Colombo 02 depositing Rs. 1,500/- for each tender document to the Account No. 204100120011913 maintained at Headquarters Branch. Deposits could be made from any People's Bank branch to the named account. Issuance of tender documents will be made on producing the duplicate of the cash paying in slip between 9.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m from 05.04.2021 to 20.04.2021 as indicated above on working days of the Bank.
- Perfected tender documents should be accompanied by a Bank Guarantee / Bid Bond from a commercial bank (other than People's Bank) acceptable to the People's Bank for the value mentioned above, valid for a minimum period of 180 calendar days from the date of opening the tender. Bank Drafts / Pay Orders in lieu of Bank Guarantee / Bid Bond are also acceptable with validity at 180 calendar days from the date of opening of the tender. Cheques drawn by the tenderer will not be accepted.
- The selected supplier/s will be required to complete the deliveries within 60 days after issuance of Purchase Orders.
- Sealed tenders may be sent by registered post or deposited in the tender box kept at this Department at No. 30/101, Kew Road, Colombo 02. Tenders will be opened at 2.00 p.m. on the closing date (21.04.2021) mentioned above. Tenders received after 2.00 p.m. will be rejected and returned unopened.
- The Bank reserves to itself the right of rejecting any or all bids or cancelling the whole tender and the right of accepting any portion of a tender without assigning any reasons.
- Further details could be obtained from Chief Manager (Supplies), People's Bank, Supplies Department, on the telephone Nos. given below.

Chief Manager (Supplies)
People's Bank, Supplies Department,
No. 30/101, Kew Road,
Colombo 02.
Telephone Nos. : 2439577/8, 2307326
Fax No. : 2439576
Website : www.peoplesbank.lk
Email : supplies@peoplesbank.lk



PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Ministry of Health & Indigenous Medicine, Probation & Childcare
and Women's Affairs

Invitation for Bids for the Supply of Dry Drugs / Medical Equipment / Water Filters 2021

The Chairman, Procurement Committee of Uva Provincial Ministry of Health & Indigenous Medicine, Probation & Childcare and Women's Affairs invites bids from reputed institutes and individuals for the supply of following items.

Bids should be submitted through bid forms issued by this Ministry. To obtain bid forms refundable and non refundable bid fees as mentioned below should be paid to this Ministry by cash and the official receipts obtained for same should be produced.

For dry drugs, it is compulsory to forward the original of the assets certificate (form Gen. 170) issued by the Divisional Secretary along with the duly perfected Bids.

Nature of Supplies	Refundable Bid Bond Rs.	Non refundable Bid form fee (Rs.)	Certificate of assets issued after 31.01.2021
Supply of dry drugs to the Central Stores, Diyatalawa Medagama Ayurveda Hospitals and Drugs manufacturing plant - Miriswatta.	If in cash Rs. 80,000/=	1,000/=	500,000/=
	If in bid bond Rs. 160,000.00 (validity period 120 days)		

To obtain bid forms, a written application along with a certified copy of the Business Registration Certificate should be submitted to the Secretary of the Ministry.

Serial No.	Equipment	Quantity	Non refundable Bid document fee (Rs.)	Refundable Bid Security	
				In Cash	In Bank Guarantee
01	Purchasing of Digital Detector (DR Panel)	01	3000.00	1%	2%
02	Five part Hematology Analyzer	01	3000.00		
03	Tissue Floating water bath	01	3000.00		
04	Multipara Monitors	30	3000.00		
05	Water filter 1500 litre	40	3000.00		

Bid forms could be obtained from 07.04.2021 to 27.04.2021 from this Ministry office during normal office hours.

Sealed bids in duplicate inserted in two separate envelopes marked "Supply of dry drugs - 2021, Department of Ayurveda, Diyatalawa / Supply of medical equipment 2021 / Water Filters - 2021" as per relevant to each item on the top left-hand corners should either be sent to reach the Chairman, Procurement Committee, Uva Provincial Ministry of Health, Indigenous Medicine, Probation & Childcare, Women's Affairs and Social Welfare, R.H. Gunawardena Mawatha, Badulla by registered post or deposited in the bid box kept at the office room of the Chairman, Procurement Committee before 2.00 p.m. on 28.04.2021.

Bids will be opened at 2.30 p.m. on 28.04.2021 and bidders or their authorized representatives could be present at the time.

The Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject all bids submitted in full or part thereof.

Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee,
Ministry of Health & Indigenous Medicine,
Probation & Childcare and Women's Affairs,
R.H. Gunawardena Mawatha,
Badulla.

05.04.2021.



SRI LANKA PORTS AUTHORITY

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the items given below:

Tender No.	Name of the Tender	Bid Security Amount (Rs.)	Document Fee (Inclusive of VAT)	Closing Date & Time
CES/FP/04/PT/6185(MP)	12 Nos. Main Hoist Wire Rope 25MM 490 Length	108,000.00	3,500.00	04.05.2021 10.00 hrs
CES/FP/05/PT/6186(EL)	Thyristor Exciters for JCT STS Cranes	120,000.00	3,500.00	04.05.2021 10.00 hrs
CES/FP/05/PT/6182(EL)	Starter Motor Spares for JCT RTG Cranes	40,000.00	1,000.00	04.05.2021 10.00 hrs
CES/FP/05/PT/6189(EL)	Auxiliary Power Transformer for JCT RTG Cranes	36,000.00	1,000.00	06.05.2021 10.00 hrs
CES/FP/05/PT/6168(MAR)	Spares for Turbocharger of Wartsila 4L20 Main Engines of M/T Therapuththabhaya	42,000.00	1,000.00	06.05.2021 10.00 hrs
CMS/LP/21/PT/04/052	Motor Tyres 1200x20 18 PR-30 Nos.	40,000.00	1,000.00	23.04.2021 13.30 hrs
CMS/LP/21/PT/14/051	52 Nos. Main Hoist Wire Rope 25MM DIA and 57,60 & 65M for SHI RTG Crane at ECT	63,000.00	1,000.00	23.04.2021 13.30 hrs
CMS/LP/20/PT/10/054	Filters for Caterpillar, C-15 Engines fitted to ZPMC RTGC'S at JCT	110,000.00	3,500.00	23.04.2021 13.30 hrs
CMS/LP/20/PT/16/033	Upgrade of Power Takeoff System of Overhead Cranes at "A Yard"	100,000.00	3,500.00	27.04.2021 13.30 hrs
CMS/LP/21/PT/14/052	24 Nos. Main Hoist and Anti - Sway Sheave for 41T RTG Cranes at ECT	25,000.00	1,000.00	27.04.2021 13.30 hrs

- Bidders are hereby informed that the provisions of Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 are applicable for Tenders total Cost exceeding Rs. 5 million. Accordingly, all parties involved in each aforementioned Tender are required to strictly abide by the said act throughout the duration of contract. Furthermore, any Bidder who wishes to act as an Agent, Sub-Agent, a Representative or a Nominee for and on behalf of any foreign Manufacturer or a Supplier is required to register himself with the Registrar of Public Contracts and submit the duly completed Registration Certificate along with his Bid Documents.
- Bidders should have been in the business of supplying similar goods given above at least during the last three (3) years.
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from The Chief Manager (Supplies & Material Management) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee indicated in Column 4 from 05th April, 2021 from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on working days, up to day prior to the closing date. The method of payment will be by cash.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before closing time. Late Bids will not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' Representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at closing time. All Bids must be accompanied by the amount of abovementioned Bid Security.

Chief Manager (Supplies & Material Management),
Supplies Division,
Sri Lanka Ports Authority,
No. 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01.
Telephone Nos : 2482231, 2483338, 2482499, 2482832, 2482409, 2482652, 2483024, 2482638
Fax Nos : 2381652, 2470443



STATE MINISTRY OF RURAL HOUSING & CONSTRUCTION AND
BUILDING MATERIALS INDUSTRIES PROMOTION



DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Balance Works of Construction of Parking Area & Waiting Area and
Supplying & Fixing of Sliding Gates at Labour Office, Galle.

