

NAWFER MOULAVI, MASTERMIND BEHIND EASTER ATTACKS

INVOLVED IN BRAINWASHING SAHARAN HASHIM'S TEAM

BAKTHI DHARMAPRIYA MENDIS and PAHAN WIJESSEKERA

The government yesterday officially announced that Nawfer Moulavi who is in remand custody has been identified as the mastermind behind the Easter Sunday attacks that killed more than 270 innocent civilians on April 21, 2019.

According to Public Security Minister Dr. Sarath Weerasekera, Nawfer Moulavi who is in remand custody, has been involved in brainwashing Saharan Hashim's team into following the Islamic State ideology.

Addressing a press conference at the Information Department yesterday, Weerasekera said Nawfer Moulavi has started propagating ideologies of the Islamic State terrorists in 2014.

He said that Hajjul Akbar, who was arrested by the Terrorism Investigation Division (TID) on March 12, has also been identified as a ringleader of the coordinated bomb attacks. He was arrested in Dematagoda for promoting Wahabism and Jihadist ideology in the country.

The Minister said that the

government has nothing to hide over the investigations into the Easter Sunday attacks. Thirty two persons who are directly linked to the attacks have already been identified and the relevant evidence has been submitted for filing charges against them.

Seventy five persons have been detained while 211 persons have been remanded in connection with the attacks, he said.

Ministers Chamal Rajapaksa, Keheliya Rambukwella and Prasanna Ranatunga also spoke.



Minister Dr. Sarath Weerasekera

The Final Report of the Cabinet Sub Committee appointed to study in depth the facts and recommendations on the

course of action contained in the final report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Easter Sunday Terror Attacks and the report of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security which has been submitted to Parliament was handed over to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Monday.

The Chairman of the committee Minister Chamal Rajapaksa handed over the report to the President at the Presidential Secretariat. They had endorsed many recommendations of the Easter PCoI.



The 'Nekath Seettuwa', the table of Auspicious Times for this year's Sinhala and Tamil New Year was presented to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the President's House, yesterday following ancient customs and traditions. National Heritage, Performing Arts and Rural Arts Promotion State Minister Vidura Wickremanayake presented the 'Nekath Seettuwa', brought by the astrologer who came with a drummer in keeping with the ancient tradition, to the President.
Picture by President's Media Division.

Entry requirements for Sri Lankans lifted

Sri Lankans, dual citizens allowed in without prior Ministry approval

The Foreign Ministry has reviewed the entry procedures as a measure of relief for prospective Lankan returnees under the directive of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa yesterday.

Under the new procedure, Sri Lankans and dual citizens who travel on Sri Lan-

kan passports, spouses and unmarried children of Sri Lankans, who are foreigners and Sri Lankan seafarers arriving by air will be permitted to enter into Sri Lanka without prior approval of the Foreign Ministry and the Civil Aviation Authority. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

SLSI DG's utterances on food safety will be probed - Minister

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The government is conducting a full investigation into the statement made by Sri Lanka Standards Institute (SLSI) Director General Dr. Siddhika Senarathne on food items that allegedly contain aflatoxins.

Co-Cabinet Spokesman, Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella speaking at the Cabinet media briefing held yesterday at the Government **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Renovated Colombo Floating Market opens today

SHAVINI MADHARA and CHANDIMA KARUNARATNE

The Colombo Pettah Floating Market will be re-opened to the public today (7) at 6.00 pm after a complete renovation on the instructions of Prime Minister and Urban Development and Housing Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Issuing a media release, the Urban Development and Housing Ministry stated that the floating market had deteriorated with decaying planks, improper operation of the lighting system, unsafe conditions, unsanitary environment, foul smell and illegal and undisciplined activities. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Bandula wants debate on misuse of Mahapola Funds

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWAARACHCHI

Trade Minister Bandula Gunawardena requested Parliament yesterday to hold a two-day Parliamentary debate on the misuse of the Mahapola Higher

Education Scholarship Trust Fund during the good governance government.

The government expressed agreement. He said late Lalith Athulathmudali as Trade Minister had inaugurated the Mahapola Higher Education **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Purchase of additional six million doses of 'Sputnik V' vaccine

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Cabinet of Ministers approved a proposal made by Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi to purchase another six million doses of the 'Sputnik V' COVID-19 vaccine, Co-Cabinet Spokesman Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

AG instructs CID to name IP, SI and Constable as suspects in Army Suranga murder

DILSHAN THARAKA

Attorney General Dappula de Livera has instructed the CID Director to name Inspector Lasantha Ratnayake, Sub Inspector E.Nishatha Silva and Constable Premakumara as suspects in connection with the murder of Army Suranga.

Attorney General's Coordinating Officer State Counsel Nishara Jayaratne said the Attorney General **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Stop the import of unrefined coconut oil - Opposition Leader

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWAARACHCHI

The government should take strict measures to stop the import of unrefined coconut oil that contains carcinogens, Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa said in Parliament yesterday (6). "The people of this

country use coconut oil for food preparation. On average more than 75% of the annual coconut oil requirement of the country is met with imported coconut oil. Recently, there was a controversy over such imported coconut oil that contained carcinogens. Currently, the Conformity **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Rs.1,000 minimum wage for estate workers from April - Minister

Plantations Minister Dr. Ramesh Pathirana told Parliament yesterday that the decision to pay the Rs. 1,000 minimum wage for estate workers should be implemented from April.

Responding to a question raised in Parliament yesterday by MP Waruna Liyanage during the Question round anticipating oral answers, **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Easter Sunday attack victim sends Letter of Demand to Maithri, Ranil

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

A lawyer who sustained injuries following the Easter Sunday suicide bomb blast at Shangri-La hotel in Colombo has sent a Letter of demand urging former President Maithreepala Sirisena, **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Protect Sinharaja: UNP writes to UN Chief

SHIROMI ABEYASINGHE

United National Party Deputy Leader Ruwan Wijewardene has written to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres requesting him to ensure the protection of the Sinharaja Rainforest as the protection of the environment is not only covered by the laws of Sri Lanka but also guided **▶ TO PAGE 02**

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New Tourism Act, Sri Lanka Tourism Authority to be formed

Merger of three key institutes, SLTPB, SLTDA and SLCB

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The government has taken measures to merge three institutions running under the purview of the Tourism Ministry and establish a new authority named as the Sri Lanka Tourism Authority, Co-Cabinet

Spokesman Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said. Addressing the weekly Cabinet media briefing held yesterday he said Cabinet approved the proposal made by Tourism Minister to repeal the Tourism Act No 38 of 2005 and to draft

the Bill to impose a new Tourism Act. The Minister said this decision has been taken considering the issues and resource wastage that occurred due to the function of separate institutions with the intention of ensuring

the sustainable development of the tourism industry. Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau, Sri Lanka Convention Bureau and the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management

operated as state agencies running under the purview of Tourism Ministry and the new law would merge Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau and the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau.

Habarana rail line to begin by December 2022 - Minister

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

Construction of the railway line from Kurunegala to Habarana will begin from December 2022, Transport Minister Gamini Lokuge told Parliament yesterday (5). Preliminary work is underway to construct the 84 km railway line from Kurunegala to Habarana through Dambulla and the project is scheduled to commence from December 2022 after land is



acquired, Minister Lokuge said. Lokuge was responding to a question raised by MP Pramitha Bandara Tennakoon during the oral questions round. Minister Lokuge stated that Rs.78.85 billion has been allocated for this project already and the necessary financial allocations have been made for the lands to be acquired for the above project as well. He further stated that the government is ready to discuss any issues that may arise regarding this project.

New teacher recruits this year - Minister

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

National Diploma holders and new graduates will be recruited as teachers for 2021 to fill vacancies in National Schools, Education Minister Prof.G.L.Peiris said in Parliament yesterday (5). Peiris further stated that the said appointments will be made within the Divisional Secretariat. Minister Peiris said that a balance will be drawn between national schools and provincial council schools in the future and plans are on to



fill the gaps in these schools in a systematic manner based on the manner in which allocations are made and the time allotted. Prof.Peiris made these observations in reply to a question raised by MP K.Nel-

son, concerning the steps taken by the government to develop underprivileged schools in the Polonnaruwa District. Sanitary facilities have been provided to 11 schools in the Polonnaruwa District during the year 2020 as a special plan to provide sanitary and other basic facilities to schools, Minister Peiris also explained. The Minister further said that schools with shortage of drinking water and sanitary facilities in the Polonnaruwa District will be developed as soon as possible.

Ambassador Kohona meets senior officials, NGOs in Shanghai

Ambassador Dr.Palitha Kohona visited Shanghai from March 30 to April 1. He met a number of leading business persons, some of whom were from Zhejiang. Among the matters discussed were the possibility of investing in Sri Lanka's silica and graphite resources and local value addition, formally partnering with and promoting Sri Lanka at the next China International Import Expo (CIIE), partnering with Sri Lanka in sporting and cultural matters, taking a Wushu team to Sri Lanka on a demonstration tour and making a movie for Sri Lanka and Chinese audiences based on martial arts. Such a movie, for which there was considerable business enthusiasm, is expected to generate wide tourism interest as well. Shanghai being the leading volleyball playing city of China, Dr. Kohona also raised the possibility of collaborating in this sport and the response from the Chinese side was positive. Shanghai has a vibrant martial arts tradition and the main school has been functioning since the early 1900s. The Shanghai Chin Woo Athletic Federation, which birthed many early revolutionaries, commands much respect. The government funded China Martial Arts Academy is located in a traditional building in Shanghai. On April 1, Ambassador Dr. Kohona met with senior officials of the Chinese People



Ambassador Dr.Palitha Kohona with the officials.

Political Consultative Conference (CPCCC) of Shanghai, and the Shanghai Huaxia Culture and Economy Promotion Association (SHCEPA) who warmly welcomed the visit of Ambassador Dr. Kohona. Shanghai and Colombo had established a sister city relationship in 2003. There was appreciation

of President Rajapaksa personally traveling to the Colombo airport to receive the gift of 600,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccines. Dr.Kohona recalled that Sri Lanka had always been a crucial supporter of the Belt and Road Initiative and was now looking

for flagship investments for the Colombo Port City. Also said that it had participated in the CIIE continuously with a view to expanding its share of the Chinese market. He acknowledged that during the pandemic, China had always responded positively to Sri Lanka's requests.

Army to give artificial limbs to 64 former LTTE cadres

LAHIRU FERNANDO

The Sri Lanka Army will be obtaining measurements from 64 former LTTE cadres who lost their limbs during the humanitarian mission to provide them with artificial limbs.

This includes 58 males and six females.They are currently in the active service of Civil Security Department in the Northern areas. Measurements will be obtained at the Abhimansala War Heroes Welfare Center in Anuradhapura on April 5 and 6.

The project is implemented by the Army with the sponsorship of the Civil Security Department and on the instructions of the Commander of the Army.

The required artificial limbs will be produced at the workshop for Protheses and Orthotics situated at the Ranaviru Sevana in Ragama. In addition, as per a concept of the Army Commander the workshop in Ragama and the Sub workshop in Anuradhapura have also planned to provide free artificial limbs for civilians who became physically handicapped due to the civil war.Sri Lanka Army requests those who are in need to contact the Ranaviru Sevana at Ragama on telephone 0112958077 or the Abhimansala at Anuradhapura on 0252225151.

Purchase of additional six million... From page 01

Speaking at the weekly Cabinet media briefing held yesterday, Minister Rambukwella said Cabinet previously approved the purchase of seven million doses of the Russian 'Sputnik V' vaccine at 9.95 US dollars per dose and a total cost of 69.65 million US dollars. This was upon the recommendation of the Cabinet Appointed Negotiation Committee. At this week's Cabinet meeting, Ministers approved to purchase additional six million doses of vaccine at the same price.

Renovated Colombo Floating Market... From page 01

Under these circumstances, it was decided to redevelop the floating market under a new project concept of the President and the Prime Minister, and this was done under two basic conditions. More than 80 percent of the shops in the Fort Floating Market have remained closed for the past four and a half years due to improper maintenance. The Floating Market was opened in August 2014 as a concept initiated by the then Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Rs.1,000 minimum... From page 01

Minister Pathirana said despite several parties resorting to legal action against the decision to increase the estate workers wage and based on the court verdict issued on Monday, there is no obstacle in paying the Rs.1,000 wage to estate workers. "The court very moderately gave us the guidelines for legal provisions in order to implement the wage increase. Hence, for the first time we are certain that the Rs.1,000 wage for estate workers would definitely be paid to them." He noted that the court verdict issued on Monday is a huge victory in terms of the estate workers wage issue. He said that all estate companies are legally obliged to pay the Rs.1,000 wage to estate workers and said that the government will ensure that they abide by their obligation.

Easter Sunday attack victim sends... From page 01

former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and ten other officials to jointly pay Rs.500 million as damages. Moditha Bandara, a lawyer by profession sent this letter of demand through his attorney Sujewa Gunathilaka. The letter of demand has been sent to former President Mithreepala Sirisena, former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, former Defence Ministry Secretary Hemasiri Fernando, former IGP Pujith Jayasundara, former Chief of State Intelligence Service Nilantha Jayawardhane, former Director of Special Security Priyalal Dasanayake, former State Minister of Defence Ruwan Wijewardhane, former Chief of Defense Staff Admiral Ravindra Wijegunaratne, former Army Commander Lt. General Mahesh Senanayake, former Navy Commander Vice Admiral Priyal De Silva and former Air Force Commander Air Vice Marshal Mahesh Kapila Jayampathy urging them to pay the damages within 14 days. It has warned that legal action will be instituted if the money is not paid during this time period. The victim stated that the authorities have received information that Zahran Hasheem of NTJ and his associates are planning to launch a suicide terror attack in Sri Lanka and they are targeting some important churches and Indian High Commission. It is further stated that the terrorists may adopt any of the following mode of attack; Suicide attack, Weapon attack, Knife attack and Truck attack. "It is clear that all the officials responsible for the security had been alerted and had in fact been informed regarding imminent bomb attacks and you all did not take

any step to prevent such attacks and not even warned the public and the relevant authorities including Catholic religious leaders and leading hotels," the letter of demand stated. The victim said former President and eleven others have failed to perform their official duties entrusted to prevent the terrorist attacks took place on May 21, 2019 which cause damages to him. The victim stated that on April 21, he had gone to Shagri-La Hotel to collect a pen drive he had left at the Hotel Business Centre after a meeting he had with two of his clients at the hotel. The victim further stated that at around 8:10 am on April 21, 2019 he had collected the pen drive and headed towards the Table One of restaurant at Level 3 of the Hotel to have his breakfast. He had then finished his breakfast and while waiting for the waiter to return with the balance money. The first bomb had exploded at approximately 8.10 am. The victim said that he was not injured from the first bomb blast. He stated that he had then run towards the exit point of the restaurant and just as he reached the exit, the second bomb had exploded and the petitioner had been thrown about 15 feet away. He further stated that a hotel taxi driver had then taken the petitioner to the accident ward at the Colombo National Hospital. He further added that he was out of his legal practice for seven months. The victim further stated that he sustained flame burn injuries to his head, face, both right and left arms and right thigh. He stated that his eyes were subject to scarring resulting in Corneal Ulceration.

Bandula wants debate on misuse... From page 01

Scholarship Trust Fund in good faith and misusing it is a grave issue. Meanwhile, the second report of the Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE) on the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT) which was established by the Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund was presented to Parliament yesterday. COPE Chairman Prof. Charitha Herath presented the

report to Parliament.Minister Bandula Gunawardena, while pointing to the misappropriation of Mahapola Scholarship funds noted that measures should be taken to ensure that there is no recurrence of such a situation. Guidelines on measures that need to be taken regarding SLIIT in the future was also included in the report that was submitted to parliament.

AG instructs CID to... From page 01

had instructed the CID that sufficient evidence was found for the Embilipitiya Magistrate's Court to conduct a preliminary inquiry into the suspects on charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder under Section 296 of the Penal Code. Accordingly, the Attorney General had further instructed the CID to name them as suspects and produce them before the relevant Magistrate's Court after obtaining statements from them in accordance with the provisions of the Criminal Procedure code.

Entry requirements... From page 01

The responsibility of maintaining a manageable number of passenger arrivals has however been entrusted with the Civil Aviation Authority, who will, through the respective airlines, regulate the numbers in a manner that would cope with the local capacities of quarantining and other logistics required. All arriving passengers will be required to strictly adhere to health protocols and guidelines that are effective at the time of arrival.

Stop the import... From page 01

Assessment conducted by the Sri Lanka Standards Institute has revealed that 13 containers of coconut oil contain the carcinogen Aflatoxin," Premadasa observed. The Opposition Leader made these observations raising a question under the Standing Order 27/7 in Parliament yesterday (6). "Although the government has stated that the unrefined coconut oil found to contain carcinogenic substances has not been released to the market, there are reports that there are products currently in the market that contain carcinogens. Also, coconut oil bowlers suspected to contain carcinogens have been found in the Dankotuwa area and are currently being tested," Premadasa furthered. The Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa added, "Until this revelation was made by the health sector, the relevant departments have not made any disclosure regarding the quality of coconut oil and other food items imported into the country. In this situation, the health of the people who should be protected by the government is in grave danger and it is clear that the helpless people are in danger due to the needs of a few racketeering traders. Thus, the government should pay close attention to take steps to curb importation and the sale of unrefined coconut oil that contains aflatoxin."

SLSI DG's utterances on food safety... From page 01

Information Department stated that the import of coconut oil in this manner could have been going on for a long time and the government has decided to look into the matter with greater urgency. Commenting on the gazette notification issued to stop the importation of palm oil, the Minister said that the gazette notification could be changed

in the future as the price of coconut oil in the local market could go up due to this gazette notification. He said the government will discuss with Sri Lanka Standards Institution officials with regard to the statement made by the Director General and an inquiry will be held in the future regarding the full statement made by the Director General.

Protect Sinharaja: UNP writes... From page 01

by the principles of international agreements and undertakings. Wijewardene in his letter said that plans to build two reservoirs within the Sinharaja rainforest is a breach amounting to a criminal offence and a contravention of the international undertaking. "Plans are afoot to build two reservoirs within the Sinharaja Rainforest area, which is a protected area under both the local laws and the international obligations", the letter said. Excerpts from the letter:"Considering the urgent need to protect the natural environment of Sri Lanka, while acknowledging the importance of forest cover and the contribution made to the natural resources, the Sinharaja Forest was declared in 1978 as a Rainforest Reserve Area, by the late President J.R. Jayawardene." "In 1988 the National Heritage Wilderness Areas Act was introduced, and the Sinharaja Rainforest, which was the original tropical rainforest, was brought under the said Act. Following the introduction of the Act an area of 7,848.2 hectares with a further proposed area of 2,772 hectares was declared protected. By 1992 the protected areas including the adjoining forest area was increased to 11,178 hectares." "According to Section 4 (1) (a) of the National Heritage Wilderness Areas Act "no person shall, in a National Heritage Wilderness Area, cut, mark, lop, girdle, saw, convert, collect, or remove any plant, tree or any part thereof or other forest produce". It further provided that

if anyone was found to be acting in contradiction to the above would face criminal proceedings". "The binding articles of the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, to which Sri Lanka is a signatory, states "each State party to this convention undertakes not to take any deliberate measure which might damage directly or indirectly cultural and natural heritage." Accordingly, we see that the protection of the environment is not only covered by the laws of Sri Lanka but also guided by the principles of international agreements and undertakings. Sri Lanka has in furtherance of the UN Goals to protect the environment, reduce carbon emissions and preserve the natural resources entered into international agreements under the Stockholm Agreement, the Rio +20 Conference, the Kyoto Protocols, the Paris Climate Agreement, the Rio Forest Principles and the UN Forum on Forests. All these bodies are setup under the United Nations, in order to protect the planet and its inhabitants.Plans are afoot to build two reservoirs within the Sinharaja Rainforest area, which is a protected area under both the local laws and the international obligations. A breach will amount to a criminal offense and a contravention of the international undertaking. "We request you to use to your good offices to ensure that you and your agencies will not permit such a breach," it said.

Husma Dena Thuru provided 107,000 plants in last four months- Minister Amaraweera

Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera on Monday said that 107,000 saplings have been planted throughout the country during the last four months under the *Husma Dena Thuru* (Trees that give life) Tree Planting programme.



Thuru National Tree Planting Programme," he said.

Minister Amaraweera said that the *Husma Dena Thuru* National Tree Planting Programme, which he launched as the Environment Minister, has become very popular and many parties have appreciated it and have started following it.

Minister Mahinda Amaraweera was participating in a tree planting programme in Angunakolapelessa on Monday.

The Minister said that 20 environmental programmes were implemented by him. "Those programmes were called Haritha Hetak (Green Tomorrow). Its main programme is the *Husma Dena*

months, 10,7000 saplings were planted. Public money has not been spent on the project.

The private sector provided the money. But later they all supported. Therefore, the programme will be continued in the next four years without spending any government money, the Minister said.

"Many are now following *Husma Dena Thuru* and have started their own programmes under the name," the Minister said.

"Mother Earth gives us trees by fertilising the garbage we throw. A human being needs 550 liters of oxygen for a day. One person needs to plant at least 10 trees to get oxygen he/she needs. Some people who live on the oxygen produced by 10 trees a day do not plant at least a single tree in their lifetime," the Minister said.

"People worshipped trees in

the ancient time because they knew trees provided them with oxygen. Therefore they called trees deities. Without trees, the human race is doomed," the Minister said.

"Seattle, the leader of the Red Indians, had said that people will realise that money cannot be eaten after cutting down the last tree, eating the last fish and drinking the last drop of water.

If anyone cut trees, he/she is like a murderer. Therefore, we will double the penalties for destroying the environment under the new National Environmental Act. And the fine will be 10 times higher than it is now.

Those who protect the environment will be awarded. An awards ceremony will be held to give them the national recognition," the Minister said.



Eighteen passengers were hospitalised after a bus plying on the Dambulla-Galkiriyagama Road skidded off the road and fell into a canal in Theladinnawewa yesterday morning. Police said that a technical fault has caused the accident. Picture by Sigiriya Group Corr.

State universities to reopen after New Year

SITHARA SENANI

State universities, which were closed in the COVID-19 pandemic will be reopened after the Sinhala and Hindu New Year, University Grants

Commission Chairman Professor Sampath Amaratunga said. He said that all State universities will be opened in compliance with the health guidelines by the Health Ministry.

Minister Gammanpila addresses Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue

Energy Minister Udaya Gammanpila virtually participated in the 7th Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue on March 17 on an invitation by Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas and Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy of Germany Peter Altmaier, and facilitated by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Germany.



Minister Udaya Gammanpila participating in the virtual summit.

Minister Gammanpila participated as a panellist at the Session 'Flattening the climate curve-lessons from the pandemic', which discussed the application of the lessons learnt by the world from COVID-19 pandemic in addressing the global emergency-climate change'.

The Energy Minister briefed Sri Lanka's efforts in transforming into de-carbonized energy and the initiatives

introduced in the local context to encourage the use of renewable energy sources, even at a time the economy has been hard hit by the pandemic.

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales Sophie

Howe, Climate Activist - Fridays for Future of Uganda Hilda Flavia Nakabuye, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia Nino Tandilashvili, and Ambassador and Deputy Minister for Climate Change of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of South Korea Yeonchul Yoo participated in the panel discussion.

The Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue is a leading international forum for key stakeholders from the energy sector to share their experiences and ideas on a safe, affordable and environmentally responsible transition to clean energy.

The event was virtually held on March 16 and 17 with the participation of high-level delegates from over 50 countries.

Mrs. Sri Lanka for Mrs. World Pageant Police record statements over incident

Cinnamon Gardens Police Yesterday recorded a statement from those involved in the incident that took place at the Mrs. Sri Lanka for Mrs. World Pageant held on Sunday.

Those involved in the incident arrived at the police station with their lawyers.

The Mrs Sri Lanka Pageant 2021 held at

the Nelum Pokuna Theatre on Sunday night ended in a scrimmage with reigning of Mrs World Caroline Jurie stripping the crown off the winner. Pushpika De Silva contestant number 20 was announced as Mrs Sri Lanka in the presence of former First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa, Colombo Mayor Rosy Senanayake and Chandimal De Silva.

Special bus, train services during festive season

IRANGIKA RANGE

Special bus services and trains services will function to provide transport for the people who are visiting hometowns during the Sinhala and Tamil New Year The Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB) will allocate 1,102 additional busses from April 9 to April 16 in this regard.

Twelve additional bus journeys will be operated to Badulla, 10 to Matara, eight to Galle, six to Jaffna and one to Anuradhapura.

The SLTB employees have been requested to provide uninterrupted service to the commut-

ers. Private buses have also increased their turns up to 1,800 to all areas around Colombo and Homagama.

The Railway Department will implement an additional 21 train journeys from April 9.

Transport State Minister Dilum Amunugama said that raids will be conducted to nab errant bus operators who overcharge passengers during the season.

He said it is necessary to adhere to health guidelines when using the public transport.

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'DISCUSSION WITH THE VILLAGE' BRINGS RESULTS IN THREE MONTHS

PRESIDENT OPENS KANUGAHAWEWA MODEL VILLAGE

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Sunday vested in the people the Kanugahawewa Model Village constructed by the Air Force at the request of the President after listening to the grievances of the villagers during the fourth 'Discussion with the Village' programme which was held in Kebithigollewa.

Kanugahawewa village in the Kebithigollewa Divisional Secretariat was selected for the 'Discussion with the Village' programme which was held on December 30. LTTE terrorists frequently attacked Kebithigollewa. On June 15, 2006, the LTTE exploded a massive claymore mine targeting a civilian bus enroute to Kebithigollewa killing more than 68 civilians who lived in Kanugahawewa and the surrounding villages.

From 1995 to 1998 and from 2006 to 2008, the residents of these villages were forced to live in camps due to LTTE terror. Despite the end of that menace, villagers continued to experience many serious economic and social problems. The President instructed the relevant officials on that day to provide solutions for their land issues, repair work in connection with tanks and canals, development of major roads and by-roads and to improve health, education and transport issues as soon as possible.

Air Force Commander Air Marshal Sudharshana Pathirana took over the task of meeting the housing needs and other requirements in Kanugahawewa Village to mark the 70th anni-



versary of the Sri Lanka Air Force. The President entrusted the responsibility of identifying the needs of the area and the task of submitting the plans in this regard to the Chief Incumbent of the village temple, the Divisional Secretary and the Chairman of the Pradeshiya Sabha and the Grama Niladhari.

On arrival at Kanugahawewa on Sunday, President Rajapaksa first visited the Abhinawarama Temple and engaged in religious observances. Later the President called on the Chief Incumbent of the temple and inquired into the well-being of the Nayake Thera.

The President inspected the construction site of the proposed temple, the newly constructed Bodhigaraya and the Awasageya as well as the completed bell tower.

President Rajapaksa who visited the Kanugahawewa Primary School premises handed

over the keys of 12 newly built houses and the teachers' quarters to the owners of the respective houses and the Principal.

The SLAF Seva Vanitha Unit donated school uniforms and equipment to the children.

The President also inspected the playground at Kanugahawewa Primary School, the Model Home Gardening Project, the teachers' quarters and the Mobile Eye Hospital.

Families who had been in possession of government lands without clear ownership started receiving grants recently. The President symbolically handed over deeds to five persons in Kanugahawewa village.

The President then visited the Kanugahawewa Model Village and inspected a newly constructed house and also the newly erected 15km long elephant fence at the Kanugahawewa Model Village.

President Rajapaksa who visited a nearby house engaged in a cordial discussion with the residents and inquired into their well-being.

Minister S.M. Chandrasena, State Ministers Duminda Dissanayake, Shehan Semasinghe and Channa Jayasumana, Members of Parliament K.H. Nandasena and K.P.S. Kumarasiri, North Central Province Governor Maheepala Herath and a number of Air Force officials were also present on the occasion.



Water for Dry Zone

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Sri Lanka together with the Government of Sri Lanka, financed by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), is implementing the 'Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project' (CRIWMP), in the rain-scarce Dry Zone; which covers Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Puttalam, Kurunegala, and Vavuniya.

The project will improve access to potable water by enhancing community-managed drinking water infrastructure. The project handed over Rural Water Supply Schemes and Advanced Filtration Systems to the communities in the Puttalam, Anuradhapura and Vavuniya Districts recently.

Irrigation Ministry CRIWMP Project Director Engineer Chandana Edirisooriya said that nature alone cannot guarantee water security for people in every situation. "Built and natural infrastructure both are needed for efficient and effective management of water resources. The project has taken action to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and



The Thalakolawewa Rural Water Supply Project.

adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits," he said.

The Rambepitiya Rural Water Supply Scheme was handed over to the public on March 24, assuring year round access to clean drinking water to over 400 households in the Dry Zone with the presence of Rural and Divisional Drinking Water Supply Projects Development State Minister Sanath Nishantha. The Thalakolawewa Rural Water Supply Scheme related to rural paddy

fields was also handed over to the public on March 30 by Tanks, Reservoirs and Irrigation Development State Minister Anuradha Jayaratne assuring year-round access to water to over 1,512 beneficiaries.

Rural communities are forced to bear the severe impacts of water issues in the country. Ensuring an uninterrupted supply of drinking water during drought; reduced quality of water from public point sources - which scientific speculations have linked to the cause of

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKDu) prevalent in some areas in the Dry Zone; limitations in the country's water production capacity and stress on its water resources; partial treatment and water quality deterioration are some of the crucial issues that affect Sri Lanka.

UNDP Sri Lanka CRIWMP Project Manager Asoka Ajantha said that climate change is worsening the degradation of our natural resources, especially essential resources such as water and work towards saving every drop of clean water and making clean water accessible to all is a must. "This timely intervention is life changing for many in the Dry Zone and the UNDP looks towards working together with the Government and stakeholders to intensifying efforts to truly valuing water so all may have equitable access to this most precious resource," he said.

These Rural Water Supply Schemes and Advanced Filtration Systems will benefit 19 schools, six public hospitals and around 500 households, ensuring clean water and sanitation to a host of communities while improving their quality of life.

WEBSITE LAUNCHED



Kalubowila Acupuncture Clinic Director Dr. Prasad Deshapriya, who is also renowned as a fashion icon, actor and film enthusiast, hosted a ceremony at the Galadari Hotel on April 4. Here Shiranthi Rajapaksa launching the www.acupuncturerilanka.lk website at the event. Dr. Ariyawathi Gamage and Premasiri Hewawasam look on. - Picture by Sulochana Gamage

Islamabad High Court refers case of Pakistanis convicted in SL to Interior Ministry

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has referred to the interior ministry the case of 41 Pakistani prisoners who were convicted of drug trafficking in Sri Lanka but were brought back under an agreement signed with Colombo to serve jail terms in their home country.

The inmates were brought back by a chartered flight of Pakistan International Airlines in November last year.

This was the first case of repatriation over the past seven years under the bilateral Prisoner Transfer Agreement (PTA) signed by Pakistan and Sri Lanka in 2004. According to the agreement, transfers are allowed in cases where sentences exceed six months.

In their petitions filed with the IHC, the prisoners sought their release claiming that sentences for drug offences in Sri Lankan laws were not compatible with Pakistani

laws. Another reason for the petition seeking their release is that some of them have served out their sentences.

Justice Aamer Farooq directed the Interior Ministry to make arrangements for examining whether the sentences awarded by Sri Lankan Courts were compatible with Pakistani laws.

The petitioners are incarcerated in the Adiala Central Jail, Rawalpindi.

The counsel for the petitioners informed Court that the sentences awarded by the Sri Lanka Courts for offences of drugs trafficking were not compatible with the sentences for the same crime under Pakistan's laws. It was argued that where the sentence of a person was incompatible, the Court of Competent Jurisdiction could make it compatible and pass an appropriate order. In this case, the petition referred to the sentence for

the offence of drugs trafficking in Pakistan as contained in Section 9 of the Control Narcotic Substances Act, 1997.

Court was informed that in almost all cases, the quantity of the drugs recovered from the petitioners did not entail life imprisonment or Capital Punishment as was present under the laws of Pakistan and the sentence was less than the one awarded by Sri Lankan Courts and that the sentence provided in the laws of Pakistan had been served out by the petitioners and, therefore, they were entitled to be released immediately.

The counsel cited provisions of relevant laws as well the treaty between Pakistan's and Sri Lanka's Governments with respect to the transfer of the offenders.

Deputy Attorney General Raja Khalid Mehmood Khan representing

the Federal Government said that the petitions were not maintainable since the petitioners could seek relief from the relevant authority for their release.

He argued that the Court of Competent Jurisdiction in this case was the Special Court for the Control of Narcotics Substances (CNS), which could decide about the compatibility of the sentences.

The Deputy Attorney General further argued that the petitioners had been convicted and awarded punishment for heinous offence of smuggling of narcotic substances and they could not claim their release from the prison as their right.

He said that the petitioners had no fundamental rights or any right for that matter since they were convicts and they were serving their sentences.

In rebuttal, the counsel for the

petitioners submitted that even a convict serving the sentence had some fundamental rights, especially the right to be dealt with in accordance with Article 9 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973. He further said that if the compatibility of the sentences awarded by the Courts in Sri Lanka with the sentences provided under the laws of the Pakistan was worked out, the petitioners had already served the sentences and, therefore, they were entitled to be released forthwith.

Justice Farooq observed that since the IHC could not determine the compatibility of the sentences, "the competent authority namely the Interior Ministry, Government of Pakistan, ought to have determined the question of incompatibility of the sentences between the laws of Pakistan and Sri Lanka and made

reference to the Court of Competent Jurisdiction for ascertainment of the same, but they failed to do so in violation of the statutory obligation, as provided in the section 9 of the Ordinance".

Subsequently, the Court directed the Registrar's Office to forward the petitions to the Interior Ministry "who shall treat the same as representations on part of the petitioners and work out the incompatibility/compatibility and approach the Court of Competent Jurisdiction for determination of the same; while doing so, the Competent Authority shall place on record before the Court of Competent Jurisdiction".

"After obtaining the orders for compatibility, the Competent Authority shall pass orders for the release of the petitioners where so required or determined," the Court Order concluded.



Ministry of Justice has taken the lead in strengthening "Justice" for a 'Righteous, Disciplined, Law Abiding Society' as per the National Policy Framework

"Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour"

Of His Excellency the President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Accordingly to unveil the future plan of the Ministry of Justice

'International Development Partners Dialogue'

Was held On 1st April 2021 At Colombo Hilton Hotel

On the invitation of Hon. Minister of Justice

Ali Sabry, President's Counsel

Under the patronage of Hon. Minister of Education

Professor G.L. Peiris

With the participation of Hon. State Minister of Prisons Management and Prisoners Rehabilitation

Lohan Ratwatte

Distinguished Guests including Government Officials, Foreign Diplomats, Heads & Representatives of International Development Agencies



'National Diploma holders, graduates will be recruited as schoolteachers'

National Diploma holders and new graduates will be recruited as teachers for 2021 to fill the vacancies at National Schools, Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris said in Parliament yesterday.

The Minister said that the appointments will be made Divisional Secretari-

at level. He said that a balance will be drawn between the National Schools and the Provincial Council Schools in the future and plans are afoot to fill the gaps in these schools systematically and allocations are made and the time allotted.

Professor Peiris was responding to MP K. Nelson, who inquired about the steps taken by the Government to develop underprivileged schools in the Polonnaruwa District.

Sanitary facilities have been provided to 11 schools in the Polonnaru-

wa District last year as a special plan to provide sanitary and other basic facilities to schools, Minister Peiris said.

The Minister said that schools that lack drinking water and sanitary facilities in the Polonnaruwa District will be developed soon.



SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL AND AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

'Thriposha production will be increased to 31,000 MT this year'

The Government's plan is to increase the Thriposha production to 31,000 metric tonnes this

year to provide additional nutrition to children, pregnant mothers and lactating mothers to get

them rid of malnutrition, Women and Child Development, Pre-schools and Primary Education, School infrastructure and Education Services State Minister Piyal Nishantha said.

He said that the Government under the 'istas of Prosperity and Splendour' policy, has allocated Rs 1,500 million in this regard.

He said that the production capacity of Thriposha was 21,000 MT during the previous Good Governance Government.

He said that a programme is initiated to provide nutritious biscuits to the children in the primary sections to eliminate

them rid of malnutrition. He added that the biscuits will be manufactured at the same institutions where Thriposha is produced.

He was responding to Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) Parliamentarian Buddhika Pathirana during the Round of Questions for Oral Answers.

MP Pathirana said that there should be an attitude change in society that the Thriposha is only for the recipient.

He said that generally, the recipient gets only a little percentage as the same is consumed by the others in the family as well.



BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

IN EVER LOVING MEMORY OF LUCKY DE FONSEKA ON HIS 60th BIRTHDAY (TODAY) FONDLY REMEMBERED BY HIS FAMILY

'Water will be provided to Huruluwewa, Kanadarawewa through 28-km long tunnel'

The Government will take steps to construct a 28 km long tunnel to provide water to Huruluwewa and Kanadarawewa from the Moragahakanda-Kalu Ganga Development Project, Irrigation Minister Chamal Rajapaksa yesterday said.

He said that the construction of the tunnel was inaugurated on February 5 and it is

for the first time that such a long tunnel is constructed after independence was achieved.

He said after commissioning the project in 2024, 3,000 tanks in the Anuradhapura District will be provided with water and the water and irriga-



tion water problems in the district will be resolved thereafter.

He was responding to Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) Parliamentarian Ishak Rahuman.

Minister Rajapaksa said that ear-

lier, too, there was a project to provide water to Huruluwewa through a canal.

However, as water was taken excessively through 3,500 water pumps in Palugaswewa, the project failed.

He said that the decision was made to irrigate via the tunnel this time.

He said that the Palugaswewa people could use the same water once the project was

developed in four years. He said that what the Government expected from the Opposition is their corporation in implementing these projects.

He said that he will provide water to the tanks that opposition member Rahuman asks for.

He said that none of the tanks are excluded in the project.

Heartfelt Condolence



Mr. Velayuthan Sivagnanasothy

**B.A(Econ) Hons, MSc(Bradford), U.K
FCMA (London), FCA (Sri Lanka), Chartered Accountant**

Former Secretary, then Ministry of National Policies, Economic Affairs, Resettlement and Rehabilitation, Northern Province Development and Youth Affairs.

Recently served as Secretary, Presidential Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights and Member of the Public Service Commission.

Mr. V. Sivagnanasothy has demised on 5th April 2021. Son of Late Attorney-at-Law Mr. K. Velayuthan and Mrs. Ponnamah and Son-in-Law of Late Mr Sivasubramaniam and Mrs. Kumudini. Beloved husband of Kuramagal. Dearest Brother of Thevasenathipathy (Senior Attorney-at-Law) and Sundareswaran (former Deputy General Manager, National Lotteries Board).

Remains lie at Jayaratne Funeral Parlor, Borella on 7th April 2021 from 9.00 a.m to 7.00 p.m. and Funeral will be held on 8th April 2021 at Respect Hall of Jayaratna Funeral Parlor, Borella from 9.00 a.m. onwards and cremation will be held at 4.00 p.m.

Mr. V. Sivagnanasothy served as Secretary to several Ministries namely Ministry of National Policies, Economic Affairs, Resettlement and Rehabilitation, Northern Province Development and Youth Affairs; Ministry of Tourism Development, Ministry of Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs, Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation, Ministry of Plantation Infrastructure Development and Ministry of Traditional Industries and Small Enterprise Development. He also served as the Secretary to the Presidential Task Force on Northern and Eastern Provinces Development.

Recently, he served as the Secretary to the Presidential Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights and Member of the Public Service Commission.

He was an old boy of Colombo Royal College, Jaffna St. John's College and Jaffna Hindu College.

Information :

- Kuramagal (Wife) 0779007623**
- Thevasenathipathy (Brother) 0771133400**
- Sundareswaran (Brother) 0773850841**

'Economy in chaos during Good Governance Government'

The economy in the labyrinth of chaos under the former Good Governance Government was further affected later by the Easter Sunday attacks and the COVID 19 pandemic, which made the Government to monitor the imports, Trade Minister Bandula Guna-

wardena said in Parliament yesterday.

He was participating in the debate seeking the parliamentary approval for three regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, two Orders under the Strategic Development Projects Act and a resolution for the Revision of Salary and Allowances of the Director-General of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption.

According to these regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, the import of sugar, batik and handloom and fishing boats and other vessels will be monitored while easing the ban on imports on goods that are not manufactured here. The Minister said that these proposals were made on the recommendations by a Committee appointed on mitigating the effect of the COVID 19 pandemic on the Foreign Currency rate. The two orders under

the Strategic Development Projects Act are related to commercial function dates of the Shangri-la Hotels Lanka (Private) Limited and Sinolanka Hotels & Spa (Private) Limited due to the Easter Sunday attacks and other reasons.

"The COVID 19 pandemic has affected the economy of all the countries and it is felt by our country as well. The imports and the exports have been affected and finding containers for our exports has become a challenge.

Charges for containers have increased by three-fold. The effect of the COVID 19 pandemic on the world economy is worse than that of the Second World War.

"But after the Second World War, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank established two institutions to protect the global economy," Minister Guna-

wardena said. "But today as there is a trade war between the USA and China, it has been impossible to make such a discussion today. Today we have had to talk of such issues rather than taking simple matters here in Parliament," he said.



Obituaries

KUSUMA SIRIWARDENA (Retired Matron) - Daughter of late Charles Edward Siriwardena and late Alice Arambewela Siriwardena, sister of late Nanda, late Loise, late Berryll, late Padma, Yasa and Ananda, aunt of Parinda, Harsha, Sudarshan, Kumudika (UK), Sandya (USA), Dilki (Australia), Anushika (UAE), Manik, Anura and Senani, grand-aunt of Dhanya, Alex and Sebastian (UK), Rosy and Rochelle (USA), Ashani and Ashan (Australia), passed away. Her remains will lie at **Jayaratne Funeral Parlour (1st Floor), Borella** from 3.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. on 6 April and 8.30 a.m. onwards on 7 April. Cortege leaves Jayaratne Funeral Parlour, Borella for Cremation at 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday 7 April at New Crematorium, General Cemetery, Borella. 026630

RATNAPALA, DR. SANATH RANJIT - Beloved husband of Ranjini, father of Devaka, father-in-law of Chathuri, grandfather of Sadeesha, passed away peacefully. The Cremation will be held at 5.00 p.m. on Thursday the 8th of April at Borella Kanatte. **231, Kirula Road, Colombo 05.** 026865

We deeply regret to announce the death of **GEORGE CHELVANAYAGAM SELVARAJAH** - (retired Central Bank Officer), beloved husband of Sarojini (retired Central Bank Officer), precious father of Krishanthi and Hiran George, father-in-law of Gladstone Worthington, adored grandfather of Helena and Luc, loving son of late Alfred Vaithilingam Chelvanayagam and late Sophia Manoumani, brother of Pushpam, late Yogarajah, late Vijayarajah, late Vimala, Chandra, late Suguna, Shanthi and Lalitha, brother-in-law of late Hector Hitchcock, late Mabel, Pathmarani, late Selvanathan, Dasarath Samarasinghe (retired Agriculture Dept.), late Rosairo, late Sriskandarajah and Brem Kanagaratnam, late Deva Sanmuganathan, Mercy, Rathy and late Roy Selvadurai, Dorothy and Owsin Peiris. Funeral takes place on 10th April 2021 at 12 noon at the Church of the Good Shepherd Hounslow and Burial Cemetery, Hounslow. **44, Ivanhoe Road, Hounslow, TW4 7JJ, UK.** 026617

'Tuition classes to resume after April 12'

Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi yesterday said in Parliament that permission will be granted to conduct tuition classes after April 12.

The maximum number of students in a class should be limited to 100 and every class should keep one meter between

seats. The Minister was responding to Parliamentarian B.Y.G. Rathnasekara. She said that private tuition classes will be allowed to resume operations two weeks after the commencement of schools as per the guidelines issued by the Director-General of Health Services.

Pushpika re-crowned Mrs Sri Lanka for Mrs World

Organisers of the Mrs Sri Lanka Pageant 2021 have re-crowned Pushpika De Silva as Mrs Sri Lanka for Mrs World. According to National Director for the Mrs Sri Lanka for Mrs World Pageant, the world body has informed that the contestant can be disqualified only if she was divorced before the finale of the local pageant.

Pushpika De Silva at a press conference in Colombo yesterday said that she always forgives those who hurt her in accordance with her religious belief.

"Jesus has taught us to love and not hate. We have nothing to gain by being jealous," she said. She said she will use the crown to promote single mothers in Sri Lanka.

Tiles can be imported when foreign exchange status improves

- State Minister Cabraal

The Government will lift the ban on tile imports when the country's foreign exchange status improves, Money and Capital Market State Minister Ajith Nivad Cabral said.

He was responding to Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa in Parliament yesterday when the latter said that the country

was facing a crisis due to the ban on importing tiles.

"I would like to tell the Opposition Leader that when the COVID pandemic struck, there was a huge problem with foreign exchange. They are responsible for that, but it was our Government that had to shoulder that

burden," the State Minister said.

He said that the Government would take measures to meet the demand for tiles by the end of the next year.

The State Minister said that because of the decision made by the Govern-



ment to suspend the import of goods that could be locally produced, the local tile manufacturing industry is developing. "This has attracted investors. The Government's aim is to produce at least 50 per cent of the tile require-

ment locally and by the end of 2022, the Government will meet the entire tile requirement locally.

He said, however, that in the event there is a need to import tiles, the Government has established a mechanism to facilitate the import of tiles under strict standards.



Local textile industry affected by foreign garment influx - State Minister Dayasiri

Batik, Handloom Textiles and Local Apparel Productions State Minister Dayasiri Jayasekara said in Parliament yesterday that local textile manufacturers are badly affected because of the foreign garments influx in the market.

The Minister said was participating in the debate on eight issues including the regulations under the Import and Export Act, the provisions under the Strategic Development

Projects Act and the proposal to revise the salary and allowances of the Director General of the Commission to Investigate Bribery or Corruption.

He said that a number of factors had contributed to the decline in the production of local handloom textiles and the local handicraft industry collapsed in the importation of large quantities of textiles such as saris, pillows and bedding.

The State Minister said that the local handicraft indus-



try could not be developed because of this issue and the Government is taking steps to revive the batik industry.

The Government plans to provide an incentive of Rs. 5,000 to those in the local handicraft industry. He said that Dhamma school teachers need 76,000 uniforms a year and arrangements have been made to produce the saris locally and provide them to teachers from this year. He added that from this year, local manufacturers have been provided with the opportunity to supply the fabrics for school and security.

Banning palm oil is inadequate - MP Buddhika

Banning Palm oil imports is not enough but the products made using palm oil also should be banned, Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) Parliamentarian Buddhika Pathirana said in Parliament yesterday.

He was participating in the debate that sought the approval of Parliament for three Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, two Orders under the Strategic Development Projects Act and a resolution for the Revi-

sion of Salary and Allowances of the Director-General of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption.

"A letter addressed to the Speaker in 2016 said that the coconut oil used in Parliament for cooking was substandard. The then Speaker said that only pure coconut oil was used in Parliament. When the milk powder matter was raised, the



then Speaker said that milk powder was not used in Parliament but fresh milk," the MP said.

"It meant that the Parliamentarians consume pure food while the public consume food not fitting for consumption," MP Pathirana said.

"Thereafter, standard of the soup cubes, dhal, palm oil, tinned fish, chilies, rice, and many were questioned," he

said. He said that even the standard of soap was questioned.

Even the Jak and Polos had been found to have added liquids not fitting for consumption.

He said that sweets are added with essences that are not fit for consumption.

The MP said that 78 cancer patients are registered daily while 30 succumbed to their ailments. He said that 20,000 die from smoking tobacco. Therefore, this rate of death is far high-

er than that of the death rate with the LTTE terrorist activities during the three decades of war.

"The Government has decided to ban import of palm oil and cultivating palm oil trees. He said that it is not enough as it is used in producing many other foods. He said that the Government should take measures to resolve these issues.

Uproar in House over coconut oil

The issue of coconut oil containing harmful substances created an uproar in Parliament yesterday.

The annual coconut oil imports to the country stands at 180,000 metric tonnes, while 90,000 metric tonnes are used for domestic purposes and 90,000 MT is used for

industrial purposes as domestic production is insufficient to meet the demand, Trade Minister Dr. Bandula Gunawardena said.

He was responding to Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa in Parliament yesterday.

The Minister said that coconut oil has been imported

every year and when the previous government took over, 52,790 metric tonnes of coconut oil had been imported.

Opposition Leader Premadasa asked how much of coconut oil was imported to the country annually and what the local consumption was, how many times have these stocks

of imported coconut oil was subjected to testing and if the Government could table the reports of such tests.

Minister Bandula Gunawardena said that in 2016, 48,105 MT of coconut oil were imported and in 2017, 12,798 MT, in 2018, 10,913 MT and in 2019, 44,626 MT.

Independent institution needed for imported food, beverages

- MP Herath

The Government should establish an independent institution to scrutinise the quality of all food and beverages imported into the country, National People's Power (NPP) MP Viji Herath yesterday said in Parliament.

MP Herath said that it is vital that such an institution should be free of any political influence.

MP Herath said that even if goods are imported by the Government or the private entrepreneurs, the importation should be regulated by the Government.

The Sri Lanka Standards Institution did not take the initiative in revealing to the country that the coconut oil contains carcinogens. This was revealed by the Health Ministry. This basically suggests that the responsible institution did not fulfill its task. The Government cannot shirk its responsibility in this regard. It is responsible for regulating and taking appropriate legal action against such importation. If the private sector can import and export what it wants, what is the use of having a government?" he asked.

MP Herath said, "We consider this a serious crime. Do not allow these oil stocks to be re-exported. Do not let people in another country consume this coconut oil. The Government should destroy these stocks of coconut oil, but the government is still wavering because it is intimidated by private companies," he said.

"SMIB ATHWELA" for Local Entrepreneurs who self-strive to stand on feet

State Mortgage and Investment Bank
No. 269, Galle Road, Colombo 03.

Contact for Consumer Services - 1823

"Human Development" means the result of a collective effort and not going on individual ways. By now this has become a global theory. All march forward together. There's a

wide acceptance for those who strive to stand on their own feet. Formal plans are afoot to track them from primary level up to national level or may be global level. Various projects were implemented during time periods in the past to help such entrepreneurs. Some projects actually benefited them but did not be of any strength sufficiently to minor businessmen.

Vision of Prosperity

In such a background, the vision of prosperity programme presented to the country by HE the President Gotabhaya Rajapaksa earned so much public delight, which, is being implemented perfectly. We, as a pioneering state financial institution on providing shelter to the nation for nearly 90 years, are very much elated to be of partnering that programme.

SMIB ATHWELA

Small and medium scale Entrepreneur happens to be the smallest economic unit of any economy of any country. They won't walk on the highways demanding privileges. They are practical and not job seekers. They are in fact job creators. Such persons are a great blessing to a country.

The SMIB Helping Hand Programme is implemented targeting them. We are on the process of building a wide mechanism covering the whole country to empower them. This will no doubt be a great strengthening to the production field which spreads widely its images. We, as a state bank, are ever ready to provide all the possible efforts to the minor entrepreneurs.

Relevant Cabinet Ministries, State Ministries as well as private sector organizations all have come together to achieve this target. Our plan is to net in all and every entrepreneur to be benefitted from this programme. Through this programme, we have introduced, covering every aspect of businesses, a more flexible financial policy and number of attractive facilities. Small and medium scale Entrepreneurs are provided with a number of financial services covering a wide area and it will help build the financial literacy practice.

April 9 3.30 p.m @ 7.00

Dayananda Gunawardena's

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ජසයා ලෙන්චිනා

Nari Bana with Jassaya & Lenchina

Lionel Wendt

Tickets now available only at the theater.

0777-363633

All seats are box planned.

Limited tickets will be issued

ADA KOTIPATHI - Wednesday

Draw No.: 1246 Colour: Pink

Date: 07.04.2021

Today's Jackpot

Rs. 125,865,560/-

Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.

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

Date: 05-04-2021

Draw Number: 1747 | Colour: Yellow

Super Jackpot

Rs. 23,771,892/-

Winning Numbers: 10 22 39 46 K

Total Value of Prizes: **Rs. 4,165,740/-**

Next Super Jackpot: **Rs. 23,936,644/-**

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

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

SUPER BALL

Draw Number: 1418 Colour: Purple

Draw Date: 05.04.2021 Date: Monday

Winning English Letter and Numbers: Z 07 26 28 56

Total Value of Prizes: **Rs. 4,078,160/-**

The winning tickets will be valid for 6 months.

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
SMS: DLB-egama-L01-egama-SB & send to 199
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 825 825

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Lagna Washwara

DATE: 05-04-2021

Draw Number: 3125 Colour: Yellow

Winning Numbers: 14 33 41 59

Pisces

TOTAL VALUE OF PRIZES: **Rs. 12,002,420/-**

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

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

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Shanida

DATE: 05.04.2021

Draw No.: 3574 Colour: Blue

Total Value of Prizes: **Rs. 4,731,540/-**

Winning Numbers: 07 18 48 61

English Letter: B

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 825 825

ADA KOTIPATHI

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DATE: 05.04.2021

Draw No.: 1244 Colour: Red

Total Value of Prizes: **Rs. 6,732,780/-**

Winning Numbers: 17 18 37 52

English Letter: C

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

Development Lotteries Board
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Daily News



The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited,
LAKE HOUSE
P. O. Box 1217 No. 35, D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha,
Colombo 10, Sri Lanka
Telephone : (011) 242 9211 Fax: (011) 234 3694
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Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Deadlines and due process

Colombo Archbishop His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith has once again reiterated his resolve to take to the streets if the Government further delays in taking action against those behind the Easter Sunday carnage including those who aided and abetted the crime and also those who paved the way for the bombings by their collective negligence. Speaking to the media outside the Kochchikade shrine following Easter Sunday mass, His Eminence did not mince his words about the action he proposes, even going to the extent of identifying those culpable who are still at large and questioning the alleged procrastination in acting on the recommendations of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry Report on the Easter Sunday attacks. His Eminence has set a deadline for April 21 – the second anniversary of the tragedy – before taking to the streets if there is a further delay in taking action to bring the culprits to book.

The Cardinal said they had waited two years and this was sufficient time for exposing those behind the carnage and those who stood by and let the tragedy occur. The Cardinal's sentiments could be understood in the context of the undertaking he had given the families of the victims to ensure justice. In fact, it is on his solemn word that a bloodbath was averted. It also has to be accepted that dispensing justice usually takes time since due processes of the law have to be followed. It is in this light that a statement made by Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris assumes relevance.

Answering the media at an event in Colombo, Prof. Peiris said the entire process of applying the law was in the hands of the Attorney General and the Government cannot intervene *per se* in this regard. Minister Rohitha Abeygunasekera too expressed similar sentiments saying it is the AG and not the Government itself which is involved in the matter.

True, it is the AG who is responsible for the entire legal process and filing cases against the suspects. The CID, it is reported, had concluded their cases based on the Commission findings. It will no doubt be a painstaking process for the AG who will have to establish watertight cases against those held in custody and this, no doubt, is going to take time. Besides, any room left for the suspects to get away via loopholes in the law will only bring to naught the wish of His Eminence for justice on behalf of his flock.

Hence this whole affair should be viewed devoid of emotion if the desired outcome is to bear fruition. However understandable the Cardinal's sentiments are, the demand for meeting deadlines is not advisable and what is more, risks cases against the suspects getting unstuck. In law one cannot also come to conclusions with a fixed mindset – that is assuming the parties are guilty even while the inquiries (by the AG) are ongoing. Granted, two years is a long time for action not to be taken. But one must also not forget that much time was taken by the Commission in questioning the various parties implicated and their testimony too is vital.

In any event, a Government cannot be seen to be acting on conclusions reached beforehand by manipulating the legal process. The entire matter now is in the hands of the AG. It is him and no one else who is responsible for sifting through the material available to make them stand up before a court of law which will be the ultimate arbiter.

It is to the credit of His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith that he went to great lengths to keep the Easter Sunday tragedy alive in the public mind when the tendency is to forget such calamities in no time as witnessed during the war years. True, his comments may have rubbed certain politicians on the wrong side, but one also has to understand his frustration at the pace things were moving to ensure justice to the bereaved families. His sentiments in this respect and his steadfast determination to fight to the bitter end has also won for him the praise and admiration of the Maha Sangha and other religious leaders who continue to commiserate with him. They have pledged to support any action taken by His Eminence to nudge the authorities into action. In fact, Bhikkus in large numbers rallied to his public call for the March 7 Black Sunday protests, expressing solidarity with the Catholic Church. They also helped rebuild the damaged churches. It is hoped that his quest for justice will be realized sooner rather than later with the wheels of justice grinding relentlessly to reach those responsible.

For this to happen there ought to be patience and the AG given a free hand to build his cases devoid of prejudice. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has repeatedly promised to bring to book the agents of this horrendous tragedy which of course has to be in accordance with the law. There cannot be mob justice in a civilized world where even the obviously guilty are given a fair hearing.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The principles of justice do not change with the calendar.
- D.H. Lawrence



Easter Mass at St Sebastian's Church in Katuwapitiya last Sunday (AFP)

Easter Sunday probes:

Cardinal calls for decisive action

Easter (now also known as Resurrection Sunday) that symbolizes Jesus Christ's triumph over death was observed by the Christian brethren in Sri Lanka with solemn Masses in churches across the country last Sunday, while the island nation was still struggling to come to terms with the piercing agony of the Easter Sunday carnage that took nearly 260 innocent lives and injured about 500 people, mostly Churchgoers, two years ago.

The Easter Sunday Services at St. Anthony's Shrine in Kochchikade, St Sebastian's Church in Katuwapitiya and Zion Church in Batticaloa, the three churches that came under suicide attacks on April 21, 2019, rekindled the bone-chilling memories of the fateful day, as the families and friends of those victims gathered for prayers while impatiently waiting for justice for their loved ones who lost their lives or were maimed for life.

Unlike last year, where the Coronavirus pandemic forced strict restriction on public participation, people were allowed to attend the Easter Masses this year in keeping with health guidelines amidst special security provided by the Security Forces and Police.

As the ruthless Easter Sunday massacre crosses the two-year mark in just two weeks, the investigations into the incident seem to have come to a tipping point. The investigators have unearthed vital information that speaks volumes of the gaping holes in national security in the hands of the former coalition Government led by former President Maithripala Sirisena and former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

The evidence collected by the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) has shed light on the above factors. The Catholic community led by Archbishop of Colombo His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith has in one voice called for solid action against those named in the PCoI report while also urging that no stone is left unturned to reveal the masterminds behind the attacks.

Making progress

The Government leaders have repeatedly vouched to see the investigations of this incident through to the end with the intention of bringing all the culprits to book. This was a key pre-election pledge of the incumbent Government. The Government apprised Parliament last month that investigative bodies such as the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and the Terrorism Investigation Division (TID) have made notable headway in that regard. Many arrests and detentions have been made with regard to the attacks.

At the same time, the Attorney General's Department is in the middle of a daunting task of carefully studying all the documents so far received from the investigative bodies to extract the required evidence to institute legal action against the wrongdoers. The hefty PCoI report, containing 87 volumes and running into thousands of pages, is among those documents. Twenty-two of those volumes were said to have sensitive security details and confidential information. All these volumes have been handed over to the AG and his team for their perusal.

Moreover, the six-member Ministerial Committee headed by Minister Chamal Rajapaksa on Monday submitted its report to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa identifying 78 recommendations of the PCoI report for implementation, though it reportedly had different opinions on some PCoI recommendations.



The Cabinet Sub-Committee headed by Minister Chamal Rajapaksa handing over the report to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

The press release of the President's Media Division said the Cabinet Sub-Committee has also examined ways and means of implementing those recommendations and the agencies those tasks should be assigned to. The Government has also focused attention towards legal and social reforms proposed by the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security of the previous Parliament. The Oversight Committee came up with those proposals, in the aftermath of the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks, with a view to preventing a recurrence of similar incidents in the future.

After two years

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa in their Easter Sunday messages renewed their pledge to punish all the wrongdoers connected to this incident that shocked the entire world.

"Two years ago, when Easter Sunday was being celebrated by the Sri Lankan Christian community with utmost devotion, they became victims of the most brutal attacks by extremists. The sorrowful memory of pain and loss caused by this tragic incident has not faded from the broken hearts of the suffering Sri Lankan people even today. We will leave no room for the culprits as well as groups who are responsible for this dastardly attack to escape the arm of law. Also, the Government is determined to ensure national security in order to prevent a recurrence of such tragedies in the Motherland," the President stated.

The PM in his message reiterated that the Government make persistent efforts to produce those responsible for the attacks before the law and mete out justice for the victims. He assured that the investigations would continue impartially without any undue interference from any quarter.

Opposition Leader and Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) Leader Sajith Premadasa over the weekend tendered an apology to the public for failing to prevent the Easter Sunday attacks despite being a minister of the then Yahapalana Government.

"This tragedy took place under a Government in which I was also a part of. I do not shirk that responsibility. I insist on the death penalty for those involved in, aiding, abetting or financing terrorist activities. The country's legal framework must be strengthened to prevent any room for terrorist activities," he commented attending a "Sathkaraya" mobile service programme in Tissamaharamaya in Hambantota, his home turf.

In the meantime, several Opposition members including SJB frontliner MP Patali Champika Ranawaka



Colombo Archbishop Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith speaks to the media after Easter Sunday Mass at St. Anthony's Church in Kochchikade



Former President Maithripala Sirisena answers queries from journalists

going to seek re-election, though it was not immediately clear if an election was on the horizon.

"If he has any shame, how can he, who flew overseas despite knowing that the people's lives were at risk, contest an election again?"

We would like to ask him to check whether he has any clothes on when making such statements. It is time for him to go home and mind his own business. The Commission report has identified him as a wrongdoer. Then why delay taking action against him?" he asked taking aim directly at the former President.

In a fierce speech, the Archbishop gave an ultimatum to the Government to take tangible action against those responsible for the attacks, observing that buying time by appointing multiple committees would not serve the purpose.

"We will take to the streets if the law is not enforced against the culprits before April 21 this year. We will not remain silent on this. Remember that," the Cardinal told a swarm of reporters from all media at the Church premises. This speech received wide publicity in the foreign Catholic-oriented media as well.

Despite the fiery comments of the Cardinal, the former President was cautious enough to appear undisturbed when the media followed him to a meeting of the Sri Lanka Nidahas Sevaka Sangamaya (the SLFP affiliated trade union), the next day in Colombo. When pressed for a comment, the former President briefly said that he simply regrets the views expressed by the Cardinal. Speaking on behalf of his leader, SLFP General Secretary and State Minister Dayasiri Jayasekera said the Cardinal's words clearly had political connotations.

"The former President was not the one who set the bombs that killed all those people. The focus must be to find out the real culprits behind the attacks. When it comes to the failure to prevent the attacks, not only the former President, but the entire Government must be held responsible," he replied the media.

With the intense pressure on from the Catholic community and various political quarters, these are certainly testing times for the Government. How the Government handles the Easter Sunday probes would be a litmus test of its integrity and success.



Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa at the Sathkaraya programme

MIDWEEK POLITICS

with Disna Mudalige

Sharp-edged words

Former President Sirisena (now an MP representing the SLFP), taking the floor for over an hour during the third day of the Parliamentary debate on the PCoI report on the Easter Sunday attacks last month, made every attempt to convince the audience that he was in the dark about the Intelligence pre-warnings received from friendly countries and our own Intelligence agencies. He also elaborated on some of his disputable actions such as going abroad on a personal visit without appointing an acting Defence Minister to oversee the duties. This particular lapse has indeed been highlighted by the PCoI as well as the Ministerial Sub-Committee. The Parliament debate is to continue today, for the fourth day.

The highlight of the news headlines this week was a sharply-worded media comment by His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith following the main Easter Sunday Mass at St. Anthony's Church in Kochchikade, Colombo.

The Cardinal pulled no punches at former President Sirisena, who has been faulted by the PCoI for failing to prevent the Easter Sunday attacks, over speculation that he was



IT IS A MATTER OF INTEREST THAT SOME PEOPLE WANT TO RAISE INTEREST RATES

RAJPAL ABEYNAYAKE

A subtle campaign has been in progress, asking that interest rates be raised because a low-interest regime under Central Bank guidance is supposed to “discourage the savings habit.”

Those who say this seem to not know that life is full of paradoxes. Well, this article is not a lesson in philosophy, but yes, life is full of paradoxes and perhaps modern life is a paradox *per se*.

In that vein, it may sound bad that savings and the savings habit does not necessarily a good economy make. Savers save, and that's all well and good. But spenders spend, and that's when everybody makes money. Shouldn't that be elementary, my dear Watson?

However, pundits claim that the current Government policy of low interest rates is not only an “interest on savings” that discourages savers, but is also some sort of fetter placed on the economy. Certainly, the downside of low interest rates may be that those who save money in bank deposits do not get a good return on their investment. It has been argued that senior citizens are badly hit.

But is that good enough a reason to raise interest rates? Isn't it something akin to saying children should “only study and not play” because research shows that those who study do better in later life? But all forms of levity and frivolity aside, is any economist serious when he says that the interest rates should be raised, just because senior citizens would be better off?

Robust economy

Don't we all love our senior citizens? But don't we equally love all our citizens? An all-round robust economy is more likely at this time, with low interest rates and less taxes. That should be axiomatic, but why is it not? Good monetary policy entailing reduced interest rates is technically known as a stimulus — and even so, the critics say that this stimulus is bad. It is curious they use the term stimulus, and yet contend that



this kind of monetary policy is hurting the economy.

Wait. A stimulus we are told is bad for the economy when there was a period of economic inactivity due to a pandemic? A stimulus? A stimulus is what every economy has been doing post-pandemic. Countries that have the wherewithal have spent obscene amounts of money on stimulus packages and we without that kind of kitty have resorted to a flexible monetary policy — a stimulus — and that is supposed to be bad for the economy?

Low returns on savings and the cheap loans that it made possible accounted for China's spectacular growth. Go check the facts on that, and you would see this fact is incontrovertible. If the second largest economy on Earth was powered by low interest rates, that is supposed to be ‘financial repression’ and bad for the economy?

Risk taking

It is certainly one means of reducing Government debt because the State can borrow cheap and then it means that there are some other spinoff effects, but how does that compare with the fact that there is cheaper borrowing all round, which means that from everything from small business to private individuals there would be bigger risk taking, and the establish-

ment of more business enterprise, etc., that would get the economy moving? More jobs would be a corollary, and that too means more money in people's pockets and more spending.

To say that this policy would be unfair to the senior citizens and cite that essentially as the reason to raise interest rates is one-track vision. Senior citizens are one demographic, but could the rest of the economy be stagnated because the senior citizens should get more on their returns? There are better ways of looking after senior citizens while keeping the economy in good trim. There is already a special interest rate for senior citizens and it is not as if any of the critics are unaware of this.

This does not mean that low interest rates should be an all-weather phenomenon. It all depends on which stage the economy is in, and that is commonsensical. The point is the Sri Lankan economy needs a stimulus as do many other economies in the world, and that bears repetition. Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Fiji, Honduras, Iceland, India, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico and Nigeria were all countries which adjusted monetary policy and slashed interest rates, post pandemic, and this is to take countries up to ‘N’ only in alphabetical order, for the sake of convenience — and also ignoring some of the

smaller economies which took similar measures.

Are all these countries treating their senior citizens badly? There is almost no country in the world which has not implemented debt moratoriums, and other policies such as non-collateralized loans and easing of regulatory oversight over lending, etc., as measures dealing with the pandemic. It is a universal phenomenon and it has followed that the vast majority of countries have decreased their interest rates, which is of course basic economics when economies are in dire need of a stimulus in the face of Covid.

But yet, there are geniuses in Sri Lanka who are suggesting that interest rates be increased or that it is bad policy to lower interest rates because senior citizens are adversely hit?

To take a random country, Netherlands announced that commercial banks might exceed the debt service ratio (37 percent), to a maximum of 50 percent. It makes it that much easier to secure a loan from a bank in that country.

Easy credit

There are a slew of measures that were taken in countries both rich and poor that were similarly weighted towards providing easy credit — and to even suggest going the

other way and increasing interest rates at this moment in time is rather astounding. Of course we need to come back to that philosophical judgement about life's paradoxes. Saving is supposed to be prudent and that is dinned into folks from the time they are kids. But yet, risk takers have always been rewarded more than savers, and basically all business is risk taking, and there are no prizes for guessing why businessmen are richer than your average saver.

The idea is of course not to make businessmen rich (!) but to encourage risk taking, i.e., making use of bank credit, so that jobs may be created, when businesses grow, and there is more liquidity in the system — all rather axiomatic.

It is what is needed at this stage of the economy, and even in China, after years of low interest rates — pre-pandemic that is — the interest rates were finally raised, again because that needs to be done at a certain stage of the economy, so that saving is encouraged too. Of course it is one dimensional to look at slashing interest rates as Government policy aimed entirely at reducing Government debt, and underscoring the “financial repression” theory. The chief policy objective in decreasing interest rates, needless to say, is to encourage private sector borrowing in order to stimulate a badly hit economy — in the present case, a post-pandemic economy.

These issues are clear as night follows day, and really, to encourage Sri Lanka to go in the opposite direction to most economies post-pandemic, makes zero sense. What is the rationale for it? That Sri Lanka is unique, and we do not support our business and small-business during a pandemic?

To bring the interest rates back up when the country is gradually inching forward in post-pandemic recovery is an act of masochism. No economy should beat itself out that bad trying to be conscientious about ‘saving’. Encouraging spending more than savings now, does not make us a country of wastrels. It makes us a country of responsible citizens willing to put shoulder to the wheel in a time of an extraordinary crisis.

UZBEKISTAN: TOWARDS DEEPER LINKS BETWEEN CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA

Tashkent is organizing a high-level conference this summer aimed at bridging Central Asian countries and South Asian markets

UMIDA HASHIMOVA

Uzbekistan's pivot toward South Asia is deepening as Tashkent is working to diversify its options for accessing the sea beyond the Iranian ports to which it is now limited. Only a month after Tashkent signed the Mazar-i-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar Road Map in February with Pakistan and Afghanistan to build a railroad to connect to Pakistan's seaports, Uzbek officials are actively working with Central Asian and South Asian neighbors to organize a high-level conference centered on transportation infrastructure between the regions.

So important is the conference for Uzbekistan that in the span of two days, on February 16-18, Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov travelled to four Central Asian countries to personally deliver invitations to the conference on region-



al connectivity now scheduled for July 15-16 in Tashkent.

After completing his tour of the Central Asian states, Kamilov focused on South Asia with a visit to Afghanistan on February 23. Kamilov next travelled to India, which was not a party to the February negotiations but is a logical extension of the Trans-Afghan

route. It is unclear whether the specifics of the Trans-Afghan route were discussed. The official statement says that the sides focused on the peace process in Afghanistan, which is of mutual interest.

Expanding links between Indian and Central Asian markets is a decades-old conversation. But Uzbekistan's current plan of adding

access to Pakistani ports is arguably a step in the opposite direction from where India would want Central Asian countries to head. India has been investing in Iran's Chabahar port, just 177 Km from Gwadar port in Pakistan. It is unclear the extent to which New Delhi is willing to be a part of the current negotiations.

Uzbekistan: The Facts

- Location: Central Asia, North of Afghanistan
- Area: 417,400 sq km, slightly larger than California
- Capital: Tashkent
- Natural Resources: Natural Gas, Petroleum, Gold, Coal, Uranium, Silver, Copper, Molybdenum
- Geography - note: One of the two only doubly landlocked countries in the world
- GDP: purchasing power parity total: \$65 billion, per capita: \$2,500
- Population: 25,981,847
- Median age: Total: 21.8 yrs, male: 21.2 yrs, female: 22.5 yrs
- Birth rate: 26.09 births/1,000 pop
- Death rate: 7.87 deaths/1,000 pop
- Sex ratio: 1.88 male/female
- Literacy rate: 71.61/1000
- Fertility rate: 3 children born/wmn
- Life expectancy at birth: 64 years
- Ethnic groups: Uzbek 80%, Russian 5.5%, Tajik 5%, Kazakh 3%, Karakalpak 2.5%, Tatar 1.5%, other 2.5%

Kamilov then visited Pakistan to extend the conference invitation. The parties discussed the Trans-Afghan route, the Mazar-i-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar Road Map, and the Uzbek side received further assurance of access to ports in Karachi and Gwadar. The Trans-Afghan route is not the only option Pakistan is able to offer Central Asian states. The opportunity to access the same Pakistani ports via China, bypassing Afghanistan, is also on the table. That route would go via the Karakoram Highway, which connects Gilgit-Baltistan to China's Xinjiang region.

Tashkent wants to use the conference as a launchpad for Central Asia's entrance into South Asia. The project also underscores Tashkent's aims to be a regional player, rather than simply seeking cooperation that only benefits Uzbekistan. What Tashkent is doing is important for Tajikistan as well, which damaged its relations with Turk-

menistan when it suspended the construction of the Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Turkmenistan railroad in 2018 as Uzbekistan had stopped blocking Tajikistan's railroad traffic by then.

Although the Trans-Afghan road map was signed by Tashkent alone and the upcoming conference is organized by Uzbekistan, Tashkent's gesture indicates that the project will be beneficial to the whole region. While the railroad certainly will benefit Uzbekistan first and foremost, Tashkent's interest in getting the buy-in of the other Central Asian states, bringing them on board, highlights the wider regional benefits. (*The Diplomat*)

(Umida Hashimova works as an analyst at the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA), where she concentrates on U.S. national security issues. Hashimova is a scholar on Central Asia's current affairs and regularly publishes on the topic.)





RELIGIOUS PLURALISM AND AMITY: THE WAY FORWARD

SARA PATHIRANA

At the mere mention of the word 'pluralism', a lay person might not instantly recognize its meaning. To many, the term may sound foreign, but it is very much embedded within all of us, and we are oblivious to it at times. The concept of pluralism is attributed to engaging with the many differences and idiosyncrasies that we witness around us and branches out to various other segments such as cultural pluralism, philosophical pluralism, linguistic pluralism and gender pluralism to name a few. To engage in pluralism is, therefore, to attempt to understand and appreciate how the other is different from you and me. Therefore, all groups should have the space to express themselves, have freedom of expression, religion and so on.

This opinion piece will solely focus on the topic of religious pluralism. This term symbolizes positive and supportive collaborations between people from different backgrounds, religions, faiths or spiritual beliefs, with the motive of endorsing a level of mutual understanding between those different religions and aim to elevate a sense of acceptance and tolerance. According to this worldview, it is the community that should have the foremost place, and not religion.

Sharing his insight on the concept of pluralism, Dr. Jehan Perera, who is a Peace Activist and the Executive Director of the National Peace Council of Sri Lanka (NPC), an independent advocacy organisation, said: "Whether we are Sinhala, Tamil or Muslim, we tend to restrict ourselves within our comfort zones and stick to being amongst our own communities and it feels easier to engage within our own groups. The most any of us would have in the form of a relationship with someone from another ethnic group, is sometimes confined to being one that is transactional. An instance such as when we visit a particular shop and interact with the shopkeeper who happens to be from another ethnicity or religion other than one's own. It stops there when we leave that situation. No other relationship is formed while we are there. That is a natural instinct which we form, within our own silos."

The NPC works to set up structures, inter-religious committees at district levels. Dr. Perera explained that the NPC organizes such committees, mobilizes participants and provides them with training and know-how.

Interfaith cohesion-building

A successful example was a recent initiative conducted by the NPC, a North-South Exchange visit to Paramankirai, Navakkuli in the Jaffna District. The initiative was aimed towards youth members who represented regions such as Hambantota, Moneragala, Kurunegala, Batticaloa, Vavuniya and Galle. The exchange visit included a discussion on pluralism, and a range of interactive activities – from trust-building games and a volleyball match to a food culture exploration event. The initiative was appreciated by all who took part and the members from Galle expressed the need to help initiate a similar programme where youth members from Jaffna can get to visit the southern part of the country and interact more with people from other regions.

Another well-known local organisation is the Sarvodaya Movement, with a history spanning over 50 years that has been instrumental in instigating educational activities throughout the nation. Sarvodaya first emerged with the aim of uplifting villages in Sri Lanka, enabling the advancement of a comprehensive social transformation and promoting self-reliance, communi-



Dr. Jehan Perera



Sheikh M. Arkam Nooramith



Dr. S. Raguram

ty participation through a holistic approach to community awakening. Amongst the numerous programmes they have conducted over the years, was the 'Pillars of Resilience' programme which helped bring together religious leaders to one place, where they could be recognized as these 'Pillars of Resilience' and showcase their significance to society in terms of playing a critical role within their communities, especially during disasters, emergencies, crisis and conflict.

The 'Pillars of Resilience' project was aimed at building the capacity of 200 faith leaders from all major faiths in Sri Lanka, on community resilience and a community resilience interfaith symposium was initiated for 100 faith leaders who took part. Sharing her thoughts on the programmes that Sarvodaya focuses on, MEAL Officer at Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya, Rashmi Mallawaarachchi said, "Faith leaders are equipped with unique assets that help support communities during such adversities, and so, furnishing them with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes would further enhance community resilience. At Sarvodaya, we believe in helping to create people-centred and inclusive, sustainable development through a practical model of self-help and give back to the society through greater active participation."

For such action to take place, it isn't necessarily big and well-funded organisations that are capable of instigating such programmes. It is also refreshing to know that communities of like-minded people, without any sort of regular grant funding also come together and initiate similar interfaith programmes with great success. A good example is Interfaith Colombo, which is unlike other well-funded NGOs and similar entities.

In contrast, Interfaith Colombo relied on a more informal set-up which was co-founded by Suchith Abeyewickreme and Shifan Rafaideen in 2017 with the aim of creating a safe space for youth who reside mainly within the region of Colombo and its suburbs where they can interact, congregate and participate in interfaith events and religious activities. One such event conducted by them, was Interfaith Vesak and Rama-



dan 2020. Participants from around the world and from different faiths were present. Primarily, the event was conducted in all three languages and emphasized on the facet of multi-culturalism.

In one segment for instance, participants were put into break-out rooms with various names under a facilitator and very interesting discussions were opened on Vesak and Ramadan. Sharing his thoughts about Interfaith Colombo, its co-founder, Abeyewickreme explained, "We wanted to create a safe space, especially with youth in mind that still focuses on religions and beliefs. Usually, we notice most of the time inter-religious groups and activities led by religious leaders. Interfaith Colombo looks to engage people of different faiths and beliefs with the idea of building understanding, positive relations and trust among them and their communities. I believe when we as young people of different faiths and beliefs, walk into places of worship together, we are advocating for change so that we are more open towards each other and can learn to live together with respect, empathy and solidarity."

Interfaith Colombo is an outfit that has always funded itself or through donations from kind donors. Apart from the co-founders and enthusiastic volunteers, they also function with the inclusion of individuals who come under different levels of engage-

ment. In the near future, however, Interfaith Colombo hopes to form an Interfaith Leadership Team and strengthen their approach with similar programmes.

Community perspectives

To get a perspective from a member of the Muslim community about the significance of exchange visits and initiatives such as the ones conducted by NPC, Sarvodaya and Interfaith Colombo, we spoke to Sheikh M. Arkam Nooramith, Assistant General Secretary of the All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama. He also holds position as a member of the Wakfs Board of Sri Lanka and is also a member of the Advisory Committee on Muslim Law Reforms. He says, "In my professional life as a scholar of Islam, I have often been asked whether Islam is truly a religion that advocates tolerance of peoples of other faiths. Does it encourage Muslims to live in peace with people of other faith, or is it an ideology that is prone to create conflict, be it interreligious, intercultural or international? Furthermore, I have been asked to comment on the role that Muslim religious beliefs play in instigating individual Muslims to commit acts of terrorism and violence against peoples of other faiths. What I am rarely asked are questions concerning pluralism, unity in diversity and tolerance in Islam and how people of other faith survived historically under Muslim rule," Sheikh Arkam stated.

He reminisced a moment from his childhood and disclosed that there was indeed a time when those differences never posed an issue and everyone was equal and understanding of each other. "This way, polarization will not persist. I definitely encourage the stance taken up by NPC and would be eager to see more of these instigations taking place in the future, inspire more engagement amongst all ethnic communities and would promote the idea of getting the public to really take a moment and learn more about their fellow countryman," Sheikh Arkam reiterated.

Convener of the Kandy District Inter-Religious Committee, Gamini Jayaweera shared his views of the NPC Exchange Visit, on behalf of the Sinhala community, and said, "I came to know of the youth members from the selected DIRCs who participated in the exchange visit and the feedback we received was indeed very positive. Since the aim of the exchange visit was to enable these groups of people to come together in solidarity, setting aside any differences and experiencing the culture and mannerisms of their fellow countryman."

Expressing his appreciation for the initiation of these, Senior Lecturer and Head of Media Studies at the University of Jaffna, Dr. S. Raguram too agreed on the timeliness of these events. "Programmes such as this pave the way for a root cause to be identified, especially with regard to instances that get triggered in the name of race and religion and in other ways and they are able to find a common ground amongst each other. Even though we have divided ourselves as Sinhalese, Muslims and Tamils, we have some common traits. So, if we can find that common trait and a common platform where we can arrive at to build up ourselves, then I believe that this type of interactive platforms will provide an opportunity to achieve that. So, I would encourage these types of involvements. In addition to this, there should be serious efforts made to explore other cultures, history, their richness, values and gain a deeper understanding of each other."

On the other hand, Head of the National Movement for the Release of All Political Prisoners, Rev. Father Marimuthu Sakthivel did not agree with the implementation of such programmes as he felt that the aim of promoting pluralism steered away from what mattered the most when it came to members of the public who needed real help. He said, "I do not work with NGOs anymore as I feel that they only conduct or feel compelled to work on promoting such programmes because they get a budget to do it. So, they have to do it anyway. I see them all as money-minded initiatives at the end of the day. They fulfil their agendas and use a majority of these funds to fuel their own expenses. If we need real change in this country, then we need a political solution. NGOs trying to promote so-called pluralism is far from focusing on real issues being faced by people, especially in the North. There are mothers who have been left with nothing and have to fend for themselves. Nobody talks about those issues but are trying to build bridges between the North and South."

Ethnic integration and interfaith initiatives have been taking place for decades and during many of these occasions, getting children, students and youth to engage in such proceedings has always been a highlight. Exchange visits for instance, are also a form of education and through education comes awareness and a strengthened message that promotes peace-building and contributes to social transformation. One good example of an international ethnic integration programme to have taken place was the Youth Ethnic Integration Project which was funded by USAID, held in partnership with the U.S. European Command (EUCOM) and implemented by the Macedonian Civic Education Centre, to improve inter-ethnic integration and strengthen civic culture among youth in North Macedonia. There are countless such activities that take place worldwide and the most significant part of such programmes is that eventually, people come together and it helps to stir up dormant empathetic emotions and a sense of renewed belonging.

(This article was supported by *Internews Sri Lanka*. The writer is a journalist and PR consultant.)



Overuse of rivers will result in major water crisis – Study

NIMAL WIJESINGHE,
Anuradhapura Additional District Group Corr.

Irrigation and environmental experts warned that over exploitation of rivers will result in a major water crisis in the country before long.

According to a recent survey, 27 rivers including Mahaweli, Kalu, Kelani, Ma, Deduru, Kala, Malwathu, Gin and Nilwala have been heavily damaged in unwarranted human activities mainly in sand, gem and clay mining with heavy machinery and equipment.

Apart from 103 major rivers, a number of smaller drainage basins in the coastal areas have also been damaged.

The Ma Oya, Kala and Kelani Rivers have been severely damaged during the past three decades with illegal mining. The Kelani River has been badly damaged and its banks at many places have been severely affected. A foundation of a pier along the Hanwell-Kiridiwela Road had exposed in

the river bed erosion and steps have been taken to restore the bridge at a huge cost.

During low river flows, sea water flows in many rivers affecting the Ambatale water intake. Construction of a salinity barrier across the Kelani River to stop water contamination is in progress now.

The Irrigation Department has taken steps to preserve the Malwathu Oya River as well. Illegal sand mining, disposal of various impurities and garbage in to the river, using river banks for agriculture and invasive aquatic plants have blocked water flowing.

Widening, cleaning and disposing of sediments of the Malwathu Oya from the German Bridge close to Anuradhapura Prison up to the Galkadawala anicut is now in progress covering eight kilo meters under the first phase of the restoration programme at a cost of Rs 20 million, the Anuradhapura Zonal Irrigation Director said.



State Minister Duminda Dissanayake inspecting the Malwathu Oya River Rehabilitation Program.

Raids on errant traders in Galle intensified

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE,
Galle Central Special Corr.

Raids have been intensified during the festive season by the Galle District Consumer Affairs Authority (GDCAA) as it has received information about errant vendors during the New Year festive season.

The Consumer Affairs Authority (CAA) said that some vendors have set up temporary

stalls and sell expired products claiming that they are offering discounts.

The CAA warns consumers to be vigilant when they buy paints, electrical appliances and other items from makeshift shops, especially during the festive season.

Raids will be carried out regularly to catch errant traders, Galle District CAA said.

Special SLTB service for New Year Season

MAHINDA . P. LIYANAGE,
Galle Central Special Corr.

A special bus service will be launched from tomorrow for those travelling from Colombo to their home towns for the New Year, Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB) Ruhuna Chief Regional Manager Prabhath Kumara said.

It will be operated with the collaboration of 11 depots of the

Ruhuna SLTB. Kataragama, Ambalangoda, Galle, Matara, Tangalle and other major bus stands will operate buses to the capital, the SLTB Chief Regional Manager said.

It is also planned to launch a mobile inspection service without any harassment to the public to secure the revenue of the Ruhuna area during the festive season.



Ceylon Tea Promotion in South Africa

The Sri Lanka High Commission in South Africa in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Tea Board organised a "Ceylon Tea Demonstration and Tasting" at the Brooklyn Mall on March 27. Representing the tea traders, two leading Ceylon Tea brands in South Africa, Dilmah and Basilur joined hand with the Mission to demonstrate their products.

Ambassador of Russia Ilya Ragachev, Ambassador of Iran Mehdi Agha Jafari, and High Commissioner of Mauritius Dr. Prakamarijith Vijaye Lutchmun

participated in the event as the special guests. Many Ceylon Tea lovers in South Africa visited the event and experienced the new Ceylon Tea varieties.

Average total consumption of Black Tea in South Africa is 27,000 metric tonnes per year. Sri Lanka is contributing 10 per cent of its total demand. The hot beverage market in South Africa is worth USD 600 million per annum and the Black Tea owns 5.8 per cent of the market.

Except Sri Lanka, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and

Kenya are the top tea exporting countries to South Africa. Altogether these countries export 14,000 to 18,000 metric tonnes of tea per year. Five Roses is the top tea brand in South Africa, having more than 50 per cent of the market share, which produces number of tea varieties including the Ceylon Blend and Pure Ceylon Breakfast Tea.

The key challenge faced by the Ceylon Tea in Southern African region is the low consumer interest dominating in the hot beverage market and

the Coffee is catering to a significant part of the market. Therefore, it is necessary to do the strategic promotions to uplift the interests of the different consumer groups.

Increasing per capita income in this region may open the new market segments for value added tea and the changing life styles adapt the attractive and different products quickly.

The Tourism Industry should be the next target market for Ceylon Tea. The industry accounts for 25 million annual arrivals.

Lions Club holds clinic in Bulathsinhala

The Lions Club in Ingiriya organised and conducted a health clinic at the Bulathsinhala Health Ministry Office recently.

The Ingiriya Lions Club District 306 A2 donated medical and health equipment to 25 pregnant women at the event.

District Governor 306 A2 Lion Ajith Liyanage, First Vice-Governor Lion Buddhika Rathnayake, Second Vice-Governor Lion Thushara Peiris, Cabinet Secretary Lion Nuwan Bellanthuduwa, President Lions Club of Ingiriya Lion Left. Col. Dr. L. T. Dayakeerthi and MOH Bulathsinhala Lion Dr. Vidya Ranaweera were present.



Illegal liquor racket in Kurunegala

ARIYAPALA WANSHATHILAKE, Kurunegala Central Special Corr.

Illegal liquor is being sold in the Wellawa police area and supplied with brand new labels to bars and restaurants in Kurunegala and suburbs, residents said.

Many restaurants and bars in the city and suburbs have been raided by the police and Excise Department but the racket goes on, they said.

Discussion on solid waste management

M.U.M.SANOON,
Puttalam TKN Corr.

A special discussion was held at the Puttalam Town Hall on Tuesday on promoting Women's Engagement in effective solid waste management.

The event was organised by the United Nations Women's Organization in association with the Puttalam Urban Council. It aimed at empowering women to bring about rapid development and peace through the full implementation of waste management.

Puttalam Urban council Chirman K.A.Baiz, Urban Council Administrative Officer Sujith Jayasundera

attended the event, chaired by T. Bala Murali, National Consultant to the United Nations Women's Organization. Members of the Puttalam Urban Council, representatives of the Puttalam District Interfaith Union, Urban Council officials and women's organizations participated.



In the discussion.

Rapport among Ethnicities launched

M.A. PHAKURDEEN,
Addalaichenal Group Corr.

Batticaloa Church Commission for Justice and Peace Director Rev. Rajan Rohan said that the book, *Rapport among Ethnicities*, launched today is the need of the hour. Therefore, every one should read the book to make a clear understanding on Islam, which emphasizes the importance of rapport among ethnicities.

He was addressing a gathering of religious dignitaries of ethnicities, moulavies, heads of social societies and the representatives of the Civil Societies.



Rev. Rajan Rohan speaking at the book launch.

The launch of *Rapport among Ethnicities* authored by Dr. Al-Hafeel M.I.M. Sitheeqe was held under the auspicious of the Director of the Jaamiya Inaamil Arabic College, Attulugama, As-sheikh Haja Mohideen (Bin Noori) where Batticaloa High Court Judge Al-Hafeel N.M.Abdullah graced the occasion as Chief Guest and Akkaraipattu Municipal Council Mayor Athaullah Ahamed Zacky participated as Special Guest.

Rev. Rajan Rohan said that the book has been a long felt need of the Muslim community to give the brother communities a clear understanding on Islam and how Islam respects and honors the other religions.

"It has been my desire that the Muslim colleagues and dignitaries to prepare and compose a book of this nature for long time. I have also requested my Muslim friends in Kattankudy to print a book of this nature but understanding the desperate need of the book a reputed religious dignitary Dr. Sitheeqe's has willingly came forward to write this book is highly appreciable. The book contained what we want today to prosper and understanding society," he said.

Mayor Athaullah Ahamed Zacky, High Court Judge N.M. Abdullah addressed the gathering. Author Dr. Sitheeqe was honored by Civil Societies Representative M. Zainulabdeen by draping him with a Golden Shawl.

DEPARTMENT OF EXAMINATIONS, SRI LANKA

It is hereby notified that the Admission Cards and Timetables in respect of the following Examinations have been dispatched to the addresses given in the applications.

	Examination	Date of Examination	Venue
01	Open Competitive Examination for Recruitment to the Posts of Grade II Class III of Registrar Service in Registrar General's Department - 2020 (2021)	10th April 2021	In 09 towns including Colombo
02	Competitive Examination for the Recruitment to Grade III of Sri Lanka Administrative Service under the Merit Stream - 2013 (2021)	10th & 11th April 2021	Colombo

Candidates who have not received Admission Cards or those who require further information are kindly requested to communicate with the Institutional Examinations Organization Branch of this Department giving full name and address. Admission Cards can be downloaded from the Department's Website: www.slexams.com

Telephone : 011-2785230 / 011-2786150 Fax : 011-2784232

B. Sanath Pujitha
Commissioner General of Examinations

5/5/2/AD/2021
Institutional Examinations Organization Branch,
Department of Examinations - Sri Lanka,
Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
07th April 2021

DATE 05.04.2021 MONDAY OFFICIAL RESULTS www.nlb.lk

MAHAJANA SAMPATHA DRAW NUMBER : 4448 Prizes won in this draw **Rs. 12,693,240.00**

WINNING LETTER **U** WINNING NUMBERS **8 7 9 5 3 9** THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW **Rs. 13,786,406.00**

Govisetha DRAW NUMBER : 2743 TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW **Rs. 7,757,240.00**

WINNING LETTER **P** WINNING NUMBERS **16 37 38 80** THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW **Rs. 62,878,708.40**

Mega POWER 10 DRAW NUMBER **808** TOTAL PRIZES WON IN THIS DRAW **Rs. 3,351,280.00**

NEXT MEGA SUPER PRIZE **Rs. 127,236,693.20**

NEXT POWER SUPER PRIZE **Rs. 10,000,000.00**

NEXT GRAND SUPER **Rs. 10,000,000.00**

ENGLISH LETTER **P** SUPER NUMBER **14** WINNING NUMBERS **02 25 28 60**

Dhana Nidhanaya DRAW NUMBER : 485 TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW **Rs. 4,931,120.00**

ENGLISH LETTER **B** WINNING NUMBERS **15 17 46 49** THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW **Rs. 91,491,701.60**

Vasana Sampatha DRAW NUMBER : 1674 TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW **Rs. 3,643,780.00**

ENGLISH LETTER **W** WINNING NUMBERS **02 21 26 29** THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW **Rs. 26,999,152.30**

05.04.2021 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD **818,018**

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS **Rs. 32,376,660.00**

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

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

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National Lotteries Board
Tel: 011-4607000, 011-2324324
Fax: 011-4669416

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

The Housewives' companion
Classifieds on
Daily News

UK variant spreads fast around the world



The highly contagious Covid-19 variant first identified in the UK has now been reported in every state in the US, and experts are concerned spreading variants could send cases surging.

"America appears to be done with the pandemic," said Dr. Michael Osterholm, director for the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota. "The virus is not done with us."

More than 15,000 cases of the B.1.1.7 coronavirus variant, which also appears to be more deadly, have been reported in the US. While the US races to get Americans vaccinated in time, many experts are asking the public to hold onto precautions for just a little while longer.

The good news, Osterholm said, is that existing vaccines are very effective against the variants. The bad news is that the US may not be able to administer them fast enough to avoid another surge.

"We are not going to have enough vaccines, the way we are going, into the arms of enough Americans over the course of the next six to ten weeks with this surge that we are going to stop it," Osterholm told CNN's Erin Burnett. "It's just simply not going to happen."

And though the US is vaccinating

nearly five times faster than the global average, with 40% of adults having received at least one shot, lower income countries with limited vaccine access could become a site for variants to spin out of control, Osterholm said.