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Department of Buildings now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Work described below:

Contract No.	Contract Name	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Contract Period (Days)
04-03-14-2021/CT08	Balance Works of Construction of Parking Area & Waiting Area and Supplying & Fixing of Sliding Gates at Labour Office, Galle	6.5 Mn	91

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure. Since the estimated cost of this procurement is below Rs. 50 Mn. regional preference and CIDA grade preference shall apply as stipulated in Public Finance Circular No. 04/2016(ii) & 03/2020.

3. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall be registered in the field of building construction for Grade C7, C6 or C5 with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA), valid until the date of closing of the bids. Further, the registration should be valid at the date of award.

"The bidders shall also register themselves with Registrar of Public Contracts, Sri Lanka, in term of the Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987. The original certificate of registration (PCA 03) shall be submitted with the bid. The procurement shall not be awarded to any bidder unless such bidder had submitted the PCA 03 certificate"

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Chief Engineer (Zone 06), Department of Buildings, No. 10, Upper Dickson Road, Galle and inspect the Bidding Documents at the same address on any working day from 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs.

Contact Numbers are: Phone: 091-222583, Facsimile: 091-2234838

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Chief Engineer (Zone 06), Department of Buildings, No. 10, Upper Dickson Road, Galle from 05.04.2021 until 21.04.2021 from 09.00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rupees Two Thousand Five Hundred (Rs. 2,500/-).

6. Bids shall be delivered or sent by registered post to the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Department of Buildings, 2nd Floor, "Sethsiripaya", Battaramulla to reach at or before 10.00 hrs on 22.04.2021. Bids will be opened soon after closing at the Contract Branch, Department of Buildings, 2nd Floor, "Sethsiripaya", Battaramulla in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

7. Bids shall be valid for a period of 77 days from the date fixed for receiving of Bids or any extended period.

8. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security which shall be;

- in the form included in Section 09 of the bidding document
- in favour of Director General of Buildings
- for an amount of Rs. 90,000.00
- valid up to 4th August 2021
- issued by one of the agencies indicated in the Clause 16.0 of the Schedule.

9. Bidders are advised to enter "Sethsiripaya" premises at least 1 hour before the scheduled time for Bid closing, due to security checking.

Eng. M.H.M. Ismail
Director General of Buildings,
Department of Buildings,
2nd Floor, "Sethsiripaya",
Battaramulla.



SRI LANKA PORTS AUTHORITY

REGISTRATION OF MECHANICAL WORK CONTRACTORS
FOR THE YEAR - 2021/2022

Applications are hereby invited from recognized Contractors, Companies, Corporations and Co-operative Societies who wish to register themselves with the Sri Lanka Ports Authority for obtaining the services in undermentioned categories for the year 2021/2022.

- i) Construction of Steel Buildings
- ii) Construction of Steel Structures
- iii) Blasting and Painting of Steel Structures / Members
- iv) Chipping and Painting of Steel Structures within the Ports and Out of the Ports
- v) New Construction of Pipe Lines / Maintenance of Pipe Lines / Tanks / Accessories etc.

CONDITIONS :

1. If the intended Contractor is a limited liability company, a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation and if otherwise a Copy of Certificate of Registration should be attached to the application
2. Total of three years relevant work experience in the relevant categories should be submitted together with your applications.
3. Separate applications for registration should be forwarded for category Nos. i) to v) mentioned above. Applicants should clearly indicate in their applications the relevant category Nos. for which the registration is sought. Application Forms for registration could be obtained between 9.00 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. on any working day up to 19.04.2021 from the office of the Chief Engineer (Mechanical Works), Mechanical Works Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, No. 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01 on payment of Rs. 1000.00 (inclusive of NBT + VAT) for each category for which the registration is sought.
4. Quotations for the obtaining services will normally be called from the list of registered Contractors. However, the Sri Lanka Ports Authority reserves the right to obtain quotations and obtain services from non-registered Contractors as well.
5. Names of registered Contractors who fail to quote or fail to complete required jobs within the specified time as per the work orders are liable to be struck off the list of registered Suppliers of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority.
6. All applications should be forwarded under Registered Cover and addressed to the Chief Engineer (Mechanical Works), Mechanical Works Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, No. 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01 to reach him on or before 20.04.2021 with the words "Registration of Mechanical Contractors for 2021/2022" written at the top left-hand corner of the envelope. Late applications, without required supporting documents will not be entertained. Applications could also be personally handed over at the Office of Chief Engineer (Mechanical Works).
7. A further information could be obtained by contacting Chief Engineer (Mechanical Works) on Tel. No. 011-2451906, Fax. 011-2451906.

Chief Engineer (Mechanical Works),
Mechanical Works Engineering Division,
Sri Lanka Ports Authority,
No. 45, Leyden Bastian Road,
Colombo 01.

STATE MINISTRY OF PROVINCIAL COUNCILS &
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

JICA FUNDED RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
in Emerging Regions

(Loan No. SLP 116)

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT
NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE

Invitation for Bids

1. The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of the Rural Infrastructure Development Project in Emerging Regions. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the following works;

- (i) **Contract No. SL P116/NCP2/AW/2020/04**
Construction and completion of Improvements to Irrigation Systems in the Tanks of Mahamassallawa in Kahatagasdigiliya D.S. Division, Elawissagoda in Horowpathana D.S. Division and Kanugahaulpotha in Kebithigollewa D.S. Division.
- (ii) **Contract No. SL P116/NCP2/AW/2021/05**
Construction and completion of Improvements to Irrigation Systems in the Tanks of Guruhalmillewa in Kebithigollewa D.S. Division and Kohombapitiya & Udawewa in Padaviya D.S. Division.
- (iii) **Contract No. SL P116/NCP/WS/2020/01**
Construction and water supply systems of Kandulegama and Konduruwea Sub Project, which includes construction of production bore wells (3Nr), Elevated water towers, associated civil works and pipe network of transmission and distribution and supply and installation of electro-mechanical accessories with partial automation including mechanically driven Chlorinators.

2. Bidding will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement.

3. The Chairman of the Provincial Project Procurement Committee on behalf of the North Central Provincial Council now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the above works and some eligibility criteria highlighted in the bid document are tabulated below.

Table (01)

SI No.	Package No.	Non Refundable Fee	Bid Security	Registraroin Requirements	Financial Situation	Financial Resources	Construction Experience
01	SLP116/ NCP2/ AW/2020/04	LKR 10,000.00	LKR 500,000.00 (valid up to 30.08.2021)	(i) Only Grade C5&C4 CIDA Registration in Irrigation and Drainage Canals. (ii) A copy of the certificate of registration issued by the Registrar of companies in Sri Lanka (iii) Form PCA 03.	LKR 70 Million minimum average annual construction turnover over previous three years.	LKR 20 Million minimum amount of liquid assets or credit facility.	Minimum one similar contract satisfactorily completed in the last eight years. Experience in key activities should be not less than (a) 5000 m ³ of earth work per annum. (b) 75m ³ of concrete works per annum.
02	SLP116/ NCP2/ AW/2021/05	LKR 13,000.00	LKR 800,000.00 (valid up to 30.08.2021)	(i) Only Grade C4&C3 CIDA Registration in Irrigation and Drainage Canals. (ii) A copy of the certificate of registration issued by the Registrar of companies in Sri Lanka (iii) Form PCA 03.	LKR 105 Million minimum average annual construction turnover over previous three years.	LKR 25 Million minimum amount of liquid assets or credit facility.	Minimum one similar contract satisfactorily completed in the last eight years. Experience in key activities should be not less than (a) 5000 m ³ of earth work per annum. (b) 75m ³ of concrete works per annum.
03	SLP116/ NCP/ WS/2020/01	LKR 27,000.00	LKR 1,500,000.00 (valid up to 30.08.2021)	(i) CIDA Grade C4 & C3 registration in water and sewerage. (ii) A copy of the certificate of registration issued by the Registrar of companies in Sri Lanka (iii) Form PCA 03.	LKR 200 Million minimum average annual construction turnover in previous five years with effect from 1st January 2016	LKR 34 Million minimum amount of liquid assets or credit facility.	Satisfactorily completed at least following elements in the last seven years 1. Minimum two contract supply & Laying of uPVC or similar nature of pipe contract in length of at least 25 km and 2. Minimum one contract including structural civil works, storage elements, utility building works and construction of ferro-cement elevated reservoirs and 3. Minimum of one contract supply and installation of electro mechanical equipment in water supply systems comprising of submersible pumps with control panels, liquid chlorination systems and associated works preferably with partial automation systems.

Note: (II) CIDA registration requirement as JV. Please refer clause No. 2.1.4 of eligibility and qualification Criteria.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the Office of the Project Implementation Unit, North Central Province, No. 3063, Pubudu Mawatha, Dahaiyagama, Anuradhapura. Telephone: 025-2222875, Fax: 025-2222875 or you can visit the Bid documents from the website: www.cs.nc.gov.lk.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a non refundable fee as specified in above Column 3 of Table (1) up to 27th April 2021 during normal working days from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. or you can download the bid documents from the website www.cs.nc.gov.lk. Relevant payment of non refundable fee as specified in Column 3 of Table (1) can be paid to the A/C No. 83124457, JICA Funded RIDEP Project, Bank of Ceylon, Anuradhapura and the payment slip should be submitted along with the Bid.
6. The Provision in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the Standard Bidding Documents under Japanese ODA Loans for the Procurement of Small Works.
7. Pre-Bid meeting will be held at 10.00 a.m. at Project Implementation Unit, No. 3063, Pubudu Mawatha, Dahaiyagama, Anuradhapura on dates mentioned below and a site visit will be organized soon after the pre bid meeting.

I. Package No. SL P116/NCP2/AW/2020/04	}	27.04.2021
II. Package No. SL P116/NCP2/AW/2021/05		
III. Package No. SL P116/NCP/WS/2020/01		28.04.2021
8. Sealed original and duplicate bids should be in separate envelopes and marked "Bid for Contract No. (As per above table)" on the top left hand corner and must be delivered to the address below at or before 10.00 a.m. on 04th May 2021 and must be accompanied by a bid security as per above Column 04 of Table (1). The form of the Bid Security shall be an unconditional guarantee issued by a Commercial Bank registered & authorized by Central Bank of Sri Lanka. Late Bids will be rejected.
9. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend soon after bid closing at the Office of the Chief Secretary, North Central Provincial Council Complex, 4th Floor B, Harischandra Mawatha, Anuradhapura.

Chief Secretary / Chairman
Provincial Project Procurement Committee
North Central Provincial Council Complex,
4th Floor B, Harischandra Mawatha,
Anuradhapura.
Telephone : 025-2222695; Fax: 025-2224914
Email : csnpsc@gmail.com

Date: 05.04.2021

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Uva Provincial Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs, Tourism, Transport, Cultural and Textiles and Small Industries

Invitation of sealed bids from experienced architects for preparation of plan/design, estimate, Bills of Quantities (BOQs) for the renovation of the Uva Wellassa Museum of the Uva Provincial Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs, Tourism, Transport, Cultural and Textiles and Small Industries.

- Interested bidders may obtain bid documents upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rs. 1,000/- between 9.00 a.m. and 03.00 p.m. on normal working days from 05th April 2021 until 20th April 2021 from the Accounts division of the Uva Provincial Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs, Tourism, Transport, Cultural and Textiles and Small Industries, Raja Mawatha, Badulla.
- Interested bidders may inspect free of charge the specifications and other data relevant to the works to be performed before the purchase of bid documents by calling over at the Planning Division of the Uva Provincial Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs, Tourism, Transport, Cultural and Textiles and Small Industries, (Telephone No. 0552222670) if required. Pre-bid meeting will be held at 11.00 a.m. on 09.04.2021 at the Uva Provincial Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs, Tourism, Transport, Cultural and Textiles and Small Industries.
- Bidders who possess three years experience in the relevant field and are not blacklisted may submit bids.
- Bids in duplicate marked as Original and Duplicate in separate covers should be reinserted in a single cover and submitted.
- Duly perfected bids may either be sent addressed to "Accountant, Uva Provincial Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs, Tourism, Transport, Cultural and Textiles and Small Industries, Raja Mawatha, Badulla" or deposited in the Tender Box of the Uva Provincial Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs, Tourism, Transport, Cultural and Textiles and Small Industries to receive at or before 2.00 p.m. on 21.04.2021. Late bids will be rejected.
- Bids will be opened at 2.00 p.m. on 21.04.2021 at the Office of the Uva Provincial Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs, Tourism, Transport, Cultural and Textiles and Small Industries. Bidder or his authorized representative may be present at the time of opening of bids.
- When submitting the bids, an unconditional bid security valid for 90 days from the opening date of bids obtained from a government recognized bank to the value of 1% of the bid.
- Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid in full or part thereof.

**Chairman,
Procurement Committee
Uva Provincial Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs, Tourism, Transport,
Cultural, Textiles and Small Industries
Uva Provincial Council,
Raja Mawatha
Badulla**



STATE MINISTRY OF AVIATION AND EXPORT ZONES DEVELOPMENT

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Invitation for Quotations for obtaining a Building / Premises on Rent or Lease Basis for Maintaining the Ministry and Ministry Office

Applications are invited from eligible applicants for obtaining an Office Building or premises on rent or lease basis for a period of 03 years under the conditions mentioned below to establish the State Ministry of Aviation and Export Zones Development and the Ministry Offices.

- The expected building/premises should be located within the area of Authority of the Colombo Municipal Council or from Battaramulla area or a location close to this area.
- Applications should be submitted only by the owners of the relevant property or through their Power of Attorney. Applications submitted by brokers will not be accepted.
- The office should have a minimum extent of 7500 sq.ft. with sufficient common space and should include sanitary facilities (apart from the extent of 7500 sq.ft.)
- Should have sufficient space near the office premises for parking a minimum of 20 vehicles.
- Other facilities required:
 - Should contain at least 06 attached bathrooms for sanitary purposes, attached to each of the rooms in the Head Office.
 - Should have sufficient General Sanitary facilities for approximately 75 Male/Female Office Staff. (Separate facilities for males and females.)
 - Should contain an electric lift, stairs for access and an emergency exist if the office premises is located in an upper floor.
 - This building/premises should contain facilities whereby, the office rooms could be accommodated according to the planning of offices by the Ministry.
- Should contain water supply, sanitary facilities, electricity, telephones, generators for provision of sufficient power, air conditioning system and should include a fire protection system.
- The floor of the relevant premises should be paved with Terazzo tiling or with some other tiles providing a similar finish.
- The location is situated in an environment friendly area and provided with convenient access for differently abled persons will be considered as an additional facility.
- A Bid Security Guarantee obtained from a bank approved by the Government valid upto 27 July 2021 should be submitted with your quotation.
- Bid documents could be obtained from the State Ministry of Aviation and Export Zones Development after paying a non-refundable fee of Rs. 12,000.00 Bid documents will be issued during working days of the week from 05.04.2021 upto 27.05.2021 between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.

Bidders interested in this matter could obtain further information from the Director of this Ministry (Procurement) or from the Administration Officer by calling on Tel. No: 0112337629. The relevant application could be obtained by calling over at the State Ministry of Aviation and Export Zones Development. 30th Floor, West Tower, World Trade Center, Colombo 01.

Bids will be accepted upto 3.00 p.m. on 27.04.2021. Bids could be submitted by inserting in the Bid Box kept in this Ministry or by registered post. Bids will be opened at 3.00 p.m. on 27.04.2021 at the Main Meeting Hall of the State Ministry of Aviation and Export Zones Development at the above address. The bidder or his authorized representative could be present on this occasion. The words "Obtaining a Building/Premises" should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing the applications.

**Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Board,
State Ministry of Aviation and Export Zones Development,
30th Floor, West Tower,
World Trade Center,
Colombo 01.**

COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC

Resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC (Registration No. PQ 116) under Section 4 of the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990.