Fortunately, the US has conditions that could help combat another surge: increased vaccination rates, a significant percentage of the population having already been infected and warming weather, said Dr. Paul Offit, a member of the FDA Vaccines Advisory Committee.

Restrictions ease with increased vaccinations

The White House said Monday that there will be enough vaccines for all Americans by the end of next month, and some states have begun making plans for a return to normalcy.

In Washington, DC, Mayor Muriel Bowser is calling for residents to get vaccinated as soon as they have the chance. She is also loosening many restrictions beginning May 1, including allowing seated live entertainment indoors at 25% capacity, and recreation centers, libraries, museums and galleries and non-essential retail will be able to operate with 50% capacity indoors or outdoors.

"We know that we can expect to see some increases in cases this month,



but with vaccinations and continued safeguards we expect that later in the spring that those cases will come down," the mayor said, before reminding residents to "get vaccinated as soon as you have the opportunity."

Bowser is one of many local and state leaders to ease restrictions, though holding on to precautions is still a crucial part of the fight against the virus, Dr. Ashish Jha, Dean of

Brown University School of Public Health, told CNN's Wolf Blitzer.

"We're not there yet and the variants make it particularly concerning," Jha said. "We really do have to hunker down for a few more weeks. We are very close to the finish line but we can't stop yet."

Covid-19 cases have been on the rise for four straight weeks in part because of the spread of variants, said

Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In Michigan, the state reported its highest daily case count since November, with more than 11,000 on Monday, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. Just eight weeks ago, cases were as low as 563 in a day. And across the state, there are at least 81 new clusters in K-12 schools, according to data released by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services on Monday. In Ohio, a rise in the positivity rate has sent the state to a "back to basics, common sense" order on Covid-19 prevention, Gov. Mike DeWine said. The new, "simplified" order, which would be ready for signing by the end of Monday, includes wearing masks at most indoor locations, avoiding congregating in groups larger than 10 people and maintaining social distancing.

"It truly, truly is a race," DeWine said. "These are the things that we need to do as we move forward."

Health experts debate second dose delays

With the threat of another possible surge, health experts are debating whether to maintain the current vaccination schedule or delay second doses to ensure more Americans receive their first dose quickly.

"Right now with the surge that's about to occur, this is what we want to do right now is get as many people protected as we can so they don't get severe illnesses, hospitalizations and death," Osterholm said.

The decision to focus on first doses may depend on supply, Dr. Kent Sepkowitz, an infectious disease specialist at Memorial Sloan Kettering, told CNN on Monday.

"If the stockpile is running low, then yeah, I think we ought to optimize 'pretty good' vaccination for more people than 'super-duper' protection for fewer," Sepkowitz said.

Although a single dose does provide protection against the virus, it is still unclear how long that protection lasts, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told CNN's Elizabeth Cohen Monday.

And considering the spreading variants may diminish the effectiveness of vaccines, "you're in a tenuous zone if you don't have the full impact," Fauci said.

"So there is some merit to the arguments that are made," Fauci said. "But right now, given the number of vaccines we're able to give every day, literally every day that goes by, we get closer and closer to where we want to be." (cnn)

Deadly flooding in Indonesia and East Timor



- ▶ Torrential rains unleashed flash floods and landslides Apr 4
- ▶ Homes, bridges, roads swept away
- ▶ Scores reported dead as of Apr 6
- ▶ Difficulties remain in reaching survivors



Race to find dozens missing in deadly Indonesia, East Timor floods

Rescuers were searching for dozens of people still missing Tuesday after floods and landslides swept away villages in Indonesia and East Timor, killing at least 120 people and leaving thousands more homeless.

Torrential rains from Tropical Cyclone Seroja, one of the most destructive storms to hit the region in years, turned small communities into wastelands of mud, uprooted trees and sent around 10,000 people fleeing to shelters across the neighbouring Southeast Asian nations.

Indonesia's disaster management agency said it had recorded 86 deaths in a cluster of remote islands. In East Timor another 34 have been officially listed as dead since the disaster struck on Sunday.

Authorities revised down an initial higher death toll for Indonesia, citing miscommunication with local agencies.

But search and rescue teams there were racing to find more than 100 people still missing and were using diggers to clear mountains of debris.

The storm swept buildings in some villages down a mountainside and to the shore of the ocean on Lembata island, where several small communities have been wiped off the map.

"This area will never be inhabited again," said Lembata district official Eliyaser Yentji Sunur, referring to a flattened part of Waimatan village.

"We won't let people live here. Like it or not, they'll have to relocate." Waimatan resident Onesimus Sili said floods early Sunday destroyed his community before anyone knew what was happening.

"Around midnight, we heard a very loud rumbling sound and we thought

it was a nearby volcano erupting," he told AFP.

"By the time we realised that it was a flash flood, the houses were already gone." Authorities in both nations were scrambling to shelter evacuees.

In East Timor, wheelchair-bound Maria de Fatima Soares, 66, was among those who saw their homes vanish in an instant.

"But thank God I'm still alive," she told AFP from an evacuation centre in the capital Dili.

"I hope this all ends soon."

Covid fears

Crammed shelters have heightened fears of a spike in Covid-19 cases, as East Timor recorded its first virus death Tuesday - a 44-year-old woman.

The tiny half-island nation of 1.3 million sandwiched between Indonesia and Australia, officially known as Timor-Leste, quickly shut down its borders last year to avoid a widespread outbreak that threatened to overwhelm its creaky health care system.

"It is critical that we move quickly and carefully to prevent the spread of Covid-19 during this emergency," said Peter Goodfellow, country director for CARE International.

"If the floods cause a superspreader event, it will put a damaged and strained health care system under extraordinary pressure." Local officials in Indonesia's Lembata were bracing for its meagre health facilities to be overwhelmed as the number of injured coming from isolated villages soars.

"These evacuees fled here with just wet clothes on their backs and nothing else," said the area's deputy mayor, Thomas Ola Longaday.

"They need blankets, pillows, mattresses and tents." There was also a dire shortage of trained doctors.

"We don't have enough anaesthesiologists and surgeons, but we've been promised that help will come," Longaday said.

"Many survivors have broken bones because they were hit by rocks, logs and debris." Nearby in East Flores municipality, torrents of mud washed over homes, bridges and roads.

'Extreme weather'

Earlier images from Indonesia's search and rescue agency showed workers digging up mud-covered corpses before placing them in body bags.

Hospitals, bridges and thousands of homes were damaged or destroyed by the storm, which is now moving toward the west coast of Australia.

But Indonesia "could still see extreme weather for the next few days", said national disaster agency spokesman Raditya Jati.

Authorities were working to evacuate remote communities and provide shelter to those hit by the storm, he added.

Fatal landslides and flash floods are common across the Indonesian archipelago during the rainy season.

January saw floods hit the Indonesian town of Sumedang in West Java, killing 40 people.

And last September, at least 11 people were killed in landslides on Borneo. The disaster agency has estimated that 125 million Indonesians - nearly half of the country's population - live in areas at risk of landslides.

The disasters are often caused by deforestation, according to environmentalists. (AFP)

Foreign travel from UK could resume from May 17

U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Monday it is too soon to make a decision on foreign travel but is "hopeful" it could resume as early as May 17.

"But I do not wish to give hostages to fortune, or to underestimate the difficulties we are seeing in some of the destination countries that people might want to go to. We don't want to see the virus reimported to this country," he said at a press conference.

Johnson said a task force this week will set out a "reasonable" plan on non-essential travel abroad.

England has been in lockdown since late December as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, with international travel restricted.

Once traveling abroad is allowed, quarantine rules will depend on a "traf-

fic light system" - meaning that those traveling to countries on a "green" list will not be required to isolate upon their return to the U.K. Johnson said it was too soon to say which countries would be on which list.

The prime minister also mentioned coronavirus passports - or "Covid status certifications" - but said the government was working through "complicated, ethical and practical issues" relating to them. The documents, which are expected to state whether a person has been vaccinated, has recently tested negative for the coronavirus or has natural immunity, would likely be used for travel abroad, he added.

England's lockdown is being gradually lifted, and people are now allowed to meet outside in groups of up to six. On

Monday, the prime minister confirmed that shops, hairdressers, gyms and outdoor hospitality venues like pubs could open from April 12 as planned.

A couple of additional benchmark dates are on the horizon before all legal limits on social contact are removed, hopefully by the end of June.

"We set out our road map and we're sticking with it," Johnson stressed Monday.

However, the plan to fully reopen the economy will depend on the evolution of the pandemic, as well as on the country's vaccination program.

So far, more than 31 million people in the U.K. have received their first dose. Over 5 million people have received their second vaccine. (CNBC)

Corruption case against Israeli PM resumes

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's corruption trial resumed Monday, with a key witness painting a picture of an image-obsessed Israeli leader forcing a prominent news site to flatter his family and smear his opponents.

The testimony came as Netanyahu's chances of securing another term in office following last month's parliamentary elections appeared to be dwindling in high-stakes political talks hosted by the country's figurehead president just a few miles (kilometers) away.

In a nationally televised address, Netanyahu accused prosecutors of persecuting him in an attempt to undermine the will of the voters and to drive him out of office.

"This is what a coup attempt looks like," he said.

Taken together, the court testimony and political consultations pointed to an increasingly uphill struggle for Netanyahu as he fights for his political life.

In a post-election ritual, President Reuven Rivlin was consulting with the various parties elected to parliament before choosing a candidate to form a new government.

With both Netanyahu and his main rival, Yair Lapid, failing to gain the support of a majority of lawmakers, Rivlin faces a difficult task, and the country risks plunging into an unprecedented fifth consecutive election campaign in the coming weeks.

Late on Wednesday, Lapid called on the country's anti-Netanyahu factions - a patchwork of parties with vast ideological differences - to put aside their differences and form a unity government. He said he had even offered Naftali Bennett, leader of a small right-wing party, a power-sharing rotation, with Bennett serving first as prime minister.

"Anyone who saw Netanyahu's reckless performance today understands he can't carry on in his job," Lapid said. "We know how to bridge divides. We don't hate one another."

Netanyahu has been charged with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in three separate cases. Monday's proceedings, the first in two months, marked the beginning of the evidentiary phase, in which a long line



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

of witnesses are to take the stand against the prime minister.

The session focused on the most serious case against Netanyahu - in which he is accused of promoting regulations that delivered hundreds of millions of dollars of profits to the Bezeq telecom company in exchange for positive coverage on the firm's popular news site, Walla.

Ilan Yeshua, Walla's former chief editor, described a system in which Bezeq's owners, Shaul and Iris Elovitch, repeatedly pressured him to publish favorable things about Netanyahu and smear the prime minister's rivals.

The explanation he was given by the couple? "That's what the prime minister wanted," he said.

He said the pressure went on "for hours on end" over several years. The Elovitches, who are also defendants in the case, chose photos, headlines, word choice and other content.

Yeshua said they also ordered him to write unfavorable articles about Netanyahu's rivals, giving them pejorative nicknames. Naftali Bennett, a former Netanyahu ally turned rival, was known as "the naughty religious one," and former Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon, who is of North African descent, was called "smiley" and "the Arab."

Yeshua said he never spoke directly to Netanyahu, and that requests also came from intermediaries, including former Netanyahu aide Nir Hefez,

who has turned state's witness and is also expected to testify against the prime minister.

"It was clear that I needed to comply with Nir's requests to put up positive articles, and remove negative ones," Yeshua said.

He said his staff was furious about the pressure and one editor even nicknamed the prime minister "Kim," after the North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un.

He said Shaul Elovitch referred to Netanyahu as "the big guy," and would also show him text messages from the prime minister's son, Yair, asking for articles to be changed or taken down. At one point in the proceedings, Iris Elovitch screamed out: "How much can you lie?"

In another case, Netanyahu is accused of accepting gifts worth hundreds of thousands of dollars from wealthy associates, including Hollywood film mogul Arnon Milchan and Australian billionaire James Packer. In the third case, Netanyahu is accused of trying to orchestrate positive coverage in a major Israeli newspaper in exchange for curbing distribution of a free pro-Netanyahu tabloid. Netanyahu denies all charges.

In his televised statement, Netanyahu accused prosecutors of conducting a "witch hunt" against him.

"They didn't investigate a crime. They didn't look for a crime," he said. "They went after a man. They went after me." (POLITICO)

Soap and water "fine" for surfaces

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has updated its guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting homes and facilities to protect against COVID-19.

CDC director Dr. Rochelle Walensky announced the changes Monday, saying that science has shown that regular cleaning of surfaces with soap is enough to reduce the risk of spreading coronavirus via surface transmission.

Walensky explained that the risk of a person being infected by coronavirus through contact with contaminated surfaces and objects is low.

"Cleaning with household cleaners containing soap or detergent will physically remove germs from surfaces," Walensky described. "This process does not necessarily kill germs, but reduces the risk of infection by removing them. Disinfecting uses a chemical product, which is a process that kills the germs on the surfaces."

The CDC director added that disinfection in indoor settings, including

homes and schools, is only recommended when there's been a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case.

The CDC website now lists specific guidelines for cleaning regularly and steps for disinfecting homes, bedrooms and bathrooms when someone has COVID-19.

"The risk of surface transmission can also be reduced by wearing masks consistently and correctly, washing your hands, and by following CDC and

OSHA guidance to maintain healthy facilities," Walensky said.

According to Walensky, fogging, fumigation and wide-area or electrostatic spray isn't recommended as a primary method of disinfection and has several safety risks to consider.

She noted that you can also help reduce the risk of COVID-19 surface transmission by properly wearing a mask and washing your hands. (Kings5)





CABINET DECISIONS

Establishment of a digital store for the National Achieves.

The National Achieves is fortified with legitimate reserves of all the publications including newspapers published in Sri Lanka from the 19th century as well as invaluable achieved documents created in the Dutch and British colonial reigns since 1640 AD. This collection is swelling day by day due to the enormous heap of documents added including the digital publications and documentaries, broadcasting and telecasting, websites and electronic mails. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal submitted by the Prime Minister as the Buddha Sasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs Minister to establish a digital store adhering to international standards on digital conservation for ensuring the accountability and the authenticity of those digital documents.

Opening of Special Economic Centres in Batticaloa, Vavuniya and Jaffna.

The Special Economic Centres programme has been inaugurated to ensure direct marketing of the agricultural products of the farmers as well as to implement the price mechanism more efficiently through competition while 15 such economic centres are being implemented islandwide by now. Accordingly, construction process of Batticaloa and Vavuniya special economic zones have been completed and the construction work of the phase one of the Special Economic Centres in Jaffna has been completed by now. The Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal submitted by the Agriculture Minister for the establishment of a management trust for the administration of the respective special economic centers as well as allocating business

premises utilizing formal methodologies.

Revision of the subsidiary amounts paid for the encouragement of the cultivation of Tea.

Out of the total production of 300 million kilogrammes of tea manufactured in 2019, approximately 75% which amounts 225 million kilogrammes were manufactured by tea smallholders. The requirement of upgrading the productivity of tea smallholdings has been recognized for precisely maintaining the levels of production of Tea. Sufficient encouragement should have to be rendered to accomplish the production target of 360 million tons of Tea by the year 2025, since the attention paid on re-planting and newly planting of tea are insufficient due to spending around 04 years for generating income

from a re-planted cultivation and the cost in regard is of higher position. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution submitted by the Plantations Minister for increasing the tea re-planting subsidiary and newly planting subsidiary from Rs. 400,000 to Rs. 500,000 per hectare.

Accelerated Procurement

Methodology for implementing the Projects included in 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan of the National Water Supply and Drainage Board Implementation of water and sewerage projects included in the consolidated plan 2020-2025 was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers on January 11, 2021. Through the implementation of the proposed projects, it has been planned to meet the drinking water requirement of 78.8% of the households in the island by 2025. To achieve this target, it is planned to supply and install approximately 40,000 km of transmission and distribution pipelines and increase the current production capacity by 2.35 million cubic meters per day. As a result of the complexity in the water sector projects, it has been found that the procurement process of the National Water Supply and Drainage Board is

slower than the other institutions. Therefore, the cabinet of ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Water Supply to procure plumbing and fittings under a centralized system and to introduce a unit price system.

Awarding contracts for supply of food items to the Prisons Department for 2021-2022.

National competitive bids have been called for the supply of food items to the Department of Prison. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Justice Minister to provide food items to the Prison Department from 16.04.2021 to 15.04.2022 in accordance with the recommendation of the Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee.

Repealing the Tourism Act No.38 of 2005 and imposing a new Tourism Act.

According to the provisions of the Tourism Act No.38 of 2005, the entire tourism sector has been divided into four major institutions as the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau, Sri Lanka Federation Bureau and the Sri

Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management. However, it has been seen the occurrence of the adverse effects such as coordinating issues and resource wastage due to the dividing of the entire tourism sector into four institutions. The Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal tabled by the Tourism Minister to repeal the Tourism Act No.38 of 2005 and to draft the Bill to impose a new Tourism Act to ensure the sustainable development of the Tourism Industry and thereby to establish a new authority as "Sri Lanka Tourism Authority" by confederating the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau and Sri Lanka Federation Bureau.

Extension of the validity period further to open Special Deposit Accounts under the Foreign Exchange Act No. 12 of 2017.

The relevant orders have been issued under the Foreign Exchange Act No. 12 of 2017 to allow the provisions to open a special deposit account which effect from April, 2020 with a view to attract the remittance of foreign currency into the country. As well as the

Cabinet of Ministers have approved to pay an additional interest with a view retain the prevailing deposits of the said accounts further. Accordingly, as at March, 2021, total deposits in the said accounts amounted to US Dollar 360.3 Million. The validity period for opening the said special deposit accounts is due in April, 2021. The Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal tabled by honorable Prime Minister as Finance Minister to extend the validity period and to issue orders in accordance with the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Act to encourage the parties who wish to deposit money further.

Purchasing another six million doses of 'Sputnik V' Vaccine

The Cabinet of Ministers on March 23, 2021 decided to purchase 7 Million doses of 'Sputnik V' vaccine at a cost of US Dollar 9.95 each to a sum of USD 69.65 Million on the recommendation of the Cabinet Appointed Negotiation Committee. The Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal made by the Health Minister to purchase another 6 million doses of the 'Sputnik V' Vaccine at the same price in addition to the same number of vaccines.

UNFPA - HelpAge conduct programme to assist elders in South

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and HelpAge Sri Lanka (HASL) recently launched a series of training programmes for elderly citizens in the Southern Province on important precautionary measures that should be taken during emergency situations.

The main objective of the programme is to focus attention towards strengthening the disaster preparedness capacity of elderly citizens and also the building capacities of Senior Citizen Committees (SCC) in these vulnerable areas that are prone to natural disasters.

The UNFPA and HelpAge visited Welivita, Divithura, Niyagama, Thiha

goda and Mulatiyana in the Southern Province to train personnel on important rescue operations and first aid treatment that should be carried out during emergencies such as flood situations, heavy rains, earth slips and thunder storms.

At least 200 members in elder societies, 160 representatives of voluntary organizations and also 160 government officials participated in the three-month training programme conducted with the assistance of four heads in the respective Divisional Secretariats.

HelpAge, Programme Manager Chaminda De Silva demonstrated to participating officials how to rescue

victims during floods and emergencies in areas where elders live.

HelpAge Executive Director Samantha Liyanawaduge said HelpAge Sri Lanka has been at the forefront of creating a better safer environment for Sri Lankan elders by implementing many social service programmes and projects. He said under this project needy elders will be provided with wheel chairs, walkers, beds and first aid boxes with medicines that can be used during disaster situations. "Our flagship programme is to perform cataract surgeries for underprivileged elderly citizens free of charge at HelpAge Eye Hospital at Sinsapa Road in Wellawatte, Colombo 6," he added.

TRAINING PROGRAMME



A three day free introductory training programme on the latest knowledge and technology used for basic dental implants for dentists and nurses in the Batticaloa district sponsored by Oram, a leading pharmaceutical company was held at the East Lagoon Hotel, Batticaloa recently. Dental Analyst and surgeon Dr. Vijayanayham Tudiwaran participated as the main resource person. Jabir Sally, Chairman of Oram Group, Managing Director Mushtaq Jabir also took part. A group picture of the participants.



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE AND INQUIRE INTO THE VARIOUS ALLEGATIONS AND ALLEGED CORRUPTIONS IN SRI LANKA CUSTOMS

His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, in pursuance of the Provisions of Section 2 of the Commission of Inquiry Act (Chapter 393) by Extraordinary Gazette No 2216/14 - February 24, 2021 has appointed the above Commission to investigate and inquire into, the various allegations and alleged corruptions in Sri Lanka Customs and report on the following:

- Study the existing structure, systems and procedures to learn lessons, identify shortcomings (administration and technical) and recommend measures to prevent alleged corrupt practices in Sri Lanka Customs.
- Harmonizing of BOI and Custom arrangements to ensure maximum trade facilitation having taken into account security, quarantine laws, etc.
- Review existing bonded warehouse facilities, their logistics and streamlining their operations through a well-integrated IT system.
- Review multiple tariff rates used in Revenue Protection Order (RPO).
- Review all in-house studies carried out by Department of Customs.
- Review all proposals submitted by Custom's Unions.
- Modernize Customs administration through automation.
- Strengthen risk assessment through ASYCUDA system.
- Strengthen the management of Customs through implementing international best practices in Human Resources.
- Review Rewards Systems implemented by Customs and the effectiveness in managing Customs intelligence in order to ensure government revenue, the economy, national security and health standards are protected.
- Review inter-agency transactions with Banks, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, Department of Inland Revenue, Department of Motor Traffic, Department of Excise, Department of Import and Export Control, Foreign Exchange and Regulatory Institutions.
- Recommend short term actions to be taken immediately, as well as medium and long term institutional reforms to prevent corrupt practices, irregularities and abuse of administrative power to put, Sri Lanka Customs as the best in the region.

The Commission hereby invites any person or organization to submit written representations or information or any other material which relates to the above for the Commission to inquire. Any representation or statement of whatsoever which relates to factual matters should be supported by affidavit where possible. Such representations can be made in Sinhala, Tamil or English language, in respect of all or any of the above matters referred to in the above paragraphs.

All such representations should reach the Secretary to the Presidential Commission at the address given below on or before 30th April 2021 preferably under registered cover.

All such representations should clearly state the name, address, contact telephone number and the e-mail address of such representative or informant.

The Commission, after examining the written representations received, may invite any person, persons or organization to give oral evidence where oral representation is warranted. Dates to give oral evidence will be duly notified.

Witnesses who give evidence before the Commission shall be entitled to the privilege of witnesses as provided for in the Commissions of Inquiry Act No.17 of 1948 as amended and the rights and entitlements of victims of crime and witnesses as provided for in the Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act No.4 of 2015 as amended.

By Order of the Commission

Secretary to the Commission

04th April 2021

ALL WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO:

Secretary,
(Presidential Commission of Inquiry to Investigate and Inquire into the various allegations and alleged corruptions in Sri Lanka Customs)
4-209A, Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, Bauddhaloka Mawatha,
Colombo 07.
T.P: 011 269 1767 Fax: 011 269 1767
Email: pcicustoms@presidentsoffice.lk



22nd General Convocation of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka



The 22nd General Convocation of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka was held on 2nd and 10th March 2021 at Prof. J.W. Dayananda Somasundara Auditorium of Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages. Prof. Jayantha Lal Ratnasekara, Chairman of the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Directors (CVCD) and the Vice Chancellor of the Uwa Wellassa University of Sri Lanka was the Chief Guest of this occasion. K.L.A Ranasinghe Silva, former Survey General of Sri Lanka was the Guest of Honor.



Dinesh Kumara the dazzling winger

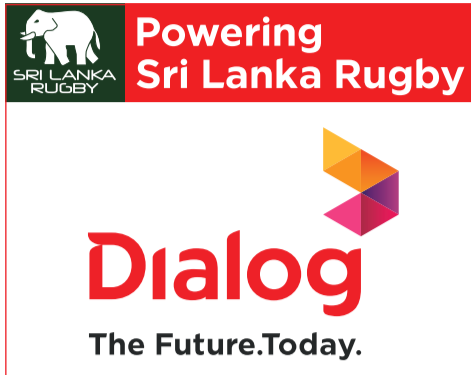
ALTHAF NAWAZ

Some sportsmen who had an illustrious sporting career started from under privileged schools. Due to their natural capabilities, they managed to secure a place with a school in the top tier to mature in their respective sporting discipline on par with the academic studies. Dinesh Kumara faced similar circumstances starting with a school closer to his residence and later enrolled in a prominent school to emerge as a quality rugby player ending up donning the National jersey.

Dinesh Kumara was born in 1983 in Maradana and his father was late Sunil Welikage a businessman and mother Asuntha Nirmali was a housewife. He had three other siblings with two elder brothers Irantha played Rugby for CH and FC and Kasun is a businessman. Imanka, his younger sister, is a housewife. Dinesh started his schooling with Sangaraja Maha Vidyalaya in Maradana from 1991 to 1997. He then moved to Isipathana College, Colombo to pursue higher studies from 1998 to 2002. He was initially known for his performance in cricket. However, he started playing rugby because of his brother (Irantha). At the time he represented CH and FC, he used to play touch rugby with his brothers and friends. One of his close friends Harim Peiris was instrumental in teaching him the basics of rugby. While witnessing him playing, another close friend, Achalanga Ayagama, took him to school inter house rugby practices in 1999. This was the beginning of his journey in his rugby career. At college with the guidance of Maxi Dias he got selected to the school to represent the under-17 rugby team in 1999 coached by Sudath Sampath which won the league championship and became runner-up in the All Island tournament. He made his debut for Isipathana first XV team against Wesley College in his pet position of winger. He played 2001 season for Isipathana team and that team became the school's knockout champions under Ranga Perera



coached by Bimal Perera'. by beating the Peterites in the final He was a member of the school's team which won the 'Prime Ministers Trophy Championship' in 2002 under Sanath Martis coaching. They also were runner-up in the Inter school sevens championship under the same coach. He played for Isipathana at the International Sevens held in Sri Lanka under the same coach in the same year. He finally represented the Junior National rugby team on the tour of Japan. In 2000, Isipathana became the Plate Champions in the 10-a-side 'B' team under coach Tony Amit. Soon after his school rugby career he joined CH and FC rugby team in 2003 under the captaincy of Milinda Jayasinghe. He was a part of the CH team that beat Kandy SC on their home ground. Both teams had equal points at the end of the league points table but Kandy won the championship with a bonus point making CH runners up. He emerged as the highest try scorer for CH with his dazzling runs on the wing. He was another player who shifted clubs due to various reasons. He



represented CH and FC from 2002 to 2005 coached by Graham Raux. Represented CR and FC from 2005 to 2009 under the coaching of Grant Dwyer, Laga and John Carrington. Represented Kandy in the 2010 season which emerged the League and Knock out champions in 2010 and 2011 coached by John Carrington. Finally concluded his club career with Havelocks who emerged Club League Champions in 2012 coached by Laga.

In 2002, he went to see the Sri Lanka National sevens selection trials with his friends to CR and FC grounds. He was seated near the fence with them watching the trials and Sri Lanka national coach at the time was Asanga Seneviratne. He asked him why he is not practicing. When he told him that he had just come there to witness the trials, Asanga responded saying he was selected to the squad and to come soon with his practice kit. Dinesh was a bit nervous but walked to the ground and saw the cream of

National players like Sajith Mallikarachi, Radhika Hettiarachchi, Sumedha Jayasinghe, Lakala Perera, Leonard de Zilwa and Indrajith Bandaranayake were present. Eventually, he never thought he would get the privilege to play with these top players. He finally went for practices with the confidence placed in him. He managed to score around seven tries by the end of the trials. After a few days, he

was included in the National rugby squad where his National rugby journey kick started in 2002.

He turned out to be a regular member of Sri Lanka XV-a-side rugby team from 2002 to 2009 coached by late George Simpkin, Laga, Bob Yule, John Carrington and Phil Greening. He was also a member of Sri Lanka sevens rugby team from 2002 to 2008 coached by Asanga Seneviratne, Imthi Marrikar, Chandrisha Perera, Ben Collins and Hisham Abdeen. He was a member of the MAS Holdings rugby team from 2006 to 2014, where he captained the first ever cup winning team for MAS in 2010 at the Mercantile Rugby Sevens.

After he hung up his boots he was the conditioning and assistant coach of CH and FC in the 2020/21 season. He also served as the Strength and Conditioning coach of St. Joseph's College, Colombo, who emerged Milo Knockout Champions in 2017 for the first time in their college history. Served as assistant coach of the 15-a-side Rugby team of CH and FC from 2018 to 2019. Coach of the CH and FC Rugby team who emerged overall champions of the Inter-Club Sevens in 2019. Served as Strength and Conditioning Coach of several schools, clubs, Mercantile Organizations and the National teams in various age groups bringing in immense success commencing from 2016.

He has been in the Personal Training (land training) business for the past three years where he specializes mainly in injury prevention. He was the Strength and Conditioning Coach and Backs Coach of the Sri Lanka Police Rugby team in 2014. He was the strength and conditioning coach of the Nalanda College, Colombo swimming team who emerged all island champions in 2009. His wife is Madhavi Samaraweera and two children are Dulane and Thisavi Welikala.

The second Sri Lanka Youth Girls (Under 14) Chess Grand Prix 2021

Dahamdi and Esha take the lead



Dahamdi Sanudula
(Musaeus College)

Esha Pallie
(Visakha Vidyalaya)

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Dahamdi Sanudula (Musaeus College) of Group X and Esha Pallie (Visakha Vidyalaya) of Group Y took the lead after the sixth round of the second Sri Lanka Youth Girls Chess Grand Prix 2021 - Round Robin Events at Chess Federation of Sri Lanka Headquarters, yesterday. Dahamdi beat Dehansa Sandanayake and Yasasi Abeysekara in Group X while Esha beat Chanindi Attanayake and Oneli Weerawardena in Group Y, both in fifth and sixth round games respectively to continue their lead with six points out of six games.

The prestigious second SL Youth Girls Chess Grand Prix 2021 is being held from 2nd to 10th April 2021 with 18 leading Girls Under 14 Years Chess players taking part.

The Chess Federation of Sri Lanka is offering Rs. 55,000 as the cash awards for the event. All games are live broadcasted. The CFSL is planning to arrange live streaming of the event from time to time and the links will be notified accordingly.

Nemindi Ramanayake of Bandaranyake Central College, Veyangoda is with five points in Group Y after she scored a win against Samsi

Sithumsa in the sixth round and received the bye in the fifth round. It was not a good day for the second seed Dehansa Sandanayake of St. Paul's Girls School since she had only a draw with Tharuli Ranganath out of two games. She is in the third spot in Group X sharing 4 points with Yasasi Abeysekara (Sujatha Vidyalaya, Matara) and Tharuli Ranganath (Yoshida International School).

Oneli Vithanawasam of Lyceum International School, Wattala and Oneli Weerawardena of Lyceum International Ratnapura are sharing the second spot in Group Y with 4 1/2 points each where both of them lost to Esha Pallie, the leader and drew with each other.

The last three rounds will be held on Friday, the 9th of April 2021 evening at 3.30 p.m and Saturday, the 10th of April 2021 there will be two games. Then the top four players in Group X and Y will play a knock out rounds of Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Finals to end the event as FIDE world cup format of two classical games, Two Rapid Games and two Blitz games with alternative colours and a sudden death format game to end if all earlier systems are equal.

Sri Lankan Olympic stars of yesteryear

Athlete Ethirveerasingam was a revolutionary in the high jump event

Nagalingam Ethirveerasingam is another Sri Lankan athlete who had the rare opportunity of participating in two Olympics in 1952 and in 1956.

He was also an athlete who reached great heights through his own efforts. Several champion athletes were making a strong bid to shatter the public schools high jump record at the Public Schools Athletics Meet in 1940. The existing record had been established by V. G. George of Jaffna College clearing a height of 6 feet 0.1/8 inches.