Loan Account No. 2241225

**KONAGEDARA MUHANDIRAMLAGE ROSHAN
SANJEEWA KONAGEDARA
ALIAS
KONAGEDARA MUHANDIRAMLAGE ROSHAN
SANJEEWA**

At a meeting held on 25th October 2019 the Board of Directors of Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC resolved specially and unanimously as follows:

WHEREAS **KONAGEDARA MUHANDIRAMLAGE ROSHAN SANJEEWA KONAGEDARA alias KONAGEDARA MUHANDIRAMLAGE ROSHAN SANJEEWA** as the Obligor has made default in the payment due on the instrument of Mortgage under Registration of Title Act No. 21 of 1998 dated 4th April 2018 attested by K.V.A.D.C.K. Vipulasena, Notary Public of Kandy in favour of Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC and now there is now due and owing to the Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC as at 16th September 2019 a sum of UNITED STATES DOLLARS THIRTY THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY SIX AND CENTS SEVENTY NINE (USD 30,856/79) or [it's equivalent in Sri Lanka Rupees] on the said instrument of Mortgage and the Board of Directors of Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC under the powers vested by Recovery of Loans by Bank's (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990 do hereby resolve that the property and premises morefully described in the Schedule hereto and mortgaged to the Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC by the said Instrument of Mortgage be sold by Public Auction by Mr. I. W. Jayasuriya, Licensed Auctioneer of No 369/1, Dutugemunu Mawatha, Lewella Road, Mawilmada, Kandy for the recovery of the said sum of United States Dollars Thirty Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Six and Cents Seventy Nine (USD 30,856/79) [or its equivalent in Sri Lanka Rupees] with further interest on a some of USD 28,888/= [or its equivalent in Sri Lanka Rupees] at 7.00% per annum from 17th September 2019 to date of sale together with Costs of Advertising and any other charges incurred less payments (if any) since received.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

All that divided and defined land Parcel marked **Lot 49 in Block No. 01 in Cadastral Map No. 320151** made by Surveyor General together with the buildings, trees, plantations and everything else standing thereon situated at **Kobbewala** within the **Grams Niladhari Division of Angammana East - 1163** within **Divisional Secretary's Division of Udapalatha** in the District of Kandy Central Province and containing in extent **NAUGHT DECIMAL NAUGHT FOUR SIX EIGHT HECTARES (0.0468 Hectares)**.

**R.A.P. RAJAPAKSHA
COMPANY SECRETARY**

Date: 07.11.2019



CEYLON PETROLEUM CORPORATION

TENDER NOTICE

SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF CONDENSER COIL FOR CHILLER NO. 03 OF CENTRAL AC SYSTEM OF CPC HEAD OFFICE

B/28/2021

The Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee on behalf of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC), Sri Lanka, hereby calls sealed bids from eligible bidders for the procurement "Fabrication and Installation of Condenser Coil for Chiller No. 03 of Central AC System of CPC Head Office".

Bidding documents can be obtained between **0900 hrs and 1500 hrs. up to 27.04.2021** from the office of Manager (Procurement & Stores), Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, 1st Floor, No. 609, Dr. Danister De Silva Mwt., Colombo 09, on a written request and on payment of non-refundable fee of Rs. 1,000.00 (Rs. 925.63+8% VAT) per set.

Bids will be closed at **1400 hrs. on 28.04.2021** and opened at the Office of Manager (Procurement & Stores), immediately after closing time of the Bid. Bidders or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the opening of Bids.

Bids may be sent by post under registered cover or may be deposited in the Tender Box kept in the Office of Manager (Procurement & Stores), Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, 1st Floor, No. 609, Dr. Danister De Silva Mwt., Colombo 09.

Clarifications (if any) shall be sought from the under mentioned Telephone / Fax Numbers.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the bidders can download the bidding document from CPC website i.e. - www.ceypetco.gov.lk, and all the payments can be made to the Account No. 004100110208633 of Ceylon Petroleum Corporation of People's Bank (Head Office).

**Chairman,
Departmental Procurement Committee,
C/o Manager (Procurement & Stores),
Ceylon Petroleum Corporation,
No. 609, Dr. Danister De Silva Mawatha,
Colombo 09, Sri Lanka.**

Telephone : 0094-11-5455331, 5455337
Fax : 0094-11-5455424


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VEHICLES FOR SALE

AMBALANTHOTA			
THREE WHEELER	BAJAJ	198CC	2012 SP AAE XXXX
	BAJAJ	145CC	2006 SG QJ XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2008 SP QJ XXXX
	PIAGGIO	395CC	2011 SP YR XXXX
LOLC VEHICLE FACILITY CENTRE, NO. 162, MAIN STREET, AMBALANTHOTA NAVINDU - 0475118080			
MATHUGAMA			
THREE WHEELER	BAJAJ	145CC	2006 SG QF XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2007 SP QN XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2006 WP QV XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2009 CP QV XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2010 WP QX XXXX
	BAJAJ	198CC	2011 WP YN XXXX
	BAJAJ	198CC	2011 WP YT XXXX
LOLC VEHICLE FACILITY CENTRE, NEAR THE PEOPLE'S BANK, MIAWA MAWATHA, MATHUGAMA PRAMODA - 0775634245			
GOTHATUWA			
THREE WHEELER	BAJAJ	198CC	2012 WP AAE XXXX
	BAJAJ	198CC	2013 WP AAH XXXX
	BAJAJ	198CC	2013 WP AAK XXXX
	BAJAJ	198CC	2014 WP AAT XXXX
	BAJAJ	198CC	2014 WP AAT XXXX
	BAJAJ	198CC	2015 WP ABA XXXX
	BAJAJ	198CC	2016 WP ABM XXXX
	BAJAJ	150CC	2003 WP HK XXXX
	BAJAJ	150CC	2004 WP JI XXXX
	BAJAJ	145CC	2005 WP QA XXXX
	BAJAJ	145CC	2006 WP QB XXXX
	BAJAJ	145CC	2006 WP QC XXXX
	BAJAJ	145CC	2006 SP QG XXXX
	BAJAJ	145CC	2006 WP QH XXXX
	BAJAJ	145CC	2006 WP QI XXXX
	BAJAJ	145CC	2006 WP QJ XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2007 WP QK XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2007 WP QL XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2007 CP QK XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2009 WP QS XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2008 WP QT XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2009 WP QU XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2009 WP QV XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2009 WP QW XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2010 WP QX XXXX
	BAJAJ	200CC	2010 WP YE XXXX
	BAJAJ	200CC	2011 WP YS XXXX
	BAJAJ	198CC	2011 WP YT XXXX
	BAJAJ	198CC	2012 SP YW XXXX
	BAJAJ	198CC	2012 WP YX XXXX
	BAJAJ	198CC	2012 WP YZ XXXX
	PIAGGIO	395CC	2015 WP ABE XXXX
	TVS KING	200CC	2013 WP AAJ XXXX
NO. 42/5, GOTHATUWA GANSABHA RD, GOTHATUWA MAHESH - 0773493535			
WELLAMPITIYA			
VAN	SUBARU V-KV3	650CC	1998 CP HF XXXX
CAR	MITSUBISHI LANCER	1300CC	1994 18 XXXX
MOTOR BIKE	YAMAHA FZ-S	149CC	2019 EP BQ XXXX
THREE WHEELER	BAJAJ	145CC	2005 WP QB XXXX
	BAJAJ	198CC	2014 WP AAS XXXX
LOLC VEHICLE FACILITY CENTRE, NO. 91 J/1, AVESAWELLA RD, MAHABUTHGAMUWA, WELLAMPITIYA JAYANTHA - 0773242324			

The Company reserves the right to withdraw any vehicle/vehicles from the Sale without prior Notice.

Tender forms can be collected from the Head Office – Rajagiriya & the relevant branches of the above addresses

Tender closes at 12.30 P.m on 08th April 2021

LOLC FINANCE PLC
No.100/1, Sri Jayawardanepura Mw, Rajagiriya.

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Invitation for Bids

The Open University of Sri Lanka

Procurement of Office Furniture

IFB NO: OUSL/SUP/OF/IFB/10/01-01/2021

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Open University of Sri Lanka invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Supplying, Delivering and installation of Office Furniture as per the details given below.

Item No	Item's Name	No of Units	Bid Security (Rs)
1	Book Racks - Wooden	55	97,900.00
2	Book Shelves -Wooden	58	80,040.00
3	Clerical Chairs -Wooden	64	16,640.00
4	Clerical Tables - Wooden	70	86,800.00
5	Executive Tables 6' x 3' - Wooden	21	36,120.00
6	Glass Fronted Cupboards -Wooden	19	42,712.38
7	Lab Stools-Wooden	32	5,504.00
8	Lobby Chairs-Cushioned	91	30,940.00
9	Side Racks-Wooden	30	34,200.00
10	Student Chairs-Wooden	577	126,940.00
11	Student Chairs with Writing Pads - Wooden	320	96,000.00
12	Student Desks-Wooden	550	132,000.00
13	Auditorium Chairs	295	47,200.00
14	Computer Chairs with Arms	248	84,320.00
15	Computer Chairs High Back with Arms	127	45,720.00
16	Executive Chairs	51	23,460.00
17	Computer Tables	79	36,340.00
18	Steel Cushioned Visitor Chairs	56	10,080.00
19	Filing Cabinets - Steel	103	111,240.00
20	Steel Cupboards 6' X 3'	99	85,140.00
21	Steel Cupboards Glass Fronted	53	66,780.00

2. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a bank guarantee in the format given with the bidding document for the amount given in the above table. Bank Guarantee is confirmed by a bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by Central Bank of Sri Lanka. The bid security shall be in the form of an unconditional on demand and shall be valid up to 18/08/2021.

3. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB).

4. Bidders who have at least 03 years' experience in Supplying, Delivering and Installation of above Furniture, in similar quantities to State or Private Organization, may submit bids.

5. Interested eligible bidder may obtain further information from Assistant Bursar, Supplies Division, The Open University of Sri Lanka (Tel: 011-2881212) and inspect the bidding documents, free of charge at the same address during the office hours.

6. A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the Assistant Bursar, Supplies Division, The Open University of Sri Lanka and upon payment of a non - refundable fee of Rs 5,000.00 to the Shroff of the University on working days from 05/04/2021 to 04/05/2021 from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm.

7. The bidding documents for above tender can also be downloaded from university website, www.ou.ac.lk. Those who are obtaining bidding documents from university website should submit the tender along with a bank draft drawn in favor of the "Bursar, The Open University of Sri Lanka" for Rs. 5,000.00 as the non refundable fee.

8. Duly perfected bids in duplicate in separate envelopes marked as "Original" and "Duplicate" and re-inserted in a single envelop mentioning the name of the bid and IFB number on the top left hand corner of all three envelopes, sealed and may either be sent by registered post addressed to "Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Supplies Division, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda" or deposited in the Tender Box kept at the Supplies Division of the Open University of Sri Lanka. Duplicate should be a certified photocopy of the original.

9. The bid should be delivered on or before 2.00 pm on 05/05/2021 to the address given above. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after the closing time and bidder or their authorized representative is permitted to be present at the time of opening of bids.

10. A pre-bid meeting will be held on 23/04/2021 at 2.00 pm at the Board Room of the Registrar's Office of the Open University of Sri Lanka.

11. The Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject bids.

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee The Open University of Sri Lanka,
Nawala, Nugegoda.

Registrar, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice of change of Name of Limited Liability Company pursuant to section 9(2) of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007. Notice is hereby given that the following company has changed the Name in accordance with Section 9(2) of Companies Act No. 7 of 2007 on 26th March 2021.
Former Name of the Company: HORIZON KNOWLEDGE CITY LIMITED
Number of the Company: P B 5281
Registered Office: No. 447/C, Akaragoda Road, Pelawata, Battaramulla.
Name of the Company: Fotesight Realty Limited.
RNH Holdings (Private) Limited
Company Secretaries "RNH House", No. 622B, Kotte Road, Kotte.
30th March 2021

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

AGRO SENSE C M B (PVT) LTD hereby gives the notice to the public on incorporation under section 9(1) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007.
Name of the Company: AGRO SENSE C M B (PVT) LTD
Registered Office: No. 8/4/3, 4th Floor, Asset Arcade Building, Sir Razik Fareed Mawatha, Colombo 01.
Registration Number: PV 00235022

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Lucky Numen Global (Pvt) Ltd hereby gives the notice to the public on incorporation under section 9(1) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007.
Name of the Company: LUCKY NUMEN GLOBAL (PVT) LTD
Registered Office: No. 227, Hospital Road, Kalubowila, Dehiwala.
Registration Number: PV 00217458

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

HELA DEVELOPMENTS (PVT) LTD hereby gives the notice to the Public on incorporation under section 9(1) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007.
Name of the Company: HELA DEVELOPMENTS (PVT) LTD
Registered Office: No. 57/C, Kurupumulla Road, Panadura.
Registration Number: PV 00237535

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ලංකා සීනි (පුද්ගලික) සමාගම
லங்கா சீனி நிறுவனம் (தனியார்) லிமிடெட்
Lanka Sugar Company (Private) Limited



State Ministry of Development of Minor Crops Plantation Including Sugar Cane Maize, Cashew, Pepper, Cinnamon, Cloves, Betel, Related Industries and Export Promotion

Tender Notice

The Chairman Departmental Procurement Committee (DPC) on behalf of the Lanka Sugar Company (Pvt) Ltd. invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified contractors for the "Rehabilitation of internal road ways at Sevanagala Sugar Factory premise" at Lanka Sugar Company (Pvt) Ltd. - Sevanagala Unit as follows:

SRN	Construction Work	Tender Reference	Bid Security
01	Rehabilitation of internal road ways at Sevanagala Sugar Factory premises	LSS/CE/CT/2021/01	300,000.00

1. The period of Construction of this work is 90 days.
2. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall have not been blacklisted and shall meet the ICTAD Registration C5 Grade or above (Highway Constructions).
3. Interested Prospective bidders may obtain further information from Manager Procurement over the Tele Nos. 077 2858085, 0112 50 55 58 or Facsimile No: 0112 500 674 and inspect the bidding documents in his Office at No. 27, Melbourne Avenue, Colombo 04, or Lanka Sugar Company (Pvt) Ltd, Sevanagala, Embilipitiya from 05/04/2021, 09.00 hrs. to 14.00 hrs.
4. A complete set of Bidding Document in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Manager Procurement from 09.00 hrs. to 14.00 hrs. Until 27.04.2021 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 5,000.00. The method of payment will be by cash.
5. Pre-bid Meeting will be held on 22.04.2021, 14.30 hrs. at Sevanagala Sugar Factory
6. Bids shall be delivered to The Chairman (Tender Board), No. 27, Melbourne Avenue, Colombo 04 on or before 1400 hrs. On 28.04.2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing and in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend.

Chairman (Departmental Procurement Committee)
Lanka Sugar Company (Pvt) Ltd.
No. 27, Melbourne Avenue,
Colombo 04.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)



STATE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, COAST CONSERVATION, WASTE DISPOSAL AND COMMUNITY CLEANLINESS
SRI LANKA LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

**SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT
WERAS GANGA STORM WATER DRAINAGE AND ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

The Chairman of Department Procurement Committee on behalf of Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation (SLLDC) invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the following contracts.

Procurement No.	Item Description	Closing Date & Time	Bid Security	Non-refundable fee
S/186/21	Supply and Installation of Outdoor Gym Equipment - Sooriyamal Mawatha Area 01 Zone 01 - Package 45	21 st April, 2021 13.30 hrs	Rs. 100,000.00	Rs. 4,000.00
S/193/21	Supply and Installation of Outdoor Gym Equipment - Sooriyamal Mawatha Area 02 Zone 01 - Package 46	21 st April, 2021 13.30 hrs	Rs. 100,000.00	Rs. 4,000.00
S/194/21	Supply and Installation of Outdoor Gym Equipment - Rubber Wattia Zone 02 - Package 46	21 st April, 2021 13.30 hrs	Rs. 100,000.00	Rs. 4,000.00

1. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language could be inspected and purchased upon submission of a written request to the Deputy General Manager (Supplies & Stores) during 9.00 Hrs. to 15.30 Hrs. from 05th April, 2021 up to 20th April, 2021 (working days) upon payment of non-refundable fee as mentioned above. The method of payment will be only by cash to the cashier at Accounts Division (3rd Floor, New Building).
2. Procurement No. and the subject should be clearly mentioned on the top left hand corner of the envelope and should be sent under registered post or deposited to the specified Tender Box kept in Supplies Division (1st Floor, New Building).
3. Bid shall be delivered to the address given below on or before 21st April, 2021 at 13:30 hrs. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing time, in the presence of Bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.
4. Pre-Bid Meeting will be conducted on 8th April, 2021 at 10.00 a.m at SLLDC Board Room.
5. Interested bidders may obtain further clarifications from Deputy Project Director - Weras Ganga Project of SLLDC Tel: +94 11 2872877 Fax: +94 11 2074421, Email : wgsweidp@gmail.com

Chairman
Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation
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Head office Tel: 0112 889485-7 Web: www.landdevelopment.lk

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CP NB-5769 Mitsubishi Rosa, 2006, bus for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC, No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel. 0714542958. 025952

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Piliyandala Kotagedara

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WP AAY-7596 Bajaj, 2015, NW ABC-2544 Bajaj, 2015, CP AAF-3142 Bajaj, 2012, Three-wheel for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC, No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel. 0711210810. 025949

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Invitation for Bids

Quotations are invited to carry out the work mentioned below at the Hambantota District General Hospital.