At this time a young boy about 12 years of age was practicing the high jump using his self-made high jump equipment in the cool shades of palmyrah trees in North Ceylon.

None would have anticipated

this boy who daily cleared a height of over four feet would be a superstar in the years to come. This young boy entered competition shattering the junior high jump record at the Public Schools Athletics meet in 1946.

He then cleared six feet and three inches and shattered the 12-year record of V. G. George. He proved himself once again by shattering the Ceylon Record clearing six feet and four inches at the National Championships held in 1952 at the P. Sara Oval.

The same year he participated in the Invitation Sports Festival held in Pakistan and shattered the Pakistani record. By this time Ethirveerasingam was a student of the Central College, Jaffna.

These victories enabled Ethirveerasingam to qualify for the



Nagalingam Ethirveerasingam

Helsinki Olympics in 1952. He was the youngest member of the Sri Lankan Team to participate

in the Olympics. In 1954, at the second Asian Games held in the Philippines, he cleared six feet and four inches. This was equalled by four athletes and Ethirveerasingam was placed fourth.

However, Ethirveerasingam was not discouraged and he continued to practice hard. In 1955, he left Jaffna Central College and entered St. Joseph's College, Colombo with a view to improving his athletic skills.

Under the guidance, of Duncan White, P. E. Rajendra and Anthony Abeyasinghe he changed the style from the usual Western roll to the straddle jump.

At the athletic meet of St. Joseph's College held in the same year he cleared a height of six feet and seven inches.

Although he participated at the Melbourne Olympic Games he was not placed. He came for these games from the USA where he was engaged in studies.

In view of his success in the high jump, he was voted as the Sports Star in 1956 polling 79,894 votes.

At the third Asian Games held in Tokyo, Japan in 1958, he won the Gold Medal while establishing a new Asian record of six feet and 7.7/8 inches.

This was the first time that Sri Lanka won a Gold Medal at the Asian Games in 1962.

Ethirveerasingam was a revolutionary in the field of athletics and his National record of six feet and 6 1/2 inches remained unbroken till 1989.

(C.D)

Rajans win by four wickets

UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA

Kandy Sports special Corr
Dharmaraja College, Kandy beat St. Aloysius College, Galle by four wickets in their 50 over Tournament Cricket match concluded at Lake View Grounds, Kandy recently.

Dharmaraja Skipper Upendra Warnakulasuriya helped his school to a great victory by bagging five wickets for 13 Runs. Shanuka Nikeshala of St. Aloysius scored 42 runs as the highest score for his school.

St. Aloysius College

139 all out in 38.4 overs. Dulmina Dasun 21, Archana Udugampola 30, Shanuka Nikeshala 42, Omil Sajith 24 (Upendra Warnakulasuriya 5 for 13, Sahan Siriwardena 3 for 20.)

Dharmaraja College
146 for 6 wickets in 44 overs. Malith Hapurarachchi 30, Ulindu Perera 31, Sahan Siriwardena 36 not out (Archana Udugampola 2 for 19, Sandun Madhusanka 2 for 32)

Krishani Hiruni Maduwanthi a promising volleyball player



The DSI District Volleyball Runners Up 2019 Wekada Maha Vidyalaya Dankotuwa players posed for a photograph after the finals. Seated L/R - Kavaya Gihani, Dahamdi Thisathma Lakmali, Krishani Hiruni Maduwanthi, Maleesha Sandeepani Rathnaweera, Saman Bandara (Prefect of Games and Coach), Nethmi Heshani Samarawila, Sanjana Nethmi, Dewmini Lakshani Shehara, Imesha Madushani (Picture by - Dilwin Mendis Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent)

DILWIN MENDIS

Moratuwa Sports Special Corr

Fifteen year old up and coming volleyball player Krishani Hiruni Maduwanthi has brought honour and fame to her school Wekada Maha Vidyalaya Dankotuwa. She was born on 1st August 2005 and she was admitted to the Primary School of Wekada Vidyalaya in January 2011 when Mrs. Jessica was the Principal and her first class teacher was Mrs. Kusum.

When Krishani was in Grade Three to Five she did athletics at the Inter House Sports Meets and her events were 50 and 100 metres and with the blessings of her parents W. P. Radhu and Nirosha Priyadarshani she commenced volleyball in 2016 and came

under her school coach Saman Bandara and participated in the Inter House Volleyball Competitions and excelled. But they did not go for Divisional and Zonal Tournaments in that year.

In 2017 it was the same pattern and in 2018 after the school tournament they participated in the Divisional tournament and came second but could not come up to expectations in the Zonal Tournament and in the following year they won the Divisional and Zonal and in the DSI District Tournament they clinched the second place and finally in 2020 DSI District Tournament they came up to Best Eight She is well supported by her Principal. Wasantha and her coach Saman Bandara.



Krishani Maduwanthi

Udeshika Madhumali a fine sportswoman

UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA

Kandy Sports Special Corr

Udeshika Madhumali, an old girl of Mahamaya Girls School, Kandy is an athlete, netball player, cricketer and karateka and she was at the school from the year 2005 to 2019. Solidly built Madhumali started her career as a Karateka in 2008 when she was a student of the grade four class and her coach was Aruna de Zoysa. After some years of training she became a Brown Belt in Karate and continued the game till she received the Black Belt in Karate. As an Athlete she won the Shot Putt and Discus throw events for a number of years at school level. Udeshika was a talented Net-

ball player who played the game under two teachers of the school, Ms. Thisera and Pradeepa. She played as the Goal Keeper and her team mates were Pubudu Marasinghe, Ruvinya Malporu, and Thiroshi Pathirana to name a few. She was played netball from the year 2008 to 2015 and during this period Mahamaya became Central Province runners-up on many occasions. She played cricket under the coaching of the writer assisted by E.M.U. Chandrathilake, a veteran cricket coach in 2016 and as a batswoman and a right arm medium pace bowler she helped the cricket team of Mahamaya to become champions in many

tournaments. Udeshika participated at the Kandy District Cricket tournament from 2017 to 2020 organised by the Education Department, of Kandy District and as an attacking batswoman she scored two half centuries at the hard ball cricket tournament held in 2017 by the Sri Lanka Womens Cricket Association

As a Bowler Udeshika showed her class and claimed three wickets in a match and continued her fine form in the other two cricket matches by claiming three wickets against St. Anthony's Girls School and four wickets against Wategama Maha Vidyalaya in 2018. In the same year she was appointed as the



Udeshika Madhumali.
(Picture by Upananda Jayasundera)

captain of Hard Ball cricket team and she led the team successfully in many tournaments.

She left School in 2019 but she is continuing her sports career and in cricket she has joined the Cricket and Athletic Academy of Kandy district and takes part in karate, athletics and netball.

Elite Taekwondo Club wins 20 medals

SHERIFDEEN AMATH

Elite Taekwondo Club won a total of 20 medals including six gold, four silver and 10 bronze at the Korean Ambassadors' Taekwondo Cup and N. Fernando Memorial Cup recently.

The Medal Winners are as follows:

Yulani Serasinghe - Visakha Vidyalaya, Colombo (Gold Medal and two Bronze Medals), Linuk Wijesinghe - St. Joseph's College, Colombo (Gold Medal and Bronze Medal), Senidu Wijayarathne - Sri Dharmaloka College, Kelaniya (Gold Medal and Silver Medal), Iran Wijendra (Gold Medal), Venuki Fernando - Holy Family Convent,



Chief Instructor Asitha Wickramatunga (Right) 5th Dan Black Belt in Taekwondo (South Korea) plus a National Referee with Assistant Instructor Asanga Wickramatunga (Left) of Elite Taekwondo Club.

Bambalapitiya (Gold Medal), Viduni Methaya - Raddolugama Primary School (Gold), Lineli Wijesinghe - St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo (Silver and Bronze), Shayana Hettiwatte - St. Bridget's Convent,

Colombo (Silver), Kenul Serasinghe - Ananda College, Colombo (two Bronze), Punari Serasinghe - Musaeus College, Colombo (Bronze), Oshadi Wijayarathne - Sri Dharmaloka College, Kelaniya

(Bronze), Deyon Fernando - Maris Stella College, Negombo (Bronze), Sheyon Fernando - Maris Stella College, Negombo (Bronze) and Modana Widanarachchi (Bronze).

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WORLD OF SPORTS

(APRIL 7) LOCAL EVENTS CRICKET

(Inter-Schools U-19 Tournament):
Royal vs D. S. Senanayake at Reid Avenue
(Major Club Limited Over Tournament quarter-finals):
Badureliya CC vs Moors SC at Moratuwa
Ragama CC vs Tamil Union at Katunayake
NCC vs Navy SC at Colts Grounds
SSC vs Army CC at P. Sara Oval

TENNIS

Clay Court Nationals at SLTA Courts, Green Path

FOREIGN EVENTS CRICKET

South Africa vs Pakistan (3rd ODI) at Centurion
New Zealand Women vs Australia Women (2nd ODI) at Tauranga

TENNIS

(WTA, Outdoor, Clay):
Volvo Car Open at Volvo Tennis Centre, USA

FOOTBALL

(Champions League quarter-finals):
Bayern Munich vs Paris Saint Germain FC
Porto vs Chelsea (Spanish League):
Real Sociedad vs Athletic Bilbao

CYCLING

(UCI World Tour):
Itzulia Basque Country in Spain



Mahela Udawatte (Moors SC) is the highest run-getter

SSC-Army clash pick of the quarter-finals today

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

The clash between Army CC and the SSC at the P. Sara Oval will be the pick of the quarter-final matches of the SLC Major Club Limited Over Cricket Tournament, which will be worked off in Colombo today.

The two teams in fact will revive their rivalry once again as they earlier met in the SLC Twenty20 Tournament final this season where the SSC triumphed by 29 runs at the SSC Grounds.

Meanwhile, Group 'A' leaders Badureliya CC will meet Moors SC at Moratuwa and the unbeaten Ragama CC will take

on the Tamil Union at Katunayake.

In addition, NCC who are also unbeaten in Group 'C' will play against Navy SC at the Colts Grounds.

The significant feature in this year's tournament is that both the defending champions CCC and the last year runners-up Chilaw Marians CC out of the quarter-finals.

Meanwhile, Mahela Udawatte of Moors SC is the highest run-getter of the tournament with an aggregate of 351 runs which includes one century and three half-centuries.

SSC's Charith Asalanka

is in second place with 348 runs with two centuries to his credit while maintaining an average of 87.00.

Army SC all-rounder Himasha Liyanage is in third place with an aggregate of 336 runs while Ragama CC's Janith Liyanage is in fourth place with 323 runs.

In the bowling department, Moors SC leg-spinner Praveen Jayawickrama and Saracens SC's left-arm paceman Chaminda Bandara have captured 15 wickets each in six matches.

However, Jayawickrama is on top of the list with a superior average. Ragama

CC's Binura Fernando and Army SC off-spinner Dushan Vimukthi with 14 wickets each are placed third and fourth respectively.

Meanwhile, BRC's off-spinner Umeshka Morais has the best figures of seven for 46 against Bloomfield while Charith Asalanka has the highest individual score of 178 not out against Police SC.

The quarter-final line-up:

Badureliya CC vs Moors SC at Moratuwa, Ragama CC vs Tamil Union at Katunayake, NCC vs Navy SC at Colts Grounds and SSC vs Army CC at P. Sara Oval.



Chaminda Bandara (Saracens SC) has captured 15 wickets (Pix courtesy SLC)

AROSHANA SPINS Dharmasoka to victory

Leg-spinner Aroshana de Soya had impressive figures of eight for 36 as Dharmasoka College, Ambalangoda recorded an easy 10-wicket win over St. Benedict's College in their Inter-Schools Under-19 traditional cricket fixture, which concluded at Kotahena yesterday.

Aroshana who captured three wickets for three runs in first innings, finished with a matchbag of 11 for 39.

The Benedictians who were bowled out for 62



Aroshana de Soya (Dharmasoka)

runs in the first innings, once again struggled in their second innings and were shot out for 88 runs.

Hasindu Kaviratne top scored with 35 runs to help St. Benedict's avoid an innings defeat but the Dharmasoka openers Sanula Sameen (13) and Kavin Samarawansa (21) reached their target in eight overs to complete victory before lunch. (D.R)

Chief scores
St. Benedict's: 62 and 88 (Hasindu Kaviratne 35, Aroshana de Soya 8/36)
Dharmasoka: 119 and 36/0.

St. Sylvester's win last-over THRILLER

HAFIZ MARIKAR

St. Sylvester's College defeated St. Servatius' College, Matara by three wickets in their Inter-Schools Under-19 Limited Over Cricket Tournament match played at the Uyanwatta Stadium in Matara yesterday.

St. Servatius' batting first made 251 for seven in their 50 overs but the Sylvestrians reached their target in 49.4 overs, thanks to a fine century from Malith Lakshan.

Chief scores

St. Servatius': 251/7 in 50 overs (Dinura Abeyawickremasinghe 138, Kushan Wijerama 39 n.o., Akila Nimsara 3/30)

St. Sylvester's: 252/7 in 49.4 overs (Malith Lakshan 105, Sadeepa Halangoda 39, Imsha Deshan 30, Charith Samuditha 23, Kushan Wijerama 2/28).

Ex-England keeper Taylor returns for HUNDRED

LONDON: Former England wicket-keeper Sarah Taylor is to return to professional cricket in the Hundred after putting her career on hold due to anxiety issues. Taylor, who will play for the Welsh Fire, took up coaching positions after announcing her international retirement in September 2019.

The 100 balls-per-side franchise tournament was meant to have been launched last year but was delayed by the Coronavirus pandemic.

All eight franchises will feature both Men's and Women's teams, with the two competitions running side by side.

"The coaching is the future for me but a little bit of testing the waters - am I good enough, have I still got what it takes? I don't really feel like I've got much to lose by playing, I just get to enjoy myself," said Taylor.

"I could have the worst tournament in the world but I know that I will probably love every minute. Having my full-time job now, it's my gronder, my feet are firmly on the ground. I can now enjoy my cricket." - AFP

METHSANDI ADVANCE to U-18 fourth round

Dahamna Methsandi produced a splendid performance to reach the fourth round of the Girls' Under-18 Singles of the HNB-Hutch Clay Court Tennis Nationals, which continued at the SLTA Courts in Green Path yesterday.

Methsandi took the opening set 6-1 but came under tremendous pressure before she snatched a 7-5 win over Nilasi de Silva in a third round encounter.

The results:

Girls' Under-18 Singles third round: Saajida Razick beat N. Vivekanandan 6-0, 6-1. Dahamna Methsandi beat Nilasi de Silva 6-1, 7-5. Nelani Jayasuriya beat Pasadni Weerasekera 6-0, 6-0.

Zeenath Zihar beat A. Vairavanathan 6-1, 6-0. Vishmi Serasinghe beat Oneli Perere 6-2, 6-2. (C.D)



Dahamna Methsandi in action

ANTONIANS CRUISE to three-wicket win against Maliyadeva

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

St. Anthony's College Kandy notched up a three-wicket win over Maliyadeva College, Kurunegala in their Under-19 Limited Over Cricket Tournament fixture played at Kurunegala yesterday.

Maliyadeva scored 195 for nine in their 50 overs and St. Anthony's reached their target in 47.1 overs.

Chief scores
At Kurunegala (St. Anthony's won by three wickets)

Maliyadeva: 195/9 in 50 overs (Risi Adisthan 56, Cha-

luka Atapattu 57 n.o, Yasiru Gamarachchi 3/24)

St. Anthony's: 196/7 in 47.1 overs (Lahiru Abeysinghe 47).

At Kalutara (Sri Sumangala won by 36 runs)

Sri Sumangala: 201 in 47.5 overs (Duranka Silva 44, Charuka Jayathilleka 55, Udan Tejaka 4/35)

Kalutara Vidyalaya: 165 in 44.2 overs (Vidusha Peiris 4/36).

At Kotte (President's College, Kotte won by 87 runs)

President's College: 284 in 48.5 overs (Dinal Indu-

wara 50, Chamod Ashan 55, Heshan Shanaka 54, Gimshan Samaranyake 4/38, Lahiru Dedigama 3/57)

Dudley Senanayake CC: 197 in 37.5 overs (Asanka Sandaruwan 54, Yuneth Vindiya 3/14).

At Ambalangoda (Siri Piyarathna MMV won by five wickets)

Sri Devananda: 111 in 32.5 overs (Tharindu Chamodya 3/7, Madushan Peiris 3/16)

Siri Piyarathana MMV: 113/5 in 21.5 overs.

At Kirindiwela (Henegama Central won by six runs)

Henegama Central: 168 in 35 overs (Ashan Rajapaksa 50, Viraj Sandaruwan 4/42, Sanudha Bandara 3/47)

Kegalu Vidyalaya: 162 in 46.2 overs (Pulasthi Atapattu 64, Vibuthi Priyan 4/28).

At Ja-Ela (Christ the King College won by 24 runs)

Christ the King College: 146 in 39.5 overs (Sashan Rushmika 36, Kusal Gunawardena 6/26)

Asoka Vidyalaya: 122 in 29.4 overs (Binura Ranasinghe 48, Krishan Rajkumar 3/25).

KOREAN AMBASSADOR felicitates runner-up of Diplomatic Cricket Tournery

Korea Ambassador Santhush Woonjin JEONG felicitated the first runner-up of the Diplomatic Cricket Tournament 2021, at the Ambassador's residence in Colombo recently.

The Korean Embassy participated in the Diplomatic Cricket Tournament held at the Chandra De Silva Grounds in Obeysekarapura.

H. G. V. Sameera from the Korean Embassy spearheaded the South Asian Team as Captain. The South Asian Team including staff members P. D. S Fernando, W. D. J. Silva and P. K. Sugath of the Korean Embassy clinched the Trophy for the first runner-up in the entire tournament.

Team South Asia played exceptionally well winning



Korea Ambassador Santhush Woonjin JEONG presenting the Trophy to the Captain of the team

four out of five matches and it was a display of collective excellence.

Ambassador Santhush Woonjin Jeong expressed his thankfulness to all staff mem-

bers of the Korean Embassy including the security and administrative workers for their hard work and tireless efforts during the covid-19 pandemic.

The Ambassador stated that he appreciated the staff members who won the runner-up trophy and contributed to fostering friendly Korea-Sri Lanka ties.

Ensuring an 'INCIDENT-FREE' IPL top priority - BCCI

Shabir Hussein Shekhdam Khandwawala, the newly-appointed Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) Head of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said ensuring an incident-free Indian Premier League (IPL) is his top priority.

Khandwawala is a former DGP of Gujarat and he takes charge just days ahead of the IPL.

"The immediate challenge (for me) is to ensure that the IPL (starting on Friday), is incident-free. This job is like it is between the criminals and police. Through technology, these criminals are evolving and changing their strategies," he told yesterday.

"We have to compete with



The IPL Trophy

that. It is a struggle, but I think we will be able to meet our goals with the help

of the BCCI officials. I have found that the BCCI officials are committed and

they always like to give a free hand to their officers. The BCCI is committed to curb and eradicate corruption and we have to ensure that."

With bio-secure bubbles and protocols, the task of the ACU sleuths has become difficult, but Khandwawala said he has devised methods to address the issues.

"Because of the bio-bubble, there are constraints, we cannot meet and talk to the players but every team has a Team Integrity Officer and we will deal with the teams and players through our TIMS. We will have presentations made to the teams. We have also opened channels for communication." (Agencies)

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More Chinese payments applications in Lanka

Lanka benefits from long-term partnership with China - Cabraal

DINESH PERERA
State Minister of Capital Markets Ajith Nivard Cabraal noted that Sri Lanka has benefited over the long term with strong relations with the Chinese government.

Cabraal noted the importance of Chinese investments to the local economy and would look to remove any impediments to Chinese projects. The Chinese Central Bank has recently concluded a currency swap with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and Cabraal was confident of future arrangements if the need arose.



State Minister
Ajith Nivard Cabraal

Cabraal was of the view that Chinese President Xi Jinping's vision for the Belt and Road Initiative was 'congruence' with the Sri Lankan President's vision of 'Prosperity for the future.'

Cabraal was speaking on April 6 on the webinar 'Maximizing Trade Opportunities with China' organized by the Bank of China and the Federation of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Cabraal cited Chinese investment into Port and Highway infrastructure as being integral to the future growth story of the economy of Sri Lanka.



SDB BANK PARTNERS SAPP, IFAD AND MILCO | PAGE 25

Israeli-Lankan flights on the radar

Sri Lanka and Israel have agreed to launch direct air services between Israel and Sri Lanka. This is on a directive from Minister of Tourism Prasanna Ranatunge. It is expected that between 2,000-5,000 Israeli tourists will visit Sri Lanka during the May to September season. Russia's Aeroflot, Air Arabia, FlyDubai, India's Vistara and Jazeera Airlines are also discussing potential launches of direct air services to Sri Lanka. Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak (2019-2020) 25 airlines operated direct flights to Sri Lanka. The Airports Aviation Authority has opened both international airports in Colombo and Mattala for international traffic.

Regulatory fixes sought for legislative rigidity in capital markets

DINESH PERERA



CSE Director
Jayantha Fernando

The Colombo Stock Exchange and Securities and Exchange Commission are looking for regulatory fixes to legislative issues that are preventing the development of the capital market.

Currently, the legal framework is preventing a more seamless market infrastructure from being in place. CSE Board Director Jayantha Fernando noted that interested parties were looking for regulatory leeway to create better processes in the economy. The CSE has been able to bring about digital verification of persons through the new Electronic Transactions Act and through being in the good favor of the Commissioner-General of the Department for the Registration of Persons (DRP).

Fernando was speaking yesterday at Sri Lanka's inaugural Internet Day held virtually. Previously the verification of identity would have cost Rs. 500 but through the implementation of a digital interfacing system at the DRP this cost has been brought down to Rs 25. Pricing remains at the discretion of the Commissioner-General of DRP.

Fernando noted how the strategy of digital reformers was to bring about procedural changes without needing significant changes to existing law. Reformers have been successful with the Electronic Transactions Act which has overriding legal principles that have been upheld by the courts.

There were many attempts in the past to bring about online client registration platforms but all had failed to significant legal impediments and a complex legal structure. Fernando said the Electronic Transactions Act of 2006 was recently brought to International Standards with reforms brought about a few years ago. Impediments to digitization can also take the form of regulatory pressure. Digitization advocates praised the Financial Intelligence Unit in the Central Bank for being flexible on certain issues.

The Central Bank is currently the only entity with an active secondary debt market. Primary Dealers and banks make considerable profits trading in government securities. Central Bank legislation on payments and settlements and other issues can have significant impacts on the existence of capital markets. The Central Bank has representatives on the Securities and Exchange Commission. **TO PAGE 18**

Janatha Estates Development Board to re-launch Jana Tea, boost revenue

SHIRAJIV SIRIMANE

The Government-owned Janatha Estates Development Board (JEDB) will re-launch their flagship brand Jana Tea and will also introduce tea bags.

Chairman, JEDB, Rtd. Wg. Cmdr. Buwaneka D. Abey-surriya said that they are the biggest supplier of tea to the tri forces and several other government institutions including SriLankan Catering Parliament and several hospitals.

"With the introduction of tea bags and increasing retail sector sales we expected to increase revenue from this aspect from Rs. 400 million to Rs. 600 million."

He said this is also made possible due to increase in production. "For several years tea plantations were not replaced with new plants. This is because the nurseries were completely neglected for over a decade. We have



JEDB Chairman, Rtd. Wg. Cmdr. Buwaneka D. Abey-surriya presents a 'Jana Tea' pack to Agriculture Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage at the JEDB workers appreciation awards ceremony. Picture by Sudath Malaweera

addressed this aspect and now we have nurseries with over 1.3 million plants from which estate fill-in were done while new plantations too were initiated."

"In addition due to red tape and other issues, fertilizer to tea plantations was not properly done which resulted in low yields." There were also issues with factory machinery for which new machinery was

installed or the existing ones repaired. A mindset change among employees was needed and this too was done resulting in an increase of production.

"We have also plucked over 200,000 kilos of green leaf more than the first quarter of 2020 which is a testimony our improvement and we will end the year with a record crop harvest."

CSE sets May end deadline on reform

To create all-encompassing mobile application platforms

DINESH PERERA

The Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) has set an end of May deadline for the announced reforms to the market. The market hopes to change to a Delivery versus Payments system for transacting which will enable new instruments to be issued to the capital markets.

The CSE hopes to further improve its mobile application offering and bring in other financial services to a unified application. The CSE has introduced a mobile application that facilitates registration and access to market information. The new application and digitization drive the CSE has taken has allowed over 12,400 people to open new accounts in the stock market which represents a more than doubling of the rate of account opening.

CSE Chairman Rajeeva Bandaranaike said, "Earlier you had to travel and present a lot of physical documents. Today you can do it all digitally." Bandaranaike was speaking on April 6 at Sri Lanka's inaugural Internet Day held virtually. The CSE



Rajeeva Bandaranaike

has adopted a system wherein they verify identities on a completely digital platform with the Department of Registration of Persons. Bandaranaike acknowledged that the market and regulator were overly paternalistic and this had prevented many companies from listing on the exchange. Bandaranaike admitted that many technologies and internet start-ups would not be able to list given the regulatory set up that existed before. The regulator and exchange are going to do away with unnecessary impediments to listing shortly and let investors take calculated risks. Bandaranaike hailed

the successful Rs 3.2 billion IPO of Windforce. Chrisworld an SME, has recently been approved for listing. The Ceylon Electricity Board is issuing debt securities to the market which will shortly be listed and traded on the secondary market. The CSE will continue to work towards the unification of the stock exchange with the government securities market for which they have already communicated their willingness to the Central Bank. Over the medium term, the CSE will phase out all physical documentation. Applications for IPOs, rights issuances, share buybacks, and other functions of the CDS will all be interfaced digitally. The stock exchange is to become paperless in the near future.

"Alternate scheme, far more progressive"

The Planters' Association of Ceylon maintains their position that the alternate scheme offered to the worker wages is far more progressive and would have empowered workers to earn significantly more than just a mere Rs 1,000 per day. The statement further mentions

that Regional Plantation Companies (RPC's) will fulfill their obligations; However, they reiterate that the fixed wage of Rs 1,000 per day will not be beneficial to the worker, in the long run and that the earning model which was offered and rejected, could have made a massive,

positive impact on the earning capacity of the estate worker. "This would have been a mammoth departure from outdated colonial era models currently in place, and would undoubtedly have improved worker livelihoods monumentally".