Work Subject	ICTAD Requirements	Non-Refundable Tender Form Fee (Rs).	Refundable Tender Deposit (Rs).
Renovation of the Laboratory on the second floor of the old District General Hospital for Installing a PCR Machine.	C7 or C8	2500.00	43,000.00

Details of the work mentioned above could be obtained during working days of the week from 05.04.2021 up to 27.04.2021 between 9.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. by calling over at the office and bid forms could be inspected and obtained after paying the relevant amounts. Bids will be opened at 10.00 a.m. on 28/04/2021 in the Director's office of the District General Hospital, Hambantota.

The applicants should seal the envelope containing the tender and the name of the relevant work should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope and sent by registered post addressed to "Chairman, Regional Procurement Board, District General Hospital, Hambantota" to be received before 9.30 a.m. on 28.04.2021 or should be hand-delivered. Incomplete bids and bids received after the stipulated time will be rejected.

Further details could be obtained on Tel. No.: 0472220261. Extension No. 1336, if necessary.

**Director,
District General Hospital,
Hambantota.**

Daily News Classifieds, the Housewives' companion

**SOUTHERN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
Southern Provincial Department of Education**

Invitation for Bids

Procurement of the printing and delivery of first term test papers for Grades 10 - 11 for the year 2021

Quotations are invited from Government registered printers who are capable of type setting & printing test papers required to hold 2021 first term test for grade 10 - 11 in 825 schools in Southern Province and packeted in required quantities and transport to 39 Divisional Education Offices.

- * Bid documents could be obtained from 06.04.2021 to 21.04.2021 during working days of the week from 9.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. upon payment of a non refundable sum of Rs. 3,500/= to the Shroff of Southern Provincial Department of Education.
- * Refundable bid bond is Rs. 50,000/= . It should be paid to the Shroff of Southern Provincial Department of Education and the photocopy of the receipt obtained for same should be submitted along with the bids.
- * A sample of the paper on which test papers are to be printed should also be submitted.
- * Bids should be submitted only on forms supplied. Sealed bids will be received up to 10.00 a.m. on 22.04.2021 and bids should either be sent on or before the said time to reach the "Chairman, Procurement Board, Southern Provincial Department of Education, Upper Dickson Road, Galle" by registered post or deposited in the tender box kept at this department. The top left hand corner of the envelope containing bids should be marked as "Bids for the printing and delivery of first term test papers for grade 10 - 11 for the year 2021".
- * Pre bid meeting will be held at 10.30 a.m. on 19.04.2021 at Southern Provincial Department of Education.
- * Bids will be opened at 10.30 a.m. on 22.04.2021 immediately after closing of bids and bidders or their authorized representatives could participate at the time. Further details could be obtained from the Chief Accountant / Accountant through telephone No. 091-2234234.

**Nimal Dissanayake,
Southern Provincial Director of Education,
Southern Provincial Department of Education,
Upper Dickson Road,
Galle.**

05.04.2021

INVITATION FOR BID 2021/01

DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENOUS MEDICINE, NORTHERN PROVINCE

- The **Chairman, Department Procurement Committee**, on behalf of the Department of Indigenous Medicine, Northern Province invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Construction work described in the table below.
- Bidding will be conducted through **National Competitive Bidding Procedure (NCB)**.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have been registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) in the field of building construction for grade mentioned in the table below.
- Qualifications requirements are indicated in section 4 of the Bidding document. Additional details are provided in the Schedule (Section 5) for SBD 3 documents and in the Bidding Data & Contract Data (Section 5) for SBD 1 documents.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the **address given below in 6**, and inspect the bidding documents at the same place on any working days from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the **Provincial Commissioner, Department of Indigenous Medicine, Northern Province, No.611, Hospital Road, Jaffna (T.P: 021 2220821, Fax: 021 2220822) from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. during the period mentioned in the table upon payment of non-refundable fees as mentioned in the table.** The method of payment should be by cash.
- Bids (Original, Duplicate) shall be delivered or sent by registered post to the **Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Department of Indigenous Medicine, Northern Province, No. 611, Hospital Road, Jaffna** at or before **10.30 a.m. on the date mentioned in the table.** Bid number must be written on the left-hand upper corner of envelope. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Pre-Bid Conference will be held at **Department of Indigenous Medicine, Northern Province, No.611, Hospital Road, Jaffna** commencing at **02.30 P.M. on the date mentioned in the table.**
- Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid security as per the information given in the Table.

CATEGORY 1	Document Issuing/Purchasing Period		From 06.04.2021 until 19.04.2021				
	Pre-Bid Conference		at 02.30 P.M on 12.04.2021				
	Closing and Opening of Bids		at 10.30 A.M on 20.04.2021				
Bid No	Description of Work	Estimated Cost / (Rs in Millions)	Contract Period	Required Grade	Non Refundable Fees	Required Bid Security	
						Security Amount	Valid Period
NP/B/ JA/14(2021)	Improvement Work at Siddha Rural Hospital at Kodikamam, Jaffna	04.17	98 Days	C8 or C7 (Buildings)	3,500.00	42,000.00	Till 19.07.2021
NP/B/ MU/11(2021)	Construction of Administration Block at District Siddha Hospital, Mullaitivu	19.19	182 Days	C6 or C5 (Buildings)	5,000.00	192,000.00	Till 02.08.2021
NP/B/ MN/06(2021)	Construction of Administration Block at District Siddha Hospital, Naruvilikkulam, Mannar (Single Storey)	16.20	168 Days	C6 or C5 (Buildings)	5,000.00	163,000.00	Till 02.08.2021
NP/B/ VA/06(2021)	Renovation and Improvement to Ayurvedic Central Dispensary and Quarters at Madukandha, Vavuniya	8.43	126 Days	C7 or C6 (Buildings)	3,500.00	85,000.00	Till 02.08.2021
NP/B/ VA/07(2021)	Renovation and Improvement to Ayurvedic Central Dispensary and Quarters at Vavuniya Town	7.00	119 Days	C7 or C6 (Buildings)	3,500.00	70,000.00	Till 02.08.2021
NP/B/ VA/08(2021)	Construction of Male and Female Ward Rural Siddha Hospital at Cheddikulam, Vavuniya	15.67	168 Days	C6 or C5 (Buildings)	5,000.00	157,000.00	Till 02.08.2021
CATEGORY 2	Document Issuing/Purchasing Period		From 06.04.2021 until 27.04.2021				
	Pre-Bid Conference		at 02.30 P.M on 16.04.2021				
	Closing and Opening of Bids		at 10.30 A.M on 28.04.2021				
Bid No	Description of Work	Estimated Cost / (Rs in Millions)	Contract Period	Required Grade	Non Refundable Fees	Required Bid Security	
						Security Amount	Valid Period
NP/B/ JA/15(2021)	Construction of Three Storeyed Administrative Block at Pandatherippu Ayurvedic Hospital, Jaffna	24.30	210 Days	C6 or C5 (Buildings)	5,000.00	243,000.00	Till 10.08.2021
NP/B/ JA/16(2021)	Construction of Siddha Rural Hospital at Thondamanaru, Jaffna	28.58	217 Days	C5 or C4 (Buildings)	10,000.00	286,000.00	Till 24.08.2021

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

**Chairman
Department Procurement Committee
Department of Indigenous Medicine
Northern Province**

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SRI LANKA LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Career Opportunities

SLDC, an ISO 9001:2015 Certified leading public sector Corporation, applications are invited from suitably qualified applicants for the following posts.

01. ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER (PLANT & EQUIPMENT)
QUALIFICATIONS
External
B. Sc. Degree in Mechanical Engineering from a university recognized by the University Grant Commission/ Bachelor of Technology Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Open University of Sri Lanka/ Successful Completion of Part III Examination in the field of Mechanical Engineering from the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka/Council of Engineers (London)/Engineering Institution (London) and full membership of the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka/ Council of Engineers (London)/ Engineering Institution (London) with a minimum of fifteen (15) years experience in a managerial level after obtaining the first Degree in a Corporation/ Board or a reputed Mercantile Establishment.

02. ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER (SUPPLIES)
EXTERNAL
Degree of a recognized university with post graduate qualification (Master Degree) in field of Management/Marketing/Business Administration with a minimum of fifteen (15) years experience in a Managerial level in a Corporation/Board or a reputed Mercantile Establishment after obtaining the first degree.
Salary Scale : Rs. 80,295 - 15 x 2,270 - 114,345/-
Age Limit : AGE SHOULD BE NOT LESS THAN 35 YEARS AND NOT MORE THAN 55 YEARS. THE UPPER AGE LIMIT WILL NOT APPLY TO THE INTERNAL CANDIDATES.

03. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ANALYST ON CONTRACT BASIS
QUALIFICATIONS
A Bachelor's Degree in Business, Operations, Analytics or marketing from a University recognized by University Grant Commission with post graduate qualification (Master Degree) in field of Management/Marketing/Business Administration with a minimum of fifteen (15) years' experience from the field of Business Operations in a Managerial Level in a Corporation/ Board or a reputed Mercantile Establishment after obtaining the first Degree.
Salary : Rs. 80,295 + Government Approved Cost of Living Allowance
Contract Period : One (01) Year
Age Limit : AGE SHOULD BE NOT LESS THAN 35 YEARS AND NOT MORE THAN 55 YEARS.

04. CHIEF ENGINEER (MECHANICAL)
QUALIFICATIONS
B.Sc. Degree in the field of Mechanical Engineering from university recognized by the University Grant Commission with full membership of IESL & 10 years post Qualifying experience in managerial level in the relevant field in a Government Department/ Corporation/ Board or in a reputed mercantile establishment.
Salary Scale : Rs. 53,175 - 10 x 1,375 - 15 x 1,910 - 95,575/-
Age Limit : AGE SHOULD BE NOT LESS THAN 22 YEARS AND NOT MORE THAN 45 YEARS. THE UPPER AGE LIMIT WILL NOT APPLY TO INTERNAL CANDIDATES.

05. CHEMIST ON CONTRACT BASIS
QUALIFICATIONS
B.Sc. Degree in Chemistry from university recognized by the UGC with Minimum of Three (03) years post qualifying experiences in water quality analysis in a Government Department/Corporation/Board or in a reputed mercantile establishment.

06. LICENSED SURVEYOR ON CONTRACT BASIS
QUALIFICATIONS
External
Licensed Surveyor & Leveller.
Salary : Rs. 53,175 + Government Approved Cost of Living Allowance
Contract Period : One (01) Year
Age Limit : AGE SHOULD BE NOT LESS THAN 22 YEARS AND NOT MORE THAN 45 YEARS.

07. ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER GRADE II
QUALIFICATIONS
External
A Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science from a University recognized by University Grant Commission with at least One (01) year post qualifying experience in a Government Department/Corporation/Board or in a reputed mercantile establishment.
Salary Scale : Rs. 42,600 - 10 x 755 - 18 x 1,135 - 70,586/-
Age Limit : AGE SHOULD BE NOT LESS THAN 22 YEARS AND NOT MORE THAN 45 YEARS. THE UPPER AGE LIMIT WILL NOT APPLY TO INTERNAL CANDIDATES.

Every applicant should be a citizen of Sri Lanka & should be Physically & Mentally fit to discharge the duties of the post well & to serve in any part of the Island.
Applications along with copies of relevant certificates should be sent by registered post marking the post applied for on the top left hand corner of the envelope to reach the following address on or before 21.04.2021. The application format should be downloaded from www.landdevelopment.lk. The Applications sent without relevant format will be rejected.

Deputy General Manager (HRD),
Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation,
No. 03, Sri Jayawardenapura Mawatha, Welikada, Rajagiriya.

Employees from Government Departments, Corporations and Statutory Boards should forward their applications through the respective Head of the Institution indicating the possibility of being released if selected.

Chairman,
Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation
No.03, Sri Jayawardenapura Mawatha, Welikada, Rajagiriya.
Web: www.landdevelopment.lk

Employment Opportunities

State Ministry of Rural Housing and Construction & Building Materials Industries Promotion

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

E-mail : info@cida.gov.lk Website : www.cida.gov.lk

VACANCY

Applications are invited for the following post in the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA)

01. POST OF DIRECTOR GENERAL- SENIOR MANAGER CATEGORY-HM 2-1 (01 post)
Qualifications & Experience :
External candidates :
B.Sc. Degree in Engineering / Architecture / Quantity Surveying which is recognized by the U.G.C.
WITH
Masters Degree in relevant field or Corporate Membership of a relevant professional body recognized by the Institute of Engineers of Sri Lanka (IESL) / Institute of Architects of Sri Lanka (SLIA) / Institute of Quantity Surveyors of Sri Lanka (IQSSL).
AND
Minimum of 20 years of experience in all the border areas of major construction activities at a "Managerial Level" after the Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field out of which 05 years of experience should be at "Senior Managerial Level" with proven track record in a Government Department/Corporation/ Statutory Board / Institution or a reputed Mercantile Establishment acceptable to CIDA after obtaining the first degree.
Internal candidates :
B.Sc. Degree in Engineering / Architecture / Quantity Surveying which is recognized by the U.G.C. with Masters Degree in relevant field or Corporate Membership of a relevant professional body recognized by the Institute of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL) / Institute of Architect of Sri Lanka (SLIA) / Institute of Quantity Survey of Sri Lanka (IQSSL).
WITH
(a) A Minimum of 07 years of experience as a Director in the senior manager (HM) category in the subject area relevant to the post.
AND
(b) A proven ability to lead and direct multi-disciplinary teams. Experience in proper deployment and efficient management of human and other resources.
• **Age :** Age should be not less than 35 years and not more than 55 years. The upper age limit will not apply to the internal candidates and candidates of the Public / Corporate Sector.
• **Salary Scale :** HM 2-1 Rs. 93,020/- 12 x 2,700/- 125,420/-

02. POST OF DIRECTOR (HR & ADMINISTRATION) - HM 1-3- (01 POST)
Qualifications & Experience :
External Candidates :
A Bachelor's Degree which is recognized by the U.G.C.
WITH
Masters Degree in Human Resource Management / Public Management / Business Administration / General Management or Corporate Membership of a professional body in the relevant field.
AND
Minimum of 15 years experience at a "Managerial Level" in the relevant field in a Government Department ,Corporation, Statutory Board / Government Institution after the 1st Degree.
Internal Candidates: (1 or 2 below)
1. Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above.
2. Completion of minimum five (5) years satisfactory service in a post in the Manager Category (MM) Grade -1 in the subject area relevant to the post.
• **Salary Scale :** HM 1-3 Rs. 86,865/- 15 x 2,270/- 120,915/-
• **Age :** Should be not less than 35 years and not more than 55 years.
The upper age limit will not apply to the internal candidates and candidates of the Public / Corporate Sector.

Nature of Appointment:
Permanent with entitlement to Employee's Provident fund (EPF) and Employee's Trust Fund (ETF).
And Every applicant,
I. Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
II. Should be physically and mentally fit to discharge the duties of the post well and to serve in any part of the Island.
III. Should be of excellent moral character.

Structured Interview :
Marks allocated for the interview are as follows :

• Relevant additional experience	-	30 Marks
• Relevant additional educational /professional qualifications	-	30 Marks
• Other achievements	-	15 Marks
• Performance at the interview	-	25 Marks
		100 Marks

Appointments will be made purely in the order of merit at the interview.

Other Benefits
➢ Government approved allowances.
➢ CIDA will contribute 15% and 3% of the salary to the EPF and ETF respectively, while employee will contribute 10% of the salary to the EPF.
➢ Bonus as per the public enterprise Circulars.
➢ Medical Insurance Facilities.
➢ Transport facilities /Reimbursement of Telephone bills will be Provided according to the public enterprise Circulars.