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- Soiled yoghurt cups
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Market Statistics on 06.04.2021							
Security	Volume	**V.W.A. Previous Close	Open	High	Low	**V.W.A. Yesterday's Close	Change (Rs.)
Main Board							
A.SPEN.HOT.HOLD.	786	30.10	29.70	31.50	29.60	30.70	0.60
ABANS	5	159.50	160.00	160.00	160.00	159.50	0.00
ACCESS ENG SL	704,088	23.50	23.30	24.00	23.30	24.00	0.50
ACL	878,397	36.70	37.00	40.00	36.90	39.30	2.60
ACL PLASTICS	1,335	261.00	266.00	270.00	252.25	269.00	8.00
ACME	1,000	6.30	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	0.20
AGALAWATTE	35,202	28.00	27.00	27.90	26.70	27.20	(0.80)
AHOT PROPERTIES	41	36.50	39.80	39.80	36.60	36.50	0.00
AITKEN SPENCE	74,344	55.10	56.90	57.40	54.80	55.30	0.20
ALLIANCE	18,342	50.00	49.60	50.00	49.00	49.10	(0.90)
AMANA BANK	177,312	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.20	3.20	(0.10)
AMAYA LEISURE	8,012	18.10	17.80	18.00	17.70	17.80	(0.30)
ASIA ASSET	3,346	6.00	5.80	5.80	5.80	5.80	(0.20)
ASIRI	263	25.10	25.00	25.10	24.80	25.10	0.00
ASIRI SURG	325	13.80	13.80	13.80	13.80	13.80	0.00
AUTODROME	1,627	70.10	74.50	74.50	74.50	74.50	4.40
BAIRAHA FARMS	41,844	136.75	141.75	141.75	134.00	135.25	(1.50)
BALANGODA	45,248	11.00	11.30	11.30	10.40	11.00	0.00
BUKIT DARAH	1,172	329.75	315.00	315.00	306.00	312.75	(17.00)
C M HOLDINGS	536	85.00	84.30	84.30	83.00	84.20	(0.80)
C T HOLDINGS	5,180	170.00	170.00	172.00	170.00	170.75	0.75
CARGILLS	293	234.25	233.00	234.00	233.00	233.25	(1.00)
CARGO BOAT	264	61.90	61.90	61.90	61.90	61.90	0.00
CARSONS	3,060	275.00	271.50	275.00	271.50	275.00	0.00
CDB	771	111.00	109.00	112.50	109.00	109.00	(2.00)
CDB [CDB.X0000]	5	72.00	74.80	74.80	74.80	72.00	0.00
CENTRAL FINANCE	64,783	82.30	82.10	83.00	81.00	81.20	(1.10)
CENTRAL IND.	53,416	108.50	107.75	117.75	107.50	114.50	6.00
CEYLINGO INS.	1	2,087.25	2,087.25	2,087.25	2,087.25	2,087.25	0.00
CEYLINGO INS. [CINS.X0000]	168	1,070.00	1,081.00	1,090.00	1,070.00	1,084.25	14.25
CEYLON GUARDIAN	131	120.00	123.00	123.00	120.00	123.00	3.00
CEYLON INV.	11,318	64.90	64.90	65.00	62.00	64.90	0.00
CEYLON TOBACCO	1,642	988.50	989.00	989.00	980.00	981.00	(7.50)
CHEMEX	139	74.50	75.00	78.00	75.00	75.70	1.20
CHEVRON	41,278	90.90	91.50	92.50	90.60	92.00	1.10
CIC	312,493	53.60	54.40	57.70	54.00	57.00	3.40
CIC [CIC.X0000]	565,793	44.60	45.00	48.90	45.00	47.30	2.70
CITRUS LEISURE	46,790	8.60	8.40	9.00	8.40	8.90	0.30
COLD STORES	13	618.00	623.00	623.00	622.00	618.00	0.00
COLOMBO CITY	3	884.75	890.00	890.00	890.00	884.75	0.00
COLOMBO LAND	228	26.00	26.10	26.10	25.30	25.30	(0.70)
COMMERCIAL BANK XD	84,700	84.70	84.70	86.20	84.60	85.70	1.00
COMMERCIAL BANK [COMB.X0000]XD9.474	77.10	77.10	77.10	79.50	77.10	78.90	1.80
CONVENIENCE FOOD	48	1,245.00	1,250.00	1,295.00	1,246.00	1,245.00	0.00
DANKOTUWA PORCEL	454,756	10.60	10.50	12.50	10.50	11.40	0.80
DFCC BANK PLC	18,728	59.60	59.30	59.60	59.20	59.40	(0.20)
DIALOG	695,006	12.80	13.00	13.00	12.90	12.90	0.10
DIMO	472	530.25	511.00	549.00	511.00	544.50	14.25
DIPPED PRODUCTS	5,031,127	49.30	50.00	54.40	49.50	53.40	4.10
DOCKYARD	1,730	74.00	73.50	75.00	73.50	74.40	0.40
DOLPHIN HOTELS	5,000	24.50	24.00	24.50	24.00	24.20	(0.30)
DURDANS	5,370	101.25	100.00	103.50	100.00	103.50	2.25
E B CREASY	20,886	30.40	30.20	30.50	30.10	30.40	0.00
EAST WEST	35,097	10.20	10.20	10.60	10.20	10.50	0.30
EASTERN MERCHANT	266,976	5.40	5.30	5.70	5.20	5.20	(0.20)
EXPOLANKA	4,302,055	46.20	46.00	47.90	45.60	47.10	0.90
FORT LAND	5,504	13.20	12.80	13.40	12.80	13.40	0.20
GRAIN ELEVATORS	166,181	123.25	126.00	133.75	125.00	132.00	8.75
HAYCARB	1,118,045	103.50	104.00	110.00	103.00	109.50	6.00
HAYLEYS	5,348,196	67.40	68.00	75.00	67.90	74.00	6.60
HAYLEYS FABRIC	1,339,610	15.10	15.30	15.70	15.00	15.50	0.40
HAYLEYS FIBRE	67,640	48.50	48.50	53.00	48.00	52.00	3.50
HDFC	4,711	34.90	33.90	36.10	33.90	34.70	(0.20)
HEMAS HOLDINGS	237,603	82.80	83.50	84.80	82.00	83.70	0.90
HNB XD	75,815	123.50	125.00	127.00	123.00	126.25	2.75
HNB ASSURANCE XD	2,737	57.20	57.90	57.90	57.00	57.70	0.50
HNB [HNB.X0000] XD	271,650	97.00	97.20	99.50	97.00	98.00	1.00
HORANA	18,922	21.40	22.00	22.00	21.20	21.20	(0.20)
HOTEL SIGIRIYA	100	56.60	58.20	60.00	58.20	59.50	2.90
HOTELS CORP.	2	10.80	11.80	11.80	11.80	10.80	0.00
HUNTERS	2	581.00	638.00	638.00	638.00	581.00	0.00
INDUSTRIAL ASPH.	5,260,921	0.40	0.50	0.50	0.40	0.40	0.00
JKH	289,962	150.00	150.00	150.00	149.00	149.75	(0.25)
KANDY HOTELS	2,619	5.40	5.30	5.30	5.00	5.20	(0.20)
KEGALLE	17,616	98.60	95.00	96.50	93.00	93.70	(4.90)
KELANI CABLES	14,089	115.00	119.75	130.00	113.25	121.00	6.00
KELANI TYRES	155,405	81.90	82.90	85.00	81.10	84.80	2.90
KELANI VALLEY	2,531	38.30	38.00	38.50	38.00	38.30	0.00
KINGSBURY	19,332	6.10	6.10	6.20	6.10	6.20	0.10
KOTAGALA	570	5.40	5.40	5.40	5.30	5.40	0.00
L O L C HOLDINGS	364,193	297.50	303.00	305.00	297.00	298.25	0.75
LANKA ALUMINIUM	310,061	16.60	16.60	17.90	16.60	17.70	1.10
LANKA ASHOK	61	839.25	880.00	884.00	835.00	839.25	0.00
LANKA HOSPITALS	550	43.40	43.30	43.30	41.70	42.00	(1.40)
LANKA IOC	207,929	19.40	19.30	19.40	18.90	19.00	(0.40)
LANKA TILES	615,998	43.80	44.00	47.50	43.20	47.00	3.20
LANKA VENTURES	483	48.60	49.20	50.00	49.20	49.20	0.60
LANKA WALLTILE	1,037,494	44.00	44.70	49.70	43.60	48.20	4.20
LAUGFS GAS	1,588	22.50	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	(0.50)
LAUGFS GAS [LGL.X0000]	12,056	15.10	15.10	15.10	15.00	15.00	(0.10)
LAXAPANA	42,215	15.10	15.00	15.30	15.00	15.20	0.10
LB FINANCE	1,158,713	49.70	49.90	50.80	49.60	50.20	0.50
LEE HEDGES	678	65.00	65.00	65.00	65.00	65.00	0.00
LMF	51,398	158.75	158.75	164.00	157.00	160.25	1.50
LVL ENERGY	50,000	9.90	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.10
MALWATTE	3,240	12.50	11.80	12.50	11.60	12.50	0.00
MALWATTE [MAL.X0000]	460	7.20	7.80	7.80	7.20	7.20	0.00
MELSTACORP	1,614,618	44.80	45.90	47.50	44.70	47.00	2.20
MERC. SHIPPING	50	67.80	67.80	67.80	67.80	67.80	0.00
MERCHANT BANK	10,892	6.90	6.80	7.00	6.60	6.70	(0.20)
MULLERS	128,355	1.30	1.30	1.40	1.20	1.30	0.00
NAMUNUKULA	3,768	182.25	182.00	182.00	151.50	166.00	(16.25)
NAT. DEV. BANK	27,814	79.50	80.00	80.00	79.00	80.00	0.50
NATIONS TRUST	2,428	54.50	55.10	55.50	55.00	55.20	0.70
NAWALOKA	5,315	5.00	5.00	5.20	5.00	5.20	0.20
NESTLE	8,719	1,122.00	1,170.00	1,170.00	1,030.00	1,048.50	(73.50)
OVERSEAS REALTY	55,675	15.40	15.30	15.70	15.20	15.30	(0.10)
PAN ASIA	69,287	14.20	14.60	14.60	14.10	14.30	0.10
PANASIAN POWER	635,728	3.80	3.80	3.90	3.70	3.80	0.00
PEOPLE'S INS	19,222	31.20	30.90	31.50	30.80	31.00	(0.20)
PEOPLES LEASING	246,625	11.80	11.70	12.00	11.70	11.80	0.00
PIRAMAL GLASS	1,160,501	11.20	11.30	11.30	11.20	11.20	0.00
PRINTCARE PLC	527	27.00	27.90	27.90	27.90	27.90	0.90
R I L PROPERTY	339,272	7.00	7.10	7.10	6.60	6.80	(0.20)
REGNIS	51,001	50.50	51.80	53.40	51.10	53.00	2.50
RENUKA AGRI	654,840	4.00	4.00	4.20	4.00	4.10	0.10
RENUKA FOODS	31,829	13.10	13.40	14.90	13.40	14.00	0.90
RENUKA FOODS [COCO.X0000]	6,203	10.40	11.30	11.30	10.60	10.70	0.30
RENUKA HOLDINGS	25,701	15.00	15.30	15.30	15.00	15.00	0.00
RENUKA HOLDINGS [RHL.X0000]	23,076	11.70	12.00	12.40	10.90	11.20	(0.50)
RESUS ENERGY	200	25.10	25.10	25.10	25.10	25.10	0.00
RICHARD PIERIS	933,104	16.70	16.70	17.20	16.50	17.10	0.40
ROYAL CERAMIC	772,912	278.25	285.00	306.00	278.00	301.75	23.50
S M B LEASING	268,078	0.50	0.60	0.60	0.50	0.50	0.00
S M B LEASING [SEMB.X0000]	4,240,921	0.30	0.30	0.40	0.20	0.30	0.00
SAMPATH	2,818,549	52.40	52.50	54.00	52.50	53.50	1.10
SANASA DEV. BANK	90,193	56.20	56.20	57.00	54		

PICTORIAL/NEWS

Aitken Spence, *Most Awarded Company* at Best Corporate Citizen Sustainability Award 2020

Aitken Spence PLC walked away with 12 awards and the highest number of awards received by a single company at the Best Corporate Citizen Sustainability (BCCS) Award 2020. Aitken Spence emerged first Runner-Up' and was the only company to have been ranked among the Top Ten Best Corporate Citizens of Sri Lanka for 15 consecutive years and placed in the Top 3 for eight consecutive years.

The company was also the recipient of the highest number of certificate awards for 'Consistent Commitment and Continuous Improvement' which goes to show the robust sustainability strategy and unparalleled commitment to sustainability from its teams across the diversified Group even during extremely challenging times.

The company was also awarded the top 10 best corporate citizens, triple bottom line awards for plant and people, category awards for environmental integration and environmental commitment, sector award in the diversified hold-



Dr. Ananda Mallawatanri - Country Representative for IUCN in Sri Lanka, Dr. Rohan Fernando - Director and Head of Business Development and Plantations, Aitken Spence, Stasshani Jayawardena - Director Aitken Spence and Chairperson Aitken Spence Hotel Managements, Dr. Hans Wijayasuriya, Chairperson Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Yasangi Randeni, Deputy General Manager, Group Business Development and Sustainability, Aitken Spence and Rohan Pandithakorralage, Chief Human Resources Officer Aitken Spence

formance. The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce hosts this award with an esteemed panel of experienced evaluators and judges comprising of industry leaders, and experts on sustainable development.

Commenting on this achievement, Dr. Parakrama Dissanayake - Deputy Chairman and Managing Director of Aitken Spence PLC said, "These many awards won by a single company validates the approach we have adopted across the leadership of Aitken Spence and is a reflection on our sustainability ethos."

"Aitken Spence is one of the very few organisations in Sri Lanka that are truly international and diversified and because of this, developing a strategy that encompasses the priorities of all our operations is all the more complex," he further added.

With an indisputable reputation as one of Sri Lanka's pioneering corporates, Aitken Spence is a blue-chip conglomerate anchored to a heritage of excellence spanning over 150 years.

ings and consistent commitment and continuous improvements certificate awards for environmental commitment, environmental integration and environment beyond the business, employee relations and customer relations.

Organised by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, this annual event recognises best practices of organisations that have successfully achieved a sustainable balance between social, environmental and economic per-

Exor Lanka Holdings recognised at 'Entrepreneur of the Year' and 'CNCI' Awards

Exor Lanka Holdings Private Limited, an emerging Human Resource Management company showed signs of a promising future by winning many accolades recently.

The company's Managing Director, Nalin Madushanka was the recipient of 'Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award' at Entrepreneur of the Year Awards ceremony organized by the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries in Sri Lanka.

The FCCISL's flagship event was held at BMICH recently with President Gotabhaya Rajapaksa gracing the occasion as the chief guest.

Meanwhile Ceylon National Chamber of Industries recognized Exor Lanka with the Gold Award of Service Sector, Small Category, National Level. CNCI Achiever Awards 2020 was held, with Wimal Weerawansa, Minister of Industries taking part as the chief guest, at Hotel Galadari, Colombo.

Exor Lanka Holdings successfully operates in the fields such as human resource management, manpower supply,



Nalin Madushanka, MD, Exor Lanka Holdings receiving the award

warehousing, transport and hotels. Plans are ahead to start up an IT solution providing company as Biyagama Technity Computer Solutions and a greenhouse project as Exor Biomass.

"Anybody can achieve success within a short time if he has an excellent vision and a strong dedication," said Madushanka.

Exor Lanka Holdings is known for supplying skilled and knowledgeable human resources to companies in time to suit their requirements. Since they are very particular about the employees' salaries, safety and other facilities the company always has a large manpower base with it. The company engages in many CSR projects and respects human values.

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS HONOURED

At 'Entrepreneur Awards 2020 Western Province'



Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries Sector Micro Category - Merit Award: K. K. A. Madhuwanthi, Proprietor of U BEST Products



Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries Sector Large Category - Winner: Yamuna Perera, CEO of Impex Corporation (Private) Limited



Industry Manufacturing Sector Small Category - Winner: S. A. Priyanthi Kumari Directress of Akalanka Product International (Private) Limited



Industry Manufacturing Sector Micro Category - Winner: Nimesha Nilanthi Nugera, Proprietor of A-Ruu Creative Creations



Industry Manufacturing Sector Micro Category - Merit Awards: Nadeera Nilmini Silva, Partner of S & N Products

The "Entrepreneur Awards 2020 Western Province", held by The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka in association with the National Enterprise Development Authority concluded at the BMICH Colombo on March 10. Secretary Ministry of Industries Anusha Pelpita was the Chief Guest and Anushka Gunasinghe Chairman and DG of NEDA was the Guest of Honour. There were around 26 Awards, such as Sector wise and Category wise Awards, Special Awards and Overall Award together with 16 Merit Awards. Among number of awards women entrepreneurs presence has been strikingly significant and women participation and trust placed on NEDA and NCCSL was noteworthy to mention. In addition to the Award for Best Entrepreneur Providing Most Number of Jobs for Females, awarded to Orel IT Private Limited. The following women entrepreneurs (in pictures) were successful in winning awards.



Industry Manufacturing Sector Micro Category - Merit Awards: A Gayani Nilmini De Alwis, Proprietor of Nimreka Batik



Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries Sector Medium Category - Merit Award: G. L. Imesha Madhusani, Partner of Heavens Vege Foods Lanka



Services Sector Micro Category Winner: S. A. Manel Sagarika, Proprietor of Manel Garden Service



Industry Manufacturing Sector Small Category - Merit Award: Inoka Thushari Liyanarachchi, Managing Directress of D & D Creations (Private) Limited



Industry Manufacturing Sector Medium Category Merit Award J. Senani Warusavithana, Chairperson, Senani Food Products



"Best Entrepreneur - Recovered from COVID related Business Issues" Ruvini Irosha Wickramarachchi, Managing Directress of Wickramarachchi Brothers



Overall winner -2nd Runner up (Bronze Award) Ruvini Irosha Wickramarachchi, Managing Directress of Wickramarachchi Brothers



Industry Manufacturing Sector Medium Category - Winner - Ruvini Irosha Wickramarachchi, Managing Directress of Wickramarachchi Brothers



Dr. Shanika Arsecularatne, Managing Directress of Christell Skin Clinic. Services Sector Large Category Winner



Dr. Shanika Arsecularatne, Managing Directress of Christell Skin Clinic (Pvt) Ltd "Best Women Entrepreneur" of the Year 2020



Nayomi De Silva, Chief Executive Officer of Burgundy Consultants (Private) Limited - Services Sector Small Category Merit Award:



Dr. Shanika Arsecularatne, Managing Directress of Christell Skin Clinic (Pvt) Ltd. "The Best Entrepreneur of the Year 2020 Western Province" Overall Winner Gold Award

Softlogic team up with Huawei as Strategic Partner, introduces latest Enterprise Solutions to SL

World's leading ICT solutions provider Huawei and Sri Lanka's Softlogic Information Technologies Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of Softlogic Holdings PLC, and one of the country's leading software and hardware solutions providers, recently announced their partnership in Enterprise Solutions, Cloud and AI to bring innovative ICT solutions to the Sri Lankan market.

The digital economy is now firmly established as a core driver of growth to nations and its industries and the importance of digital technologies to the modern economy is undeniable. "Softlogic, which came into being as an IT company almost three decades ago, today holds a leading market position in the country for infrastruc-

ture modernization," said Softlogic Information Technologies Chief Executive Officer/Director Roshan Rasool.

"In the last decade many revolutions have taken place – the internet revolution, the mobile revolution and even the social media revolution: however there are a lot of organisations in Sri Lanka that have not adapted to these changes. What we are trying to do at Softlogic is to help them transform digitally."

"According to the world bank, the global economy is worth USD 86.598 Trillion, out of which the digital economy contributes approximately 15% of the overall GDP and is anticipated to grow to 24.3% by 2025 (UNCTAD)".

Huawei Sri Lanka CEO, Liang Yi

stated: "The partnership with Softlogic will enable us to provide innovative solutions to the Sri Lankan market, mainly using the disruptive technologies of Huawei such as cloud, connectivity, AI and Smart City technologies. We have established a competitive information and communications technology (ICT) portfolio of end-to-end solutions in telecom and enterprise networks, devices and cloud computing."

"In today's world, collaborative smart ecosystems are essential in a modern, connected office, which leverages cloud capabilities to deliver a seamless user-centric experience, designed to enhance the way teams work together wherever they work



Chairman Softlogic Group Ashok Pathirage and other officials at the event Picture by Wimal Karunatilike

from" Liang Yi added. He highlighted that Softlogic Technologies' IT sector provides a platform for Huawei to provide a range of solutions along the IT value chain that could cater to the ICT landscape as well as a number of other industries including Education, Healthcare, Retail and Transport.

Huawei Enterprise provides a broad range of innovative ICT infrastructure

products and solutions for vertical industries and enterprise customers worldwide. He said the company has invested over USD 20 billion for R&D.

"Most existing organizations not just in Sri Lanka but across the globe, have continued to conduct their business in a manner in which they did during the pre-internet era. These gaps were clearly seen during the covid-19 'lock-

down' periods where organizations found themselves completely under prepared in their supply value chain and their availability to offer digital services online to capture new markets and gain the much needed efficiencies from a digital system. Hence our partnership with Huawei can only result in a win-win situation for both our customers", said Rasool.

NEM Construction receives record consignment from Udeshi Group

UTRAX, the construction equipment division of the Udeshi Group, has successfully completed the handover of the country's single largest order of hydraulic excavators to date, in turn contributing significantly to Sri Lanka's fast-expanding infrastructure development efforts.

The island's leading commercial and industrial equipment supplier and exclusive distributor of Sumitomo excavators in Sri Lanka, officially handed over the lot of premium Sumitomo Hydraulic excavators to Ashwin Nanayakkara, Director of NEM Construction (Pvt) Ltd., positioning the

company as the current largest fleet owner of Sumitomo hydraulic excavators in the whole of South Asia with 71 units.

This record-breaking order comprised of a total of 35 brand new Sumitomo excavators: 30 units of model SH220LC-6, and five units of model SH370LHD-6; making up a total purchase value of Rs 780 million. This sale far surpasses the company's previous milestone order to NEM Construction in 2015 that was at the time valued at Rs 500 million.

Ashwin Nanayakkara commented "The quality and performance of these

SUMITOMO Japanese hydraulic excavators are among the best in the industry. In addition to the excellent after sales services of UTRAX, these machines come with 5,000 hrs. warranty and are equipped with the latest Technology. Regular visits to our workites by Japanese Engineers from SUMITOMO to monitor performance and their valuable advice has prompted this new order with UTRAX."

NEM Construction began operations in 1980 and has since built for itself a reputation as one of the country's leading civil engineering contractors involved in infrastructure development including highway construction, irrigation, land reclamation, etc. With NEM's latest acquisition, they have further enhanced their position as the largest construction machinery fleet owner in Sri Lanka.

Supun M Perera, Managing Director of UTRAX said, "It is additionally exciting to witness, through orders of the like, that NEM has identified the future potential of the construction industry particularly in the infrastructure development in Sri Lanka, despite the setback of the ongoing pandemic."



Management of NEM Construction and Udeshi Group at the handing over of Sri Lanka's single largest order of hydraulic excavators

First zonal office of Condominium Management Authority opens at Maligawatta

The first zonal office of the Condominium Management Authority was declared open at Maligawatta Housing Complex on April 5, signifying further expansion of its services.

This was the first pilot zonal office out of four to be established in the Colombo District by the Condominium Management Authority under the concept of "A comfortable home for each family" as envisaged in the 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour' policy framework. The office was declared open by the Chairman of the Authority, Attorney-at-Law, Sarana Karunaratne and General Manager Dr. Indunil Liyanage.

A key objective of setting up these zonal offices in line with a concept posited by Karunaratne and Dr. Liyanage is to regulate and maintain condominium properties and prevent the construction of unauthorized structures and expedite the removal of such structures. Similarly, it is proposed to regulate the multi-storey housing complexes being constructed as part of the new housing drive of the Government easily through these offices.



Chairman of CMA Sarana Karunaratne and General Manager Dr. Indunil Liyanage opens Zonal Office of the Condominium Management Authority

As the initial step, the Authority will make necessary interventions to address prevailing issues at the Maligawatta Housing Complex expeditiously and residents too can seek solutions to their problems.

The following functions too are expected to be carried out by the Condominium Management Authority. 1. Infrastructure facilities required for conducting the general meetings of Management Corporations and matters

incidental thereto. 2. Inspecting the maintenance and condition of such properties. 3. Making interventions to resolve issues that arise in respect of properties.

Further, the Chairman and the General Manager stated that action would be pursued to establish provincial offices in other provinces for the monitoring and regulation of public and private multi-storey housing complexes being built across the country.

HDDDES Extracts bags two National Export Excellence Awards

HDDDES Extracts (Pvt) Ltd, the leading manufacturer of spice based essential oils in Sri Lanka became the runner up of the Most Outstanding Exporter title and the Gold Award winner of Spices and Spice Based Products Sector, Extra Large Category at the 28th Annual National Export Excellence 2020 award Ceremony by the National Chamber of Exporters at Shangri La Hotel.

The family owned company founded by H.D.D. E. Silva in 1982, HDDDES Group expanded as a B.O.I. project in 2001. Today the group is headed by the Managing Director Gehan De Silva and the Directors, Mevan De Silva and Jeevan De Silva.

Located in BOI industrial zone Horana, certified with ISO 22000, ISO 14000 and FSSC 22000 HDDDES Extracts Factory manufactures Essential Oils extracted by steam distillation and solvent extraction from Pepper, Clove, Nutmeg, Cinnamon, Ginger, Lime, Vetiver, Mace etc.

The products are exported worldwide including USA, UK, Germany, France, Italy, Japan, China, India etc. Because of the high quality and standard these Essential Oils have a high demand from a large number of world's leading companies that manufacture flavors and fragrance, pharmaceuticals, food and beverages, nutraceuti-

cals, aromatherapy and animal feeds etc. HDDDES Extracts contributes greatly to uplift the rural economy by purchasing raw materials from rural spice farmers in addition to the supplies from the company owned estates. To this end the company has launched a number of projects in collaboration with the ministry of primary industries. The company manufactures value addition form of spices with conventional and organic while organic products have a significant demand globally at present.

HDDDES Extracts has a proven track record with a large number of awards from NCE and NBA.



HDDDES management with two awards

Daily News

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ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ප්‍රථම ආදර්ශ කුරුඳු සැකසුම් කිරීමේ කර්මාන්තශාලාවේ පරිහරණය කරන, ප්‍රමිතියට අනුකූලව කුරුඳු සැකසුම් කිරීමේදී පහසුවෙන් නිෂ්පාදන ධාරිතාවය වැඩිකර ගැනීමට සහ දිනක වේගය යටතේ කාන්තාවන් පමණක් වුවද යොදවා කුරුඳු සැකසුම් කිරීමට හැකි නව තාක්ෂණික යන්ත්‍ර සහ උපකරණ විකිණීමට අත.

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Lester
James
Peries

Delovak Athara

Delovak Athara

Delovak Athara

Golu Hadawatha

LESTER JAMES PERIES:

MADAPATHA CHINTAKA

Had he been alive, Lester James Peries would have turned 102 on Monday. The definitive director of this country, he was also one of the few definitive directors of his time, sharing the latter distinction with a great many others: Satyajit Ray, Ingmar Bergman, Andrzej Wajda, Robert Bresson, Akira Kurosawa, and Jean Renoir.

What did he have in common with these auteurs? A fascination with life, and a curiosity about individuals. The human character, the human condition – what Balzac called “La Comédie humaine” – is what adorns most of his films, and it is what makes up the films of those other directors. Ingmar Bergman once observed that the human face remained the most important subject of the cinema. That was Lester’s view also: there are moments in his stories where the protagonist has an epiphany, and the camera ponders his face.

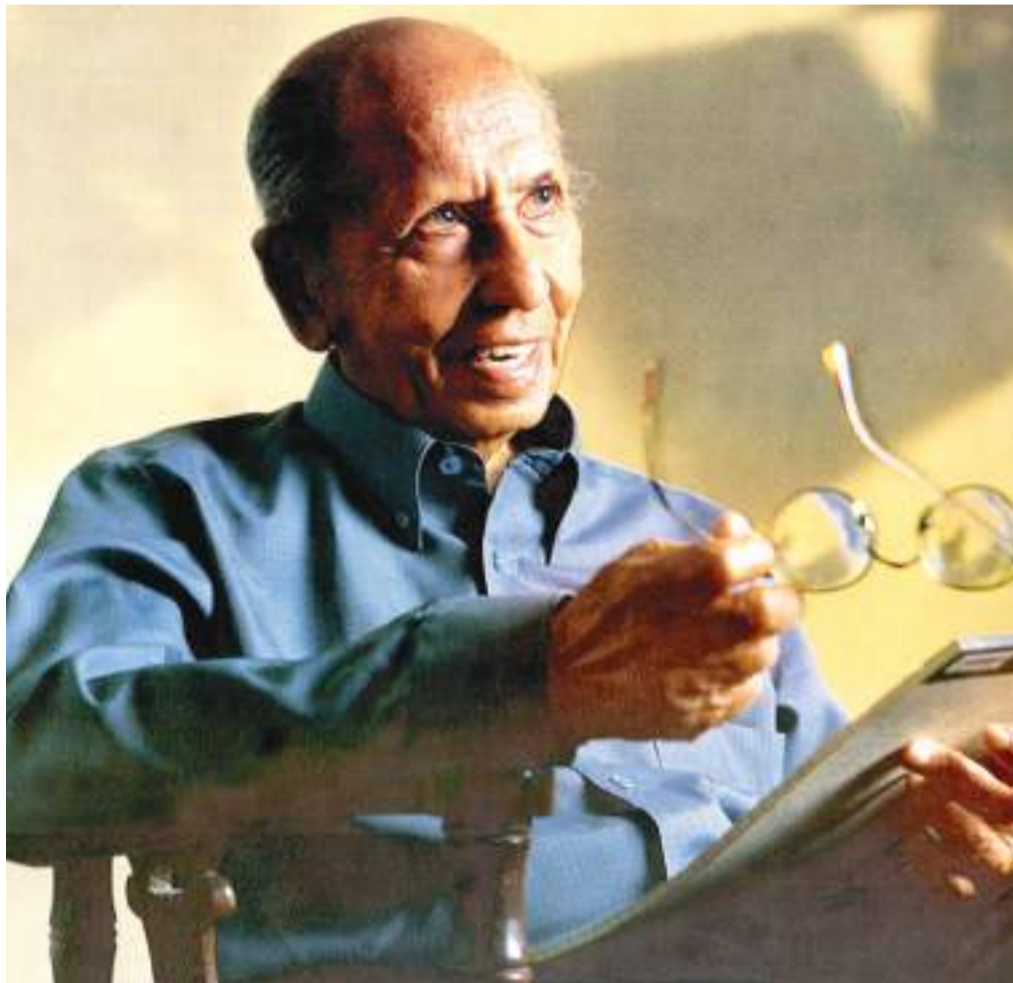
If I were to think of an analogy from another art form for Lester’s best work – his middle-period between Gamperaliya and Nidhanaya, in particular his Ceylon Theatres trilogy – I would invariably think of the French impressionists. When Robert Bresson made his film of Joan of Arc, he criticised Carl Dreyer’s version for its excesses. The facial expressions, the gestures, the emotions: these seemed over the top, hardly restrained. Bresson was, in that sense, a master at subtlety, and the characters in his films reveal very little. I’m not by any means trying to compare Bresson with Lester, but in how both restrain their actors, and with them their performances, they were as fond of subtlety and nuance, of emotional depth, as the French Impressionists had been long before them.

Penultimate sequence

To pick a specific example from one of his films would of course be a challenge, but if I were to pick one, I’d invariably go for the penultimate sequence of Delovak Athara. Those who’ve seen Delovak Athara will remember what unfolds there: Nissanka (Tony Ranasinghe in his best performance), having fought with his conscience over whether or not to confess a crime he’s committed to the local police, battles with the guilt of knowing his manservant has been framed for that crime by the police and his overprotective parents. As Nissanka walks slowly and wearily near a lake, the camera follows him and frames him against a tree. He looks up at the rustling leaves in a rare moment of solitude (he’s never free in the film). The wind dies down, and he looks down. Amaradeva’s plaintive music builds up, and the camera zooms in on his face. As he lifts his face, the faintest teardrop trickles down his cheek.

Philip Cooray in his book on Lester, *The Lonely Artist*, critiques this particular scene as being too intellectualised, too unemotional, too cold and distanced, an allegation he throws at the whole film. Yet I think Cooray adopted the wrong criterion in assessing the sequence, for there is a semblance of emotion and empathy that Lester compels from the audience. By this point in the narrative the protagonist has undergone a subtle if not profound transformation: from the amoral, indifferent bourgeois he was to a more sensitive, empathetic everyman. That transformation isn’t entirely his doing: it’s more so that of Chitra (Swineetha Weerasinghe), who encourages him to confess and be through with the crime.

FACES FROM A FILM



More importantly for me, this particular sequence brings up Lester’s penchant for revealing what a character is feeling without betraying too much expressiveness. There is a moment in Jean Renoir’s *La Règle du Jeu* (1937) where Robert (Marcel Dalio), married to the woman at the centre of the story, ponders a mechanical contraption, a calliope, in the dark, as it plays to the audience. Remembering this scene years later, Dalio told an interviewer that they had to reshoot it – all 30 or so seconds of it – for two days.

Buried contrasts of feeling

What was so difficult for Dalio were the sentiments he had to project: between pride at showcasing his toy, and reticence at having to showcase it to such a large audience.

The final take is breathtaking: Roger Ebert calls Robert’s face, and the buried contrasts of feeling on it, “a study in complexity.” Renoir said it was the best shot he ever filmed, and it shows: it justifies what Bergman would say of the human face decades later.

Seeing Delovak Athara after all these years, I can’t help but remember Robert’s face at the exact moment Nissanka, looking at the camera, lets a teardrop trickle down. Cooray was only half-right when he called it unemotional and intellectual. Delovak Athara may well be the least emotional film Lester made, but that is not to say he eschewed emotion altogether. In any case, I believe the point of scenes like this isn’t so much to deny emotion as it is to show how some of us condition ourselves to deny it.

Like Robert from *La Règle du Jeu*, Nis-



It’s rather unfortunate that he made his best work – the crest before the trough in his career – at precisely the time when the politicisation of Sri Lanka’s cinema was in full sway. Starting with the critics, then going over to the directors of the next generation, one by one they made the allegation, wholly unjustified when we read it now, that Lester’s conception of the cinema was removed from more mundane, but more relevant, political matters.

sanka’s face reveals the buried complexities, if not complications, of emotion (sadness and desperation in Nissanka’s case) woven into the very theme of the film. If the purpose of Robert’s face in Renoir’s film is to show that on the verge of war human beings still delight in their foibles and yet pretend not to show it, the purpose of Nissanka’s face in Lester’s movie is to show that the conflict between one’s desires and one’s conscience is never easily resolved. It hardly need be added that in conveying to the viewer the nuances of such contrasts and complexities of feeling, these works transcend the limits of their medium, and become almost painterly and impressionistic.

Delovak Athara remains my favourite film by Lester, for several reasons: first and foremost, for being the closest to a truly independent work he engaged with. The cinematography has never been better in his other works, except perhaps for his Ceylon Theatres trilogy; opting for shades of grey over chiaroscuro blacks and whites, it occupies a peculiar moral universe, teetering between the moral ambiguity of Nissanka, the over-protectiveness of his parents and his fiancée’s family, and the morally and ethically right stances of Chitra.

Flawed antiheroes

I remember Lester critiquing Satyajit Ray in an essay over what he felt to be the latter’s simplistic understanding of human beings: there are no villains in his films, only heroes and flawed antiheroes. Lester may have made this critique when his films had their fair share of antagonists (as with *Baddegama*), but seeing Delovak Athara today, I’m struck by how easily one can make the same allegation about his early work: that they lack a complete villain, and that every character, right down to the least likeable among them, can be understood and even sympathised with by viewers. To give one example, the mother and father in Delovak Athara do all they can to deflect attention from their son, yet even as they frame their manservant, we understand (though not empathise with) their motives: having just one child, and a son at that, they want him kept out of trouble at any price.

It’s rather unfortunate that he made his best work – the crest before the trough in



Nidhanaya

his career – at precisely the time when the politicisation of Sri Lanka’s cinema was in full sway. Starting with the critics, then going over to the directors of the next generation, one by one they made the allegation, wholly unjustified when we read it now, that Lester’s conception of the cinema was removed from more mundane, but more relevant, political matters.