The applications along with the certified copies of Educational, Professional and Experience Certificates should be forwarded under Registered Cover to reach to the Chairman of CIDA on or before 21.04.2021. Applications from officers employed in Government Departments / Corporations / Statutory Boards / Permanent employee of Institutions should be forwarded through the respective Heads of such institutions indicating whether the applicant could be released, if selected. The post applied should be indicated on the top left corner of the envelope.
All the other details are available at CIDA website www.cida.gov.lk
Incomplete or late applications will be rejected. Only short listed eligible candidates will be called for the interview.

Chairman
Construction Industry Development Authority
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PROPOSED CANCER TREATMENT UNIT (STAGE II),
NATIONAL HOSPITAL, KANDY.**

Bid No. CESL/CPU/SPC/2021/02

It is hereby notified that the advertisement "Invitation for Bids" with reference to above contract published in the Daily News on 15th March 2021 has been amended as follows.

Reference IFB	Contents in Issued Document	Amendment
Item No. 4 (qualification requirement)	"Average annual value of supply and installation of Air Conditioning and Ventilation system work performed in last five (05) years shall be at least Rs. 300 million.	Changed as "Average annual value of supply and installation of Air Conditioning and Ventilation system work performed in last five (05) years shall be at least Rs. 150 million"
Item No. 5 (inspection of Bidding Documents)	"from 15.03.2021 until 07.04.2021"	Changed as "from 15.03.2021 to 09.04.2021 and from 19.04.2021 to 21.04.2021"
Item No. 6 (Issuing of Bidding Documents)	"from 15.03.2021 until 07.04.2021"	Changed as "from 15.03.2021 to 09.04.2021 and from 19.04.2021 to 21.04.2021"
Item No. 10 (Time and Date of Bid Closing/ Opening)	"on or before 14.00 hrs on 08.04.2021"	Changed as "14 hrs. on 22.04.2021"

All the other information shall remain the same.

Chairman,
Senior Procurement Committee,
Central Engineering Services (Pvt) Ltd.,
No. 415, Bauddhaloka Mawatha,
Colombo 07.

**CEYLON PETROLEUM
CORPORATION**

Thrift Society Limited

**AUDIT SERVICE FOR THE YEAR
- 2020**

Quotations are invited from registered firms of Chartered Accountants to carry out audit services of Ceylon Petroleum Corporation Thrift Society Limited (CPCTSL). Prospective Auditors should have previous experience in carrying out statutory audits of a single client's annual volume of transactions for more than Rs. 400 Million.

Please submit your best quotations along with your firm's profile and list of Clientele at or before 30.04.2021 at 1600 hours.

For further clarifications please contact Tel No: 0112530211, 0115455157.

Late quotations will be rejected.

The Treasurer,
Ceylon Petroleum Corporation Thrift Society Limited,
Ceylon Petroleum Corporation,
Finance Function, 5th Floor,
No. 609, Dr. Danister De Silva Mawatha,
Colombo 09.

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**Invitation for Bids (IFB)
EDUCATION EMPLOYEES CO-OPERATIVE
THRIFT AND CREDIT SOCIETY LIMITED (EDCS)**

**Proposed Four Storied Holiday Resort Building for
Education Employees Co-Operative Thrift and
Credit Society Limited (EDCS) at Katharagama**

1. The Chairman, EDCS Procurement Committee on behalf of the Education Employees Co-Operative Thrift and Credit Society Limited (EDCS) now invites sealed bids from eligible & qualified bidders for Construction of Proposed Four Storied Holiday Resort Building for Education Employees Co-Operative Thrift and Credit Society Limited (EDCS) at Katharagama.

The Work consists of construction of four storied building having a total gross floor area of 3100 m² (approx.), consists with rubble foundation with RCC column footing, RCC structure, plastered and painted brick walls, RCC flat roof, Zn/Al roofing, timber and powder coated Al doors and windows, floor rendering, wall and floor tiling, electrical installation, sanitary fittings and accessories, drainage work, lighting protection system, Fire protection and detection system, Air Conditioning system, Public address system, Lift, landscaping and demolition of existing building.

Location of Project :
Premises of Rest House Building for Education Employees Co-Operative Thrift and Credit Society Limited (EDCS) Rest, Katharagama.

The construction period is 460 days (Considering Social distance effects during construction due to COVID-19 pandemic situation & CIDA Regulations). Total estimate amount for works is Rs. 284 Million.

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 meet the following requirements.
CIDA registration required.

Specialty : Buildings
Grade : C3 or above

4. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include.
● Average of the annual volume of construction work performed in the last five years (2020-2015) shall be at least Rs. 334 million
● Experience in the similar nature and the complex construction of at least one contract of two or more multi-storied building to a value of Rs.213 million or above, in one contract, over the last 5 years (to comply with this requirement, works should be at least 70 percent completed)
● The minimum amount of Liquid Assets and/or/credit facilities shall be not less than Rs. 56 million

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Chairman office, Education Employees Co-Operative Thrift and Credit Society Limited (EDCS), Head Office, No.294, Galle Road, Colombo - 03 and inspect the bidding documents at the Chairman office, Education Employees Co-Operative Thrift and Credit Society Limited (EDCS), Head Office, No.294, Galle Road, Colombo - 03 in the Co-Operative office hours.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the Chairman, Education Employees Co-Operative Thrift and Credit Society Limited (EDCS), Head Office, No.294, Galle Road, Colombo - 03 from 0900 hrs to 1430 hrs from 05th April 2021 to 30th April 2021 upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rs. 40,000.00. The method of payment will be in cash.

7. Bids shall be placed in the Tender box at Office of Chairman, Education Employees Co-Operative Thrift and Credit Society Limited (EDCS), Head Office, No.294, Galle Road, Colombo - 03 to reach on or before 14.00 hrs on 07th May 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 119 days from bid opening date.
9. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of Rs. 2,840,000.00. Bid security shall be valid up to 147 days from bid opening date.

10. A pre-bid meeting will be held on 23rd April 2021 at 11.00 hrs at the Office of Chairman, Education Employees Co-Operative Thrift and Credit Society Limited (EDCS), Head Office, No.294, Galle Road, Colombo - 03.

11. More Details 071-9624232, 071-9624233

Chairman,
Education Employees Co-Operative Thrift and Credit Society Limited (EDCS),
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INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)



STATE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, COAST CONSERVATION, WASTE
DISPOSAL AND COMMUNITY CLEANLINESS
SRI LANKA LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

**CONTRACT FOR PRECAST BOX CULVERTS AND WING
WALLS AT THUNADAHENA ROAD
CONSTRUCTION OF LINEAR PARK AT ATHURUGIRIYA -
STAGE 1**

The Chairman of Department Procurement Committee on behalf of Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation (SLLDC) invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the following contract.

Procurement No.	Item Description	Closing Date & Time	Bid Security	Non-refundable fee
S/157/21	Contract for Precast Box Culverts and Wing Walls at Thunadahena Road Construction of Linear Park at Athurugiriya - Stage 1	29 th April, 2021 13.30 hrs	Rs. 230,000.00	Rs. 4,500.00

- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language could be inspected and purchased upon submission of a written request to the Deputy General Manager (Supplies & Stores) during 9.00 Hrs. to 15.30 Hrs. from 05th April, 2021 up to 28th April, 2021 (working days) upon payment of non-refundable fee as mentioned above. The method of payment will be only by cash to the cashier at Accounts Division (3rd Floor, New Building).
- Procurement No. and the subject should be clearly mentioned on the top left hand corner of the envelope and should be sent under registered post or deposited to the specified Tender Box kept in Supplies Division (1st Floor, New Building).
- Bid shall be delivered to the address given below on or before 29th April, 2021 at 13:30 hrs. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing time, in the presence of Bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.
- Pre-Bid Meeting will be conducted on 19th April, 2021 at 10.00 a.m at SLLDC Board Room.
- Interested bidders may obtain further clarifications from Deputy General Manager (D&R) of SLLDC Tel: +94 11 2862058 Fax: +94 11 2862058

Chairman
Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation
No.03, Sri Jayawardenepura Mawatha, Welikada, Rajagiriya.
Head office Tel: 0112 889485-7 Web: www.landdevelopment.lk

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