Insofar as their belief that Lester seemed incapable of making a political work is concerned, they were not wide of the mark. For all his humanism, Satyajit Ray directed three political films: the *Calcutta Trilogy*. The closest to a political statement, let alone a film, that Lester came up with, was the scene in *Yuganthaya* where Simon and Malin Kabilana – moneyed father and Marxist son – engage in a heated debate over the rights of the working class. And yet, in the framing of this sequence – the debate between father and son is never followed up, and seems to unfold in isolation from the rest of the story – one feels Lester focused attention on the personal conflict – between one generation and the next – rather than the more relevant capital/labour dialectic Martin Wickramasinghe explored in the novel.

But to conflate this *general* inability to make a political statement with a *generic* inability to make any socially conscious statement, political or otherwise, would be to put the cart before the horse. Humanism has been deemed too inadequate, even insensitive, by several Marxist scholars; with its origins in 19th century bourgeois European philosophy, they feel it does not do enough to reveal the relations of production, of social forces, which undergird society as it is and as people experience and live through it. The reason why Lester’s works do not meet this criterion is that they project a vision of humanity, a *humanism*, that doesn’t concern itself much with the issue of class. This critique is shared by several scholars, yet it is one that has been itself critiqued by other scholars, both Marxist and non-Marxist.

To what they’ve said I can add only this much: the idea that “socially conscious” films must of necessity resort to explicit political symbols – and many films that projected themselves as socially or politically conscious have resorted to such symbols – is to abandon the diversity if not complexity of an art form. Lester’s films are hardly the socially detached or politically irrelevant works of art they are made out to be by their critics. If this were the criterion to be employed in dissecting a work of art, Philip Gunawardena wouldn’t have considered Delovak Athara a favourite and Engels wouldn’t have said he preferred the reactionary Balzac to the more radical Émile Zola. Lester himself offered the best critique of these critics: that while he worked with human beings, they preferred to work with symbols.

DELIGHTFUL WORK WITH AN ENGAGING PLOT

TITLE: 10:34
AUTHOR: ADITHA DISSANAYAKE
PUBLISHER: VIJITHA YAPA PUBLICATION

10:34 is a dramatic love story of a poetic and tender quality written with a deep respect for both the beauty and the danger to our blue planet seen from space as a vulnerable blob in the vast universe.

It is a contemporary romance that follows a woman, a committed environmentalist, as she navigates her life among men with differing feelings of the imperative of conservation stewardship.

This book is Gratiaen Award winner Aditha Dissanayake's fourth novel, by far the best. This book is enjoyable to read due to the simplicity of the prose style and vividness of imagination. Though simple but thoughtful, the story is fun enough, and the unexpected twists and turns keep the reader engaged.

It is the story of two people finding love in unusual circumstances, albeit differently than either of them intended.

Aditha narrates a twenty-four-year-old schoolteacher's unexpected detour of accompanying her banker fiancé and migrating to New Zealand. The deviation begins when Kumi alights the morning Udarata Menike to visit her hometown in the fictional village of Maliyadda on the banks of the Kothmale Oya. She goes theredirected by her Uncle in London to make the final arrangements to sell her grandfather's ancestral property. Kumi finds the dilapidated property a piece of heaven on earth. Lush greenery with a creek flowing through the property has become the perfect home for all that nature creates.

An ideal home for her as well she realises. She could hardly tear herself off from the allure of the place to return to Colombo, which she must, to see her fiancé off. He was going ahead to settle affairs in the new country they were moving to before Kumi ar-

rives.

During her vacation to her ancestral village, abandoning her plans to stay at the bed and breakfast place where she had an eventful night with an unexpected visitor, she moves into the abandoned house that had once belonged to her grandparents. Kumi also struck a friendship with Vino Coomaraswamy, an editor of a publishing house in Lancaster, on holiday in Maliyadda, searching for his roots.

On return to Colombo, she finds her favourite mango tree that shaded her room and to its rustling sounds which she fell asleep in the night had been a victim of the insensitive confidant who failed to understand that perhaps her first love is nature.

Incensed by the developments that followed and tugged by the spell cast over her by the sanctuary in Maliyadda, she makes an unintended quick return to the place she had felt at peace.

There, she finds comfort in her friends Vino and a Professor turned recluse whom she had met on her previous visit. The Professor was intruding on the property to record the often-ignored weeds and lesser-known plants in the mid-country for his nextbook.

Abandoning her plans to move to New Zealand with her urbanized banker boyfriend, she decides to make home the abandoned house that had once belonged to her grandparents. But in addition to preventing her Uncle from selling the land, Kumi must also prove to the Professor that she has no wish to harm the plants that he so loves.

Easily the best part of the book



is how, as the story unravels, it becomes clear that Kumi and the Professor progress towards saving not only nature but themselves from their toxic relationships and past mistakes.

An essential aspect of the book is the author's tender, discerning look at nature that is ever-present and is the thread that runs through the novel.

Aditha makes her characters very vibrant and three-dimensional and true to life. The main characters are compelling and enigmatic. Kumi is beautifully drawn - warm, bold, outspoken, intelligent, and kind to all living beings, whether human or part of nature, the type of character that carries an endearing story. Vividly portrayed, the men around her - Nadush, bright and bold as an up-and-coming banker, Kavan, intelligent and warm as a professor, and Vino, intelligent and outspoken as an editor would be.

The characters in this book are remarkable. The author shows a deep understanding of their roles and places them cleverly to keep the story moving. There are also secondary characters introduced for a few cameos. Even some of those who barely appear have a chance to shine, which tell us a lot about the storytelling.

The book is sprinkled with enjoyable dialogue, which is hard to write - and extremely hard to write well. Two people merely talking are not always engaging on the page, no matter how scintillating the dialogue. Novel writers are not screenwriters whose story is brought to life by an entourage of directors, actors, sound engineers, cinematographers. A novelist must describe the setting and provide all five senses for the reader. Readers will not know what things look like unless you show them.

Aditha's text reads like a screenplay. The conversation between Kumi and the TukTuk driver is such that a reader can hear it as if spoken aloud; the words do not lie inert on the page. When discourse flows, it's easy to read and understand; it's funny, revealing, poignant, and devastating all in one single sentence. The story is interspersed with engaging dialogue, and that's part of what makes it effective. The dialogue is so catchy, so snappy, so utterly say-able, that the story could easily be made into a movie ...

This is a wonderfully written novel with a captivating story that touches your heart, an engaging plot with so many twists, and endearing characters who were believable. The book affirms the depth of humanity's relationship with nature and adds particular urgency to the cause of protecting the environment that nourishes all living beings. It is a delightful book.

Reviewed by Nandasiri (Nandi) Jasentullyana
Former Deputy Director-General,
United Nations.

TO BELIEVE OR NOT TO BELIEVE: IS IT A PHILOSOPHY?

Professor SUNANDA MAHENDRA

Quite a lot of books have been written on the subject of philosophy. But does it mean that the subject known as philosophy is well construed by the masses? According to many great thinkers like Sartre and Descartes, the subject known to the world as philosophy tend to change and evolve embracing other allied fields like education, communication, sociology and literature.

As such, each discipline evolved in the human circles tend to create a special affiliation from one in the relevant fields of study. This has paved the way to differentiate and separate the identity of the earliest disciplines of philosophy into the fields of study. As such, the terms like 'Philosophy of Communication', 'Philosophy of Religious Studies', 'Philosophy of Literature', and 'Philosophy of Education' have emerged in varying forms.

The book titled 'Philosophy: something to believe in', by Richard Paul T. Janaro is intended to be read as a book about 'Philosophical belief' that does it initially mean? It is basically not a book of history and various concepts of the accepted conventional forms of philosophy handed down over the centuries.

Nature of belief

Neither is it a collection of readings by philosophers although it does contain many passages and interpretations from their various works. It is an introduction to the nature of belief. An attempt has been made to penetrate the conceptual frames of various philosophers who have dealt with the forms of beliefs these humans have held over the centuries to make the lives better existential forms.

As such the philosophers and their works triggering from the earliest stages of mankind to the present level of existence have been traced in ten chapters. A discerning reader interested in various forms of human beliefs ought to find various factors pertaining to human beliefs over the centuries. The ten chapters are subdivided into subjects pertaining to various beliefs. They go as 'The Way of Philosophy', containing an introduction to how the subject sprang up in the seats of learning in countries like Greece, China, India and various parts of Europe.

The chapter contents underline the technique of living, where the etymological genesis of the term philosophy is traced. It is by far denotes the 'love of wisdom and that a philosopher is a person who pursues the truth for the smile of doing it.

Rational activity

Furthermore, if there is a universal bond among all who indulge in philosophical inquiries, it surely is their love of knowledge or the passion for rational activity from developing an opinion on some controversial issue to reaching a complex system of interweaving beliefs. According to the writer Scholar, Janaro, one could say that the philosopher does not have to be a great and famous human being.

There are thousands of philosophers living quietly among us. They, from time to time, tend to look very much like everyone else. They marry, have families, and hold various types of jobs. In this manner, the reader is given the impression that the subject known as philosophy though looks like a specialised area of study, is nevertheless a day to day study of happenings culminating in events and circumstances.

The people living among us, who know about things around us, at times, believe in certain unconventional ways. They too are a type of philosophers. Chapter two titled 'Ultimate Substance' is an attempt to go deeper into the concept of belief. With reference to the beliefs pertaining to the basic of all existence. What are the factors that go into the existence of a being? The writer scholar attempts to trace several religious and spiritual as well as mystical factors known to humans.

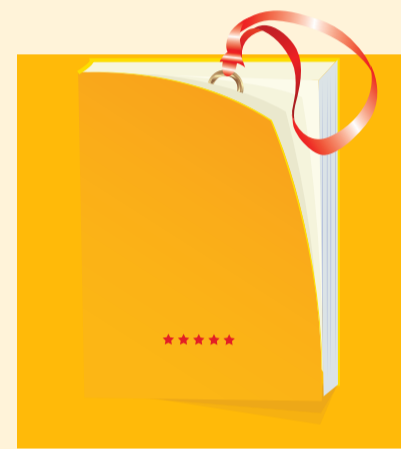
In this direction, the writer Janaro attempts to introduce the teachings of religious leaders like the Buddha, Confucius, Lao Tzu and Christ. The writer tends to depict that beliefs differ from culture to culture. But they too have a certain degree of unanimity or commonness in the latent forms. He too lays down fundamental factors by way of philosophical anecdotes, parables and dialogues to show the commonness in belief.

Interesting methodology

To enhance this approach, he collates the dialogues of Aristotle, Aquinas and Spinoza and several others. The reading process is made interesting by way of their methodology. The third chapter encompasses factors pertaining to 'Being and Becoming' wherein various earlier forms of views held on the two interlinked views. Janaro unearths the philosophical traits as laid down by Plato and Aristotle as a starting point. The issues about the longevity of life as well as being good via body and mind are salient factors that go into the making of a being.



The writer leaves no stone unturned in the process of the main subject area of 'belief as a philosophy' as found in other 'isms' such as existentialism and dialectical materialism. The work as a whole is an eye-opener at all times.



BOOKMARK

Though seen as simplistic, it is well complex and subtle. There are quite a number of biological factors that go into the making of a 'being'. But there seem more unseen factors beyond the realm of human grasp. Some of these factors are discussed in Chapter Four, which goes as 'Philosophical God'. Herein the concept of God is discussed from several standpoints. As the writer underlines, the concept of faith comes to man as a result of the search for a god or the intuitive knowledge of the god.

Herein the concept of God is discussed from several standpoints. As the writer underlines, the concept of faith comes to man as a result of the search for a god or the uninitiated knowledge of the god. It is also regarded as a divine gift. As such, undefinable by man. This has resulted in the philosophy of God. As such, for many thinkers around the globe, the god concept had become a philosophical concern. It is the reason according to the writer that must tell us or reveal this fact that God does or does not exist.

It has been the lifelong work of several great thinkers that had given way to philosophical speculations on the belief in God. From Chapter Five onwards, quite a lot of philosophical interpretations are presented on the concept of 'alternative consciousness' that paves the way to understand the philosophical issues about the teachings in Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism and Zen Buddhism. As a reader, I found that the learned writer has attempted to compare the salient factors in each of the teachings devoid of any biases and/or particularities.

Various isms

The writer leaves no stone unturned in the process of the main subject area of 'belief as a philosophy' as found in other 'isms' such as existentialism and dialectical materialism. The work as a whole is an eye-opener at all times.

Do you believe in these words? It is the question raised by the Tao thinker Lao Tzu.

"On tiptoe, your stance is unsteady. Long strides make your progress unsure,

Show off and you get no attention. Your boasting will mean you have failed,

Asserting yourself brings no credit. Be proud and you will never lead. To persons of the way these traits. Can only ring distrust, they seem Like extra food for parasites. So those who choose the way Will never give them a place.

If you believe in contemplation or thinking take a few minutes to read and follow the inner meanings.

LESTER'S VALIDITY

PIYASENA WICKRAMAGE

Lester James Peries was born in Sri Lanka long before the '71 insurrection happened. The only similarity is the year. Lester contributed to the development of Sri Lankan national cinema. Dr Lester James Peries' films brought national and international recognition to Sri Lankan Cinema. The impact of the '71 insurrection is still discussed without a conclusion.



In the Museum of Modern Art, most of Dr Peries' films are preserved for the use of film enthusiasts the world over! In Sri Lanka, Dr Peries lamented the need for a film archive till his death. We have no opportunity to see any of his films whenever someone studies about films or someone who want to view his films for the first time! Nor are there Lester James

Peries Film Festivals to give the film buffs to renew their memories.

Such cultural events are rare in Sri Lanka even when there are Film Corporations, Cultural and Information Departments. Our Foreign Ministry when signing Cultural Agreements with foreign missions there is 'intercultural relations and exchange programmes. A film festival in honour of this great national film artist was never a reality! I wonder if any constructive step has been taken to bring back the original copy of Dr LJP's Sandesaya from the Czech Republic? Our cultural authorities were never concerned about these matters. These are not matters of national interest or a matter of 'cheap publicity for the prevailing political culture.

Lester was essentially a man of films. Till his death, he spoke about films whenever we met him. His involvement was films! He was living with films. He showed a path for young filmmakers; Dr LJP's feature films were rooted in SL. Through the documentary film making for Government Film Unit, he saw the lifestyles of ordinary peasants and felt common people's pulse! As a feature filmmaker, he was based on the most outstanding Sinhala novels of eminent Sinhala novelists like Martin Wickramasingha (four films including Gam Peraliya) GB Senanayaka, Madawala S Ratnayaka and Karunasena Jayalath. Leonard Woolf's Village in the Jungle is the best novel written by a British civil servant during the colonial era was Dr LJP's most controversial films. His portrayal of SL society and lifestyles is still the best to me. There may be disagreements too!

Dr Lester's greatness is thus. He never went into exile leaving the cinema. He made SL cinema proud of what he did! Ransalu was a film he made with the essence of Buddha's teaching: the moderate life practised for relinquishment. Rekha was the peasants' wrong livelihood and illusions. 'Nidhanaya' was based on lust or desire. Lester's kind of films are for that audience! 'Golu hadawatha' was enjoyed by a majority.

I conclude this note with William Wordsworth's saying:

'Plain living and high thinking is no more!'

ANIMALS, BIRDS, TREES AND FLOWERS IN HINDUISM



Lord Ganesha with rat vahana



Margosa tree



Goddess Laxmi

The place of animals, birds, trees and flowers in Hinduism Bharatha Natyam is deeply rooted in Hinduism. There are two different varieties of hand gestures available in this great art. One is single-hand gestures and the other is double hand gestures. There are altogether 28 to 31 single-hand gestures and 23 double-hand gestures. Through different hand gestures, numerous symbols of animals, trees, gods, fruits, leaves, and Vahanams (vehicles of different gods) are beautifully depicted in Bharatha Natyam to the needs and necessity of the Abhinaya.

This is the only Indian dance form with elaborate categories of different hand gestures for different gods, leaves, fruits and trees.

While performing Bharatha Natyam the performing artiste according to her own imagination imbibes the categorised hand gestures to portray the appropriate scene or theme.

Different purposes

Hindu religion is generally known as Hinduism. In Hinduism, there are numerous gods for different purposes. Each god is associated with a bird or animal. The association with a bird or animal is called Vahanam. The term Vahanam means the sacred vehicle of the concerned god. The presiding deity of each temple gives a special place for the Vahanam or vehicle related to that particular god. Lord Shiva's sacred Vahanam is the bull which is often referred to as Rishapam or Nanthi Vahanam. That's why Lord Shiva is often referred to as Rishaparadar.

To depict Lord Shiva appropriate hand gestures should be adopted. Similarly, to portray different gods Vahana gestures are adopted to emphasize the selected theme of the song. Hence, mere learning Bharatha Natyam will not help a dancer to establish anyone in the dance field without knowing Hinduism. Hindu religious knowledge is very much needed for a dancer to become a fully-fledged dancer in the Bharatha Natyam field. The Lord Brahma is the God of Creation whose vehicle is the white swan. Meanwhile, Lord Maha

Vishnu is the God for Protection whose Vahanam is the

The Vulture or Karuda can be described as the Eagle. According to Hinduism, the Trimoorthy or Trinity (Three main Gods), Lord Siva is considered the supreme God who acts in accordance with the universal cyclical creation and destruction. Lord Brahma is the Creator and Lord Maha Vishnu is the Protector. Yet it is believed that Lord Siva is the Creator, Preserver and Destroyer. In performing these three functions together he takes the form of Lord Brahma and Vishnu. Goddess Kali is believed to be the wife of Lord Shiva. She is often referred to as Parvathi. Different incarnations of Goddess Kali's Vahanam is the lion.

According to Hindu legends, there are numerous incarnations of Goddess Kali. Most of the Kali images are portrayed along with Lion Vahanam. That is the reason for Goddess Kali being referred to as Simavahini. (The Goddess is the possessor of the Lion). The cow is another Vahanam of Goddess Amman.

Hindu Literature

The Lord Ganesha is the God with the elephant face. That is the reason for referring him to as YaanaiMugan. In Tamil Yaanai means elephant. Yaanai Mugan means the elephant-faced God. Hindu literature refers to Lord Ganesha as the God of Wisdom. The rat is the Vahanam of Lord Ganesha. Ganesha is the elder son of Lord Siva and Parvathi. Ganesha is also popularly known as Pillayar or Vinayagar or Ganapathy in Tamil.

The peacock is the Vahanam of Lord Murugan (Skanda). At all the temples the peacock Vahanam is used to carry Lord Murugan's idol. The cock is depicted in the flag of Lord Murugan. At the temple towers (gopurams) of the Murugan temples, this flag can be seen.

Aiyandar is another important god in the Hindu religion. His Vahanam is a white horse. Lord Hanuman is another important god in Hindu worship. Even at many events, Lord Hanuman is referred to as Anjanaiyar. The Monkey-faced God is always worshipped by devotees. God Hanuman is God for protection, health, strength and prosperity.

DARK BRIGHTNESS

It was dark and soothingly cool
Under and around the place.
The king of the forest
Was spreading its hands
Far and wide
Letting cheerful birds to play
Hide and seek among leaves,
Snakes relaxed along the stems,
Shady heaven lavishly invited

Animals to rest in rain and shine.
Oh! selfish, loveless humans
What have you done?
You have made the place
Shine brightly you think,
But don't you know
Your future is dark?

Kumari Weerasooriya



The Willow Leaf

"...Stability itself is nothing but a more languid motion..."
Michel De Montaigne-Of Repentance
With a touch of envy
I survey
the tall wrought iron-gate,
the narrow tarmac
lined with a row of Frangipanis
and the immense play-ground
as I cycle by
my Alma-mater.
The uniformed security guards
at the gate
and people in scruffy work clothes
on a tall scaffolding
beavering away at the new building
under construction...
the whole outlandish spectacle
crafted by
the untiring hands of time
leave me longing
for the good old days...
Yet, the Frangipanis abloom,
the willow-tops dancing in the wind,

the old stone wall,
mossy at the top
still appear to me,
to withstand the ravages of time,
and console my old soul...
I heave an euphoric sigh of relief
in the discovery of the constants
that satiate my nostalgia
but for a moment.
About the changeless willow tops,
now I see something faint adrift,
in the wind,
perhaps, a withered willow-leaf
with force enough
to shatter my sense of stability
more fragile than an eggshell.
I go. I pause.
I succumb to the wisdom of my heart
I succumb to the will of time.
I'm but a moment.
I'm also the Infinity.

Jayashantha Jayawardhana

Broad mind

Oh! Mind!
You are with a man or
woman
Why are you narrow
While you have broad space
You give a chance to man
To treat others
With prejudice
And narrow approach

Because of your thoughtless
Attitude
Man misuses your narrow
policy
So Mind! Will you be broad
To be adopted by man
On all occasions
For all your kith and Kin
MYM MEEADH

A bliss of solitude

A falling star upon the earth,
The falling leaves upon my head
The falling, strange rain drops swallow my body
The flowing wind of hopes blows away my soul
And the overflowing memories of you,
Taught me that the "Autumn" Is a bliss of solitude.

Wasana Kumarasinghe

Cuckoo

Koo koo
Voicing loveliness and liveliness
Pleasing, drawing inquisitiveness
Bubbling tone of Babes, day – born
Looking to kindly and fondle
Comfortably nestle
Wrestling in the shed
Taking tree as its shade
Cuckooing twenty plus five times
Musically – it rhymes
Pride of birds' sound
Proud amidst around
Lovers' sighing in depth
The call for help
Eternal lovers' call
As if united-eternal
Sweetest voice
Swiftly voiced
Double beat once
Redoubling in turns
Flute read, tunes
Repeated - eight to ten tones
Precised rhythming,
Clockwork rhyming
Followed the next morning
Heard voice heart rending
Confidence wrestling,
Promising, compromising,
Call - innocently ending

Coming close proximity
For purpose of intimacy
Four beats and changed volumes
Cuckooing forty times
Make me think your tone is
True lovers' tonic
Rhythmic, repeated, double tones.
Time precision in phones
Felt, incalls, sentiments
Steadily raising in tones,
Call ends up fast, in prudence
In an evening; followed by
raining
Hearing loveliest dialogue!
In reality a monologue!
organic beating,
Overwhelming - defeating,
Eighteen beats - three variations
After every six beat, sound
raising
sensitive tone - on
rainy, windy nights, ye own
calling for company and help
Until the rains wound up!
In one fine morn
Listened union tone
Cuckoo

Fahim Latiff

Baby Jesus

Dear Baby Jesus.
They buy you,
to adorn the corner
of a Mansion
with a manger.
For, one needs to be
a true Christian,
on a Christmas eve.
A contented tear oozes
from the eye sockets of a street urchin,
who identifies Baby Jesus

in the crib of a shop-window.
He identifies himself:
for he is an untimely chosen one
to serve in heaven.
Jesus, I love you ever so much.
You are the greatest "Parable"
of every incarnation of each era
who pays with blood and life
to defy the cruel yoke of injustice.

Quintus Senebandara Athaudha

Street Lights

When darkness envelops stealthily
Busy streets and towns are deserted swiftly,
Then street lights are lit at conspicuous points,
Which flicker and shimmer with radiance,
A little later walks in shadows of the night,
They brighten the solitary atmosphere.
Adorned in her finery with a coy smile,
Stands a lone woman under a light,
Waving her bag to and fro.
A few feet away under similar lights,

Stands other women dressed in trendy attire,
Roaming the streets to be picked up sooner or late..
The streets are their haven, and
The lights are their halts.
Some are compelled to earn for their living,
Whilst few others cherish the easy life style.

Yasmin Jaldin

Mary Immaculate

Immaculate! Immaculate!
Virgin Mother of Christ
Raised to celestial heights
With adiadem crowned
Above all womankind renowned
Humble maiden, virgin pure
Devoid of all women's allure
Role model to women, modest, inspiring
Reserved, gentle; unflinchingly accepting
the Holy Will of God;
Conceived sans stain of original sin
The Messiah - The Godhead Son.
She! Mary! God's chosen one.

Jeannette Cabraal

MARMADUKE



"Marm is jealous because you have that thing in your lap all the time."



"You'll have to get behind me and push."

MUTT AND JEFF



ARCHIE

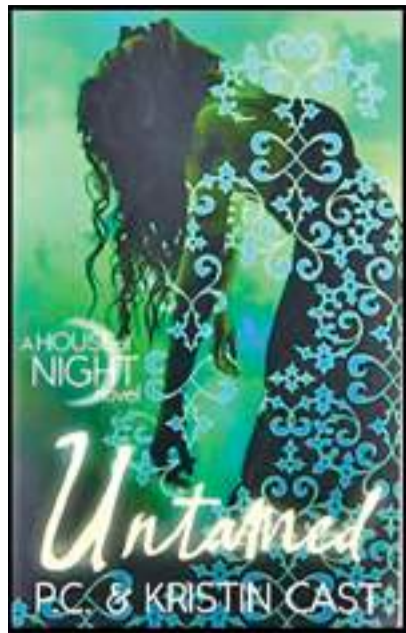


FISH TALES



UP & RUNNING

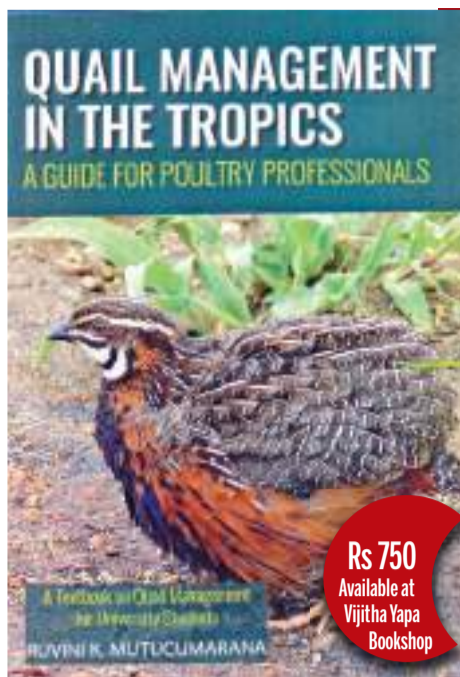




TITLE: A House of Night-Untamed
AUTHOR: PC Kristin Cast

Despite her nightmares, Zoey finds herself distracted by the new kid Stark, brought to the House by Neferet, who clearly has something she wants from him. There's something between Stark and Zoey that she never imagined - but disaster is awaiting them all, and she doesn't know if she can fight the approaching evil alone any more...

Rs 1540
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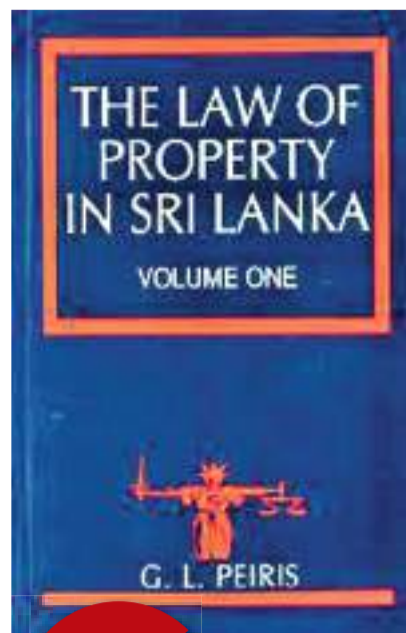
TITLE: Quail Management in the Tropics
AUTHOR: Ruvini K Mutucumarana

This book provides some fundamental information on quail production in Sri Lanka and South Asia at a time when the Government is trying to find new products for export.

Author Prof. Ruvunu K. Mutucumarana is a Professor at the Department of Livestock Production Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. She is a Commonwealth scholar and she obtained her PhD in Poultry Science from Massey University, New Zealand. She

has more than 18 years of teaching experience at the university in the fields of poultry science and health, animal nutrition and micro livestock production.

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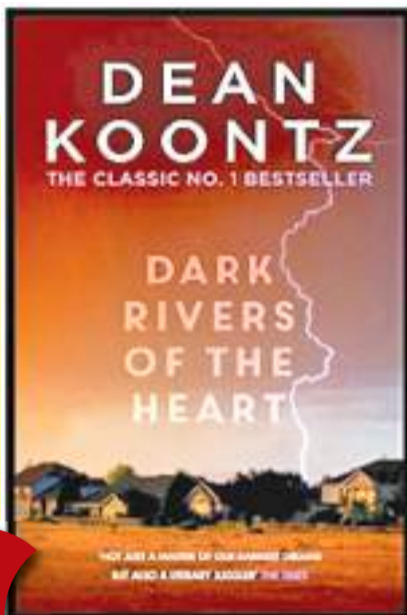
TITLE: The Law of Property in Sri Lanka - Volume 1.
AUTHOR: Professor G. L. Peiris

Here is Volume 1 of Professor G. L. Peiris' much-respected texts on Sri Lankan Property Law. This volume deals mainly with the law governing the agricultural property. It also discusses the scope of the Law of Property, the classification of property, modes of acquisition, accession including a detailed treatment of the law relating to compensation for improvements, prescription, and tradition - the Paulian action. It further deals with the law on the

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registration of deeds, possessory remedies, the attributes of property ownership, vindicatory action, the different connotations of "possession" in diverse areas of the Law of Property. The law in respect of co-owners, lease, emphyteusis, superficies and planters share is also covered.

TITLE: Dark River of the Heart
AUTHOR: Dean Koontz



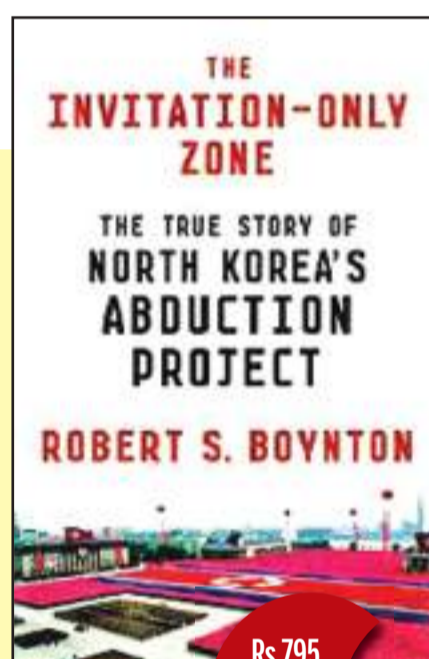
Do you dare step through the red door?

Spencer Grant had no idea what drew him to the bar with the red door. He thought he would just sit down, have a slow beer or two, and talk to a stranger. He couldn't know that it would lead to a narrow escape from a bungalow targeted by a SWAT team. Or that it would leave him a wanted man.

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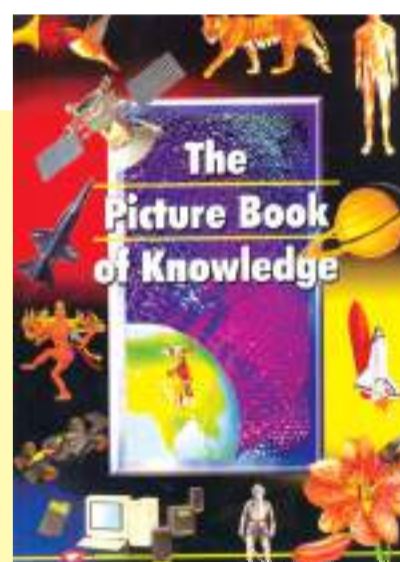
TITLE: The Invitation-Only Zone - The True Story of North Korea's Abduction Project
AUTHOR: Robert S Boynton



In the late 1970s North Korea kidnapped dozens of Japanese secretly, they only admitted it in 2002 in hopes of receiving Japanese aid. The regime had attempted to reeducate these abductees and make them spy on its behalf! When the scheme faltered, the captives were forced to teach Japanese to North Korean spies and make lives for themselves, marrying, having children, and posing as North Korean civilians in guarded communities known as "Invitation-Only Zones". Interviewed are spies, defectors, diplomats, abductees and crab fishermen as bizarre logic is untangled and tragic suffering the abductees endured is told, in North Korea's cruel attempt to remain relevant in the modern world.

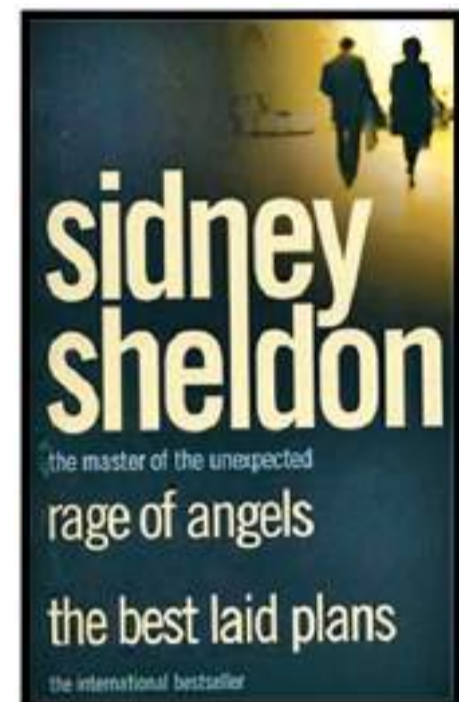
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TITLE: Picture Book of Knowledge



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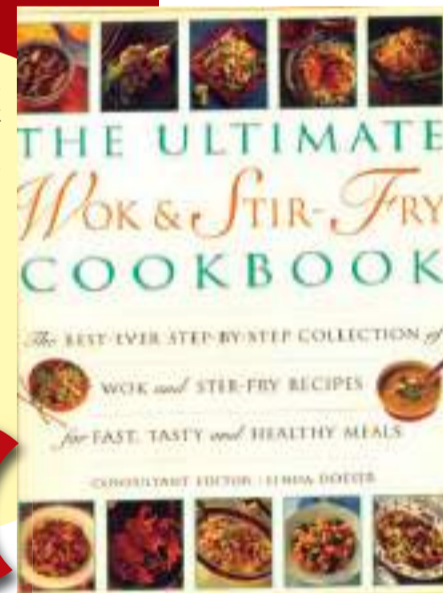


TITLE: Rage of Angels
AUTHOR: Sidney Sheldon

A world-wide best-seller first published in 1980, this novel tells the story of Jennifer Parker, a successful lawyer who is loved by two men, one a politician, the other, a mafia don.

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TITLE: Ultimate Wok & Stir-Fry Cookbook
AUTHOR: Linda Doeser



Ultimate Wok and Stir Fry gives the reader background information on equipment, supplies and cook's tips on cooking using a wok, as well as over 200 varied recipes from several countries in the Orient.

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TITLE: 10:34
AUTHOR: Aditha Dissanayake

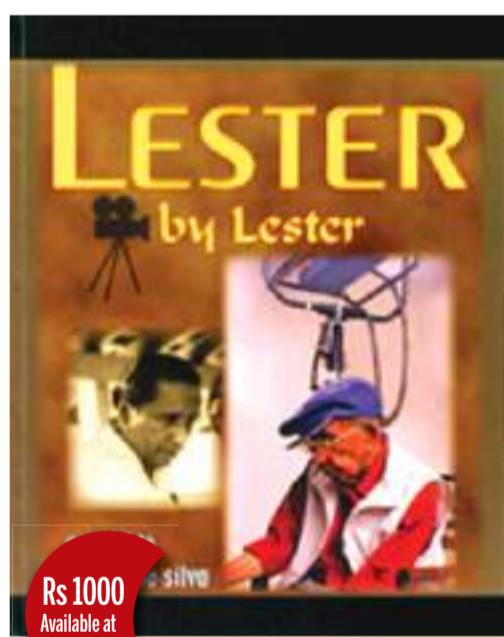
Humans have changed the landscapes they inhabit since prehistory, and climate change means even the remotest places now bear the fingerprints of humankind. Through this enchanting narrative, Aditha Dissanayake whose work was shortlisted raises a clarion call to preserve the Rights of Nature.

The story explores the magical world of plants and their companions through the journey of a twenty-four-year-old primary school teacher who has impulsively left behind her banker fiancé in Colombo and travelled to her hometown, a tiny village in Kothmale. She is searching for ways to save her

grandfather's ancestral property, but what she finds is an unexpected truth about herself and the man she plans to marry. For peaceful, serene Maliyadde offers Kumi more than the penetrating brilliance of the mid-morning sun. It offers the mysterious Kavana, the environmentalist who holds the key to her future.

An exotic novel about love, loss and beginnings, 10:34 affirms the depth of humanity's relationship with nature and adds special urgency to the cause of protecting the environment that nourishes all living beings.

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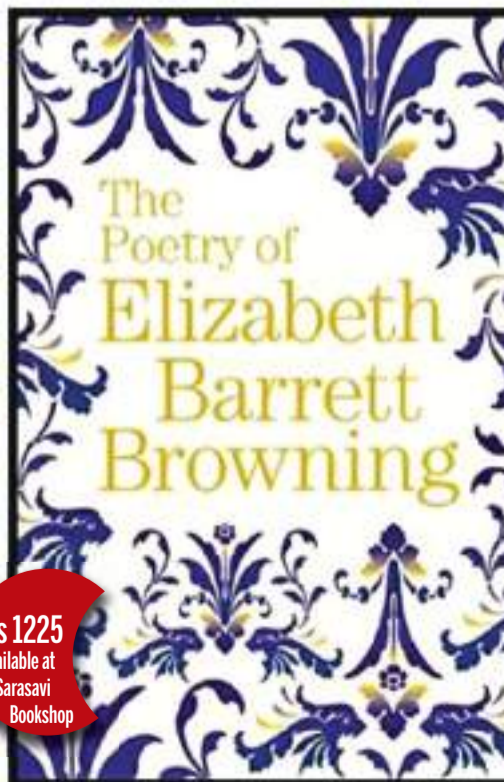
TITLE: Lester by Lester
AUTHOR: Kumar de Silva

A celebration of half a century of locally and internationally acclaimed creative excellence in Lester's own words. It chronicles the creativity of a lifetime of the Doyen of Sri Lankan Cinema, Dr Lester James Peries. Its twenty chapters are devoted to

each of his twenty films with illustrations many in colour. Lester's birthday falls this week.

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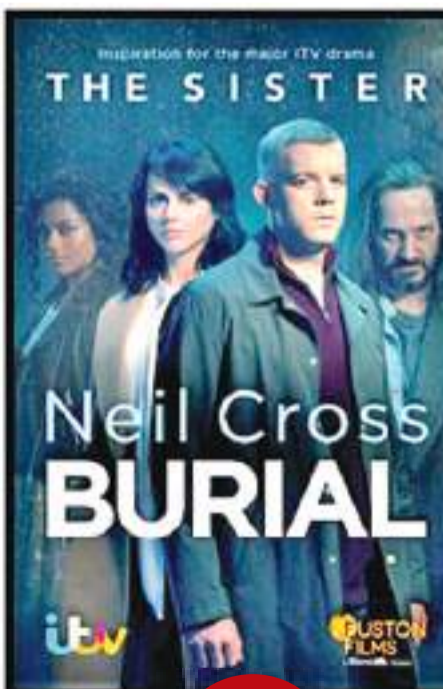
TITLE: The Poetry of Elizabeth Barrett Browning



Among all female poets of the English-speaking world in the 19th century, none was held in higher critical esteem or was more admired for the independence and courage of her views than Elizabeth Barrett Browning. During the years of her marriage to Robert Browning, her literary reputation far surpassed that of her poet-husband; when visitors came to their home in Florence, she was invariably the greater attraction.

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TITLE: The Sister
AUTHOR: Neil Cross



How do you live with your guiltiest secret? And what do you do when it comes back to haunt you, threatening to destroy everything? Neil Cross' 'Burial' explores this stark predicament.

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TITLE: Choderlos De Laclos
AUTHOR: Oierre Ambroise



A unique case in French literature, he was for a long time considered to be as scandalous a writer as the Marquis de Sade or Nicolas-Edme Rétif. He was a military officer with no illusions about human relations, and an amateur writer; however, his initial plan was to "write a work which departed from the ordinary, which made a noise, and which would remain on earth after his death"; from this point of view, he mostly attained his goals, with the fame of his masterpiece Les Liaisons dangereuses.

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AGRICULTURE

SDB bank partners SAPP, IFAD and MILCO

To uplift small-scale dairy entrepreneurs, boost national milk production

SDB bank in conjunction with several key enablers of entrepreneurial development including SAPP (Small-holder Agribusiness Partnerships Programme), IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), and MILCO, marked the continuation of their dedicated initiative to

boost the livelihoods of dairy-based entrepreneurs, with a loan awarding ceremony for its entrepreneur participants. The event titled 'The Credit Disbursement & Grant Awarding Ceremony of SAPP Youth Entrepreneurs' hosted in Aralaganwila, Polonnaruwa,

brought together youth entrepreneurs engaged in dairy farming from the surrounding locale. Minister of Agriculture Mahindananda Aluthgamage was the Chief Guest while SDB bank CEO Thilak Piyadigama; Director SAPP Programme Dr. Yasantha Mapatuna and

MILCO Chairman, Lasantha Wickramasinghe also participated. SDB bank's key role as the financial facilities provider of the initiative was highlighted by heads of all participating organizations, and their current involvement represents an extension of the bank's prior partnership with MILCO in supporting dairy farmers through the provision of specialised loans. Their CEO stated, 'It is a cause for much pride for SDB bank to be associated with SAPP, IFAD and MILCO in this entrepreneurial initiative, and we are committed to fulfilling our role as banking partner in MILCO's plans to double milk production within this year, plus to be involved in the wider aim of stopping dairy imports in the next 4 to 5 years'.

The technical know-how and financial literacy afforded by SAPP to dairy-based youth entrepreneurs across the initiative is set to strengthen their enterprises and boost national milk production considerably, complemented by SDB bank and MILCO's involvement as financial facilities provider and marketplace facilitator respectively. Leveraging the enhanced access created by MILCO to the island's considerable rural dairy farmer and SME network, the collective efforts of SDB



Agriculture Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage



SDB Bank, CEO Thilak Piyadigama



Presenting of a loan facility to an entrepreneur from the SDB bank by Mahindananda Aluthgamage and other guests.

bank, SAPP and IFAD have allowed for the disbursement of loans to a large number of dairy farmers as a start, with a Rs. 1 billion loan volume expected to be given in the near future to dairy farming entrepreneurs who supply milk to MILCO. The dairy farmer support initiative has received considerable strength through the harnessing of SDB bank's extensive reach countrywide and its strong SME ties, with the bank's Polonnaruwa branch approving 100-plus

loans prior to the loan awarding event last week. A similar loan volume has been continuously disbursed across numerous parts of the country in advancing this initiative, leveraging the bank's island-wide network of 94 branches plus its strength in the SME segment. SDB bank's offering of financial support to dairy farmers as part of this program is closely tied to its long-standing efforts at boosting agribusiness-focused SMEs islandwide.

Arinma Holdings introduces two sustainable water solutions



As a pioneering sustainable infrastructure development conglomerate with a vision to become the leader in water stewardship and environmental engineering, Arinma Holdings introduces innovative water technologies to Sri Lanka, meeting the need for clean drinking water in the country.

As an initial phase towards this goal, the company has introduced two products to the market targeted at industrial sector businesses and establishments in drought areas and areas with impoverished water quality, in Sri Lanka. The Hans® Premium Water filter is one of the world's best technologies available for water purification. Designed under the WHO guidelines for portable water, it removes up to 99.9% of contaminants in water by incorporating a 4-stage filtering system. Its mineralization process ensures pH balanced water with the right mineral water content with better taste. Furthermore, it provides an output of 11,300L per day within an average of a 10-12hr operation. Hans® Premium Water contains a self-cleaning technology and is a compact, plug and play water purification system with a low cost per litre. Moreover, a user can conveniently monitor the quality and status of the water through its bespoke Hans® Premium Water mobile app. The Hans® Premium Water filter is an ideal investment for industrial use in the hospitality and health sectors where there is a demand for large quantities of clean drinking water.

SOURCE™ Hydropanels is the world's first renewable drinking water system and is a sustainable water technology that harnesses solar

power to extract endless volumes of clean and safe drinking water from the air, developed entirely off-grid without an external source of water or power.

The pure water generated is mineralized with magnesium and calcium to achieve the ideal taste profile and correct pH value for drinking. SOURCE Hydropanels optimizes and monitors the quality of the water through sensor technology and can generate an output of 2-5L per day, making it cost-effective in comparison to packaged mineral water. "As a sustainable infrastructure development company, we envision developing a climate-resilient, future-ready Sri Lanka. In achieving this purpose, harnessing the power of Digital Technologies and Artificial Intelligence, we partner with global innovators and companies that bring the best technology to Sri Lanka, to meet the demands and needs to fulfil the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030, with a focus on the water, energy and medical sectors. We identified both The Hans Premium Water and SOURCE™ Hydropanels as two innovative solutions that address the demand for clean water in our island," said Nuwan Gamage, Head of Corporate Affairs and Communications, Arinma Holdings.

As part of the Group's CSR and sustainability initiatives, Arinma Holdings installed a Hans Premium Water purification system and two SOURCEwater hydro panels at the Ruhunu Maha Kataragama Devalaya recently. The Kataragama Maha Devalaya is one of the most visited religious sites in Sri Lanka, visited by thousands of devotees daily.



Bridging the Gap: Unlocking untapped potential in Sri Lanka's agricultural exports

Before the 1970s, agriculture exports accounted for more than 75% of Sri Lanka's total exports while industrial exports were around 15%. But since the liberalisation of the economy in the late 1970s, industrial exports have grown more rapidly than agriculture exports. In 2019, export earnings from agriculture accounted for USD 2,523 million equivalent to just 15.9% of total export earnings.

Sri Lanka's agricultural exports are limited to a few products: tea accounts for 53.3% of total agricultural exports followed by coconut (24.3%) and spices (12.4%). Notably, the country's tea exports are equivalent to a mere 11.3% of total world tea exports, and the world export share for Sri Lanka's coconuts (2.62%) and spices (0.2%) are also low. Many factors continue to hinder agriculture exports from reaching its full potential.

The government is giving renewed emphasis to increasing agriculture exports to manage the trade deficit and foreign debt burden. Several initiatives have been taken to transform the outmoded agricultural sector into a modern, agribusiness export-oriented industry. Most recently, a draft national agricultural policy has been prepared, with comments being sought from relevant stakeholders.

This piece highlights gaps in the international market which the agriculture sector can target, identifies factors impeding export-sector growth in agriculture, and suggests solutions for unlocking the untapped potential in this vital sector.

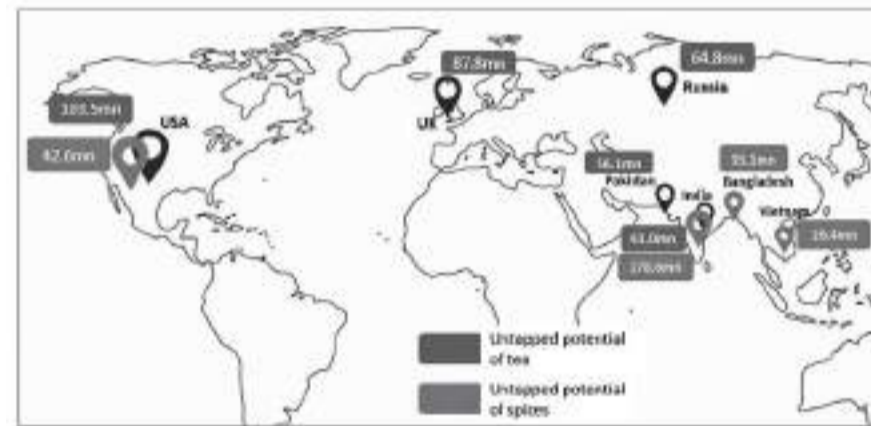
Where is the Untapped Potential?

Based on the International Trade Centre's Export Potential Map which assesses products with high export potential, agriculture products with the greatest export potential from Sri Lanka are tea and spices with a total untapped potential of USD 1.2 billion (Figure 1). For black tea, the absolute difference between potential and actual exports in value terms is USD 777.9 million while the value for spices is USD 453 million, USD 203 million for cinnamon, USD 151 million for pepper and USD 47 million for cloves.

Tea exports alone generated USD 1,346.4 million of export earnings in 2019 and the major export destinations for tea in 2020 were Turkey, Russia, Iraq, Iran, China, Azerbaijan and Saudi Arabia. Geographically, the greatest scope for export growth for black tea is in the USA, UK and Russia (Figure 2). The US shows the largest absolute difference between potential and actual exports in value terms with additional exports worth USD 103.5 million.

Sri Lanka produces some of the world's best-quality spices and is among the top

Figure 2: Countries with the Greatest Potential for Tea and Spice Exports



Source: Author's Illustration Based on ITC Data, 2021

spice exporting countries in the world. Spices are mainly exported to India, Mexico, USA, Germany, Peru, Guatemala, Bolivia, Saudi Arabia, Colombia and Ecuador. In 2019, spice exports generated USD 312.5 million worth of export earnings.

The markets with greatest potential for spice exports are India, USA and Bangladesh (Figure 2). India shows the largest absolute difference between potential and actual exports in value terms, leaving room to realise additional exports worth USD 178.6 million, especially for cinnamon, pepper and cloves.

What's Impeding Growth?

The factors holding back the growth of agricultural exports can be found at the production level; at the supply chain level and at the export level (Figure 3). As flagged in the IPS report 'Sri Lanka Tea Industry in Transition: 150 Years and Beyond', production-related challenges in the tea industry primarily include low productivity, high production costs, labour shortages and climate change. Similar issues are observed in the spice sector along with substandard cultivation methods.

Another IPS report 'Analysis of Cinnamon, Pepper and Cardamom Value Chains in Sri Lanka', notes that poor storage and poor quality maintenance at the processing level and unstable prices are the key issues facing the spice industry.

When it comes to marketing and export level issues, archaic marketing methods, lack of traceability, lack of quality in the final output and lack of technology and digital marketing methods, are prominent in the spices industry. For tea, lack of product diversification or value addition, relying on traditional buyers and lack of digital marketing platforms are long-standing challenges.

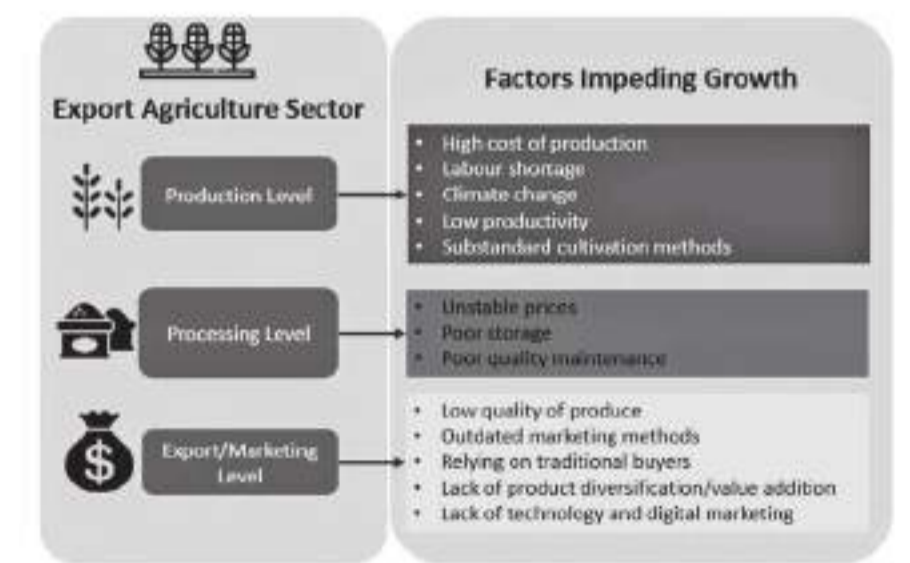
Other than these, trade-related factors such as exporter's lack of awareness or difficulty in complying with product-specific

market entry requirements, inability to match consumer preferences in a specific target market and trade barriers have a considerable impact on export growth.

Way Forward

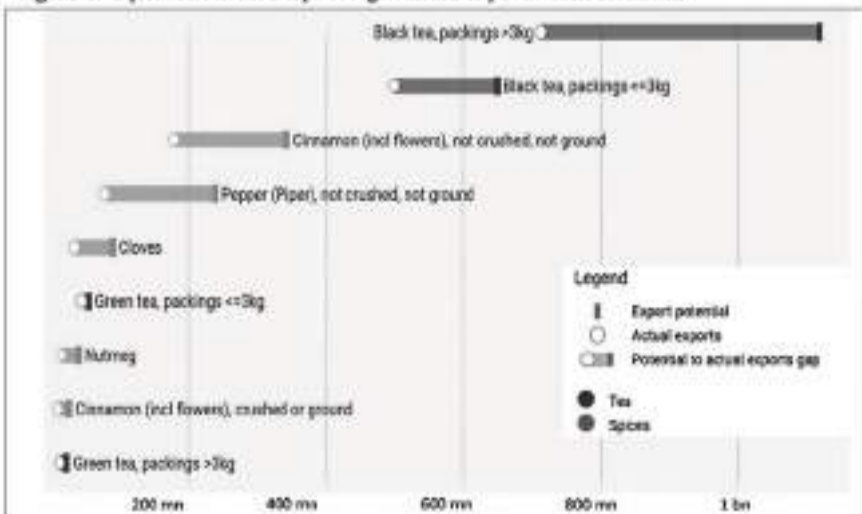
Strategic interventions are needed to unlock this untapped export potential so that Sri Lanka can bridge gaps in the world market and benefit from export-sector growth in agriculture. The value of output must be optimised from a given acreage of land either by increasing the harvest quantities of existing crops, lowering costs or diversifying into higher value-added products. Further, using efficient and modern technologies will reduce the cost of production and labour shortage issue associated with the sector. On the supply chain front, greater use of digital marketing platforms and blockchain technology in supply chains

Figure 3: Factors Impeding Export-Sector Growth in Agriculture



Source: Author's Illustration

Figure 1: Export Potential Map for Agriculture Exports from Sri Lanka



Source: Export Potential Map, International Trade Centre (ITC), 2020

for the tea and spice industries will ensure product traceability and higher marketability.

At the exporter level, sound macro-economic policies are needed so that Sri Lankan exports are more competitive in international markets. Some measures that can be adopted are tariff and para-tariff rationalisation and simplification to create an enabling environment for investors, and a strengthened financial sector which will ease access to credit for exporters. Additionally, domestic barriers related to regulations, administration and information have to be lowered on a priority basis.

The draft national agriculture policy has also included areas such as crop production and productivity, input management, advanced technologies to build socially-acceptable and sustainable food systems in Sri Lanka through globally competitive agricultural production, processing and marketing mechanisms. All these, in combination, would release the untapped potential and generate higher export revenue and employment opportunities in the agriculture sector to help meet the aims of Sri Lanka's proposed national agriculture policy.



The writer Nimesha Dissanayaka is a Research Officer at the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS). She holds a BSc (Hons) in Agricultural Technology and Management specialised in Applied Economics and Business Management from the University of Peradeniya. Her research interests are food security, agriculture policies and institutions, agriculture productivity, and agribusiness value chains.





MINISTRY OF WATER SUPPLY
NATIONAL WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
BID NOTICE

The Chairman, Procurement Committee on behalf of the National Water Supply & Drainage Board now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Works/Supplies as described below

No	Name of Contract & Contract No	Non Refundable Fee (Rs)	Bid Security Requirements	Eligibility Requirements	Estimated Cost (Rs.) Excluding VAT	Place of Issuing of Documents & Contact Person	Closing Date and Time
CIVIL TENDERS							
01	Trenching, Backfilling, Pipe Laying & Fixing Water Meters with all Fittings & Accessories of New Connections for Weligama Region, Provision of New Service Connection Contract No : RSC(S)/P&C/NEW SERVICE/WELIGAMA/O&M/2021-31	12,500/- + VAT **	Rs. 306,000/-	Registration with CIDA in the field of Water Supply and Sewerage Grade C5 to C9 and Registration of the contract as per the Act.No.3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract	20.00 million	RSC(Southern), 395, Kumaratunga Mawatha, Pamburana, Matara. Tele: 041-2229792 Fax 041-2224769	28/04/2021 14.00 hours
02	Kelawewa Water Supply Scheme Improvements – Headwork Package I Contract No : NWSDB/NC/CP/A2-19/GOSL/2021/01	35,000/- + VAT **	Rs. 2,000,000/-	Registration with CIDA in the field of Water Supply and Sewerage Grade C4 or C3 and Registration of the contract as per the Act.No.3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract	130.1 million	Tenders & Contracts Section, NWS&DB, Galle Road, Ratmalana. Tele:011-2605328 Fax: 011-2635885	05/05/2021 10.00 hours
03	Construction of a Beach Chamber and Sea Outfall at Proposed Textile Zone at Eravur Batticaloa - Eravur Textile Zone Wastewater Scheme, Contract No : NWSDB/WR-P&D/BOI/WWTP/ERAVUR/2021/01	35,000/- + VAT **	Rs. 2,000,000/-	Registration with CIDA in the field of Water Supply and Sewerage Grade C3and above and Registration of the contract as per the Act.No.3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract	185 million	Tenders & Contracts Section, NWS&DB, Galle Road, Ratmalana. Tele: 011-2605328 Fax: 011-2635885	06/05/2021 10.00 hours
04	Trenching, Backfilling, Pipe Laying & Fixing Water Meters with all Fittings & Accessories of New Connections for Matara Region, Provision of New Service Connections Contract No : RSC(S)/P&C/SER/MATARA/O&M/2021-30	12,500/- + VAT **	Rs. 346,000/-	Registration with CIDA in the field of Water Supply and Sewerage Grade C5 to C9 and Registration of the contract as per the Act.No.3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract	21.00 million	RSC(Southern), 395, Kumaratunga Mawatha, Pamburana, Matara, Tele: 041-2229792 Fax 041-2224769	28/04/2021 14.00 hours
05	Laying of uPVC Pipes and Fittings, Specials and Construction of Valve Chambers from Lebeema Junction to Henwalana Area Contract No : RSC(S)/P&C/C/LAYING/LEBEEMA-HENWALANA/NRW/2020-114	4,000/- + VAT	Rs. 52,500/-	Registration with CIDA in the field of Water Supply and Sewerage Grade C5 to C9	3.50 million	RSC(Southern), 395, Kumaratunga Mawatha, Pamburana, Matara. Tele: 041-2229792 Fax 041-2224769	28/04/2021 14.00 hours
06	Renovation & Modification works at Dambulla Water Supply Scheme Contract No : RSC-C/P&D/CIVIL/REH/DAMBULLA/2021/79	12,500/- + VAT **	Rs. 184,500/-	Registration with CIDA in the field of Water Supply and Sewerage Grade C5 to C9 and Registration of the contract as per the Act.No.3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract	12.3 million	RSC (Central), Gatambe, Peradeniya Tele : 081-2386068 Fax: 081-2388027 Prebid meeting on 22.04.2021@10.00 hrs. at AGM(Central) office	28/04/2021 14.00 hours
07	Renovation of OIC Office at Gamudawa Contract No : RSC-C/CE(O&M)/CIVIL/REH/KUNDASALE/2021/24	6,000/- + VAT **	Rs. 100,000/-	Registration with CIDA in the field of Building Construction Grade C5 to C9 and Registration of the contract as per the Act.No.3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract	6.70 million	RSC (Central), Gatambe, Peradeniya Tele : 081-2386068 Fax: 081-2388027	28/04/2021 14.00 hours
08	Construction of Access Road for Stores Premises – Stage I at Central East Region Contract No : RSC-C/CE(O&M)/CIVIL/REH/STORES(CE)/2021/25	6,000/- + VAT **	Rs. 85,000/-	Registration with CIDA in the field of Building Construction Grade C5 to C9 and Registration of the contract as per the Act.No.3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract	6.3 million	RSC (Central), Gatambe, Peradeniya Tele : 081-2386068 Fax: 081-2388027	28/04/2021 14.00 hours
09	Augmentation of Gonigoda Pump House and New Generator Room under KNPIWSP Contract No: KNPIWSP/WORK/PC-2/2021-10	12,500/- + VAT **	Rs. 50,000/-	Registration with CIDA in the field of Building Construction Grade C5 to C9 and Registration of the contract as per the Act.No.3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract	11.30 million	Kandy North Pathadumbara Water Supply Project, NWSDB, Pahala Kondadeniya, Katugastota. Tele: 0812492287 Fax: 0812492286	05/05/2021 14.00 hours
10	Installation of Valves, Surface Boxes & Construction of Valve Chambers under KNPIWSP Contract No : KNPIWSP/WORK/PC-01/2020-33	12,500/- + VAT **	Rs. 85,000/-	Registration with CIDA in the field of Water Supply and Sewerage Grade C5 to C9 and Registration of the contract as per the Act.No.3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract	17 million	Kandy North Pathadumbara Water Supply Project, NWSDB, Pahala Kondadeniya, Katugastota. Tele: 0812492287 Fax: 0812492286	06/05/2021 14.00 hours
M&E TENDERS							
11	Supply and Installation of 02 Nos. End Suction Vertical Delivery Pumping Set, Motor Control Panel Equipment and Accessories for Nugawela-Kulugammana Booster Pumping System at Yatiwawala Booster Pump House in Greater Kandy Water Supply Scheme Contract No : RSC-C/M&E/S&I/M&E/ENERGY/NUGA-KULU/2021/03	12,500/- + VAT **	Rs. 366,000/-	Manufacturers or their local accredited agent and Registration of the contract as per the Act.No.3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract		Tenders & Contracts Section, NWS&DB, Galle Road, Ratmalana. Tele: 011-2605328 Fax: 011-2635885	05/05/2021 10.00 hours
12	Supply and Installation of Water Pumping Sets and Accessories for Santhiveli Pump House at Batticaloa Contract No : RSC(E)/DGM/LBF/PUMP/ODDAM/2018/17R	20,000/- + VAT **	Rs. 840,000/-	Manufacturers or their local accredited agent and Registration of the contract as per the Act.No.3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract		Tenders & Contracts Section, NWS&DB, Galle Road, Ratmalana. Tele: 011-2605328 Fax: 011-2635885	05/05/2021 10.00 hours
13	Supply & Delivery of 50,000 Nos. of Volumetric Displacement Type 15 mm (1/2") Domestic Water Meters Contract No : DGM/M&E/WM/15/2020/05	60,000/- + VAT **	Rs. 3,300,000/-	Manufacturers or their local accredited agent and Registration of the contract as per the Act.No.3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract		Tenders & Contracts Section, NWS&DB, Galle Road, Ratmalana. Tele: 011-2605328 Fax: 011-2635885	12/05/2021 10.00 hours
14	Supply & Installation of Centrifugal Water Pumping Sets and Accessories for Dimbulagala and Veheragala Pradeshiya Sabha WSS. Contract No : RC/NC/DGM/PUMPS-POL/2020/368	6,000/- + VAT **	Rs. 71,100/-	Manufacturers or their local accredited agent and Registration of the contract as per the Act.No.3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract		RSC (NC), Godage Mawatha, Anuradhapura. Tele : 025-2235993 Fax: 025-2225609	21/04/2021 14.00 hours
15	Supply and Installation of Water Quality Analysing Instruments for Baddegama Water Treatment Plant Contract No : RSC(S)/P&C(S)/S/CHEMICAL FLOW METERS/BADDEGAMA/NRW/2021-160	4,000/- + VAT	Rs. 50,000/-	Manufacturers or their local accredited agent		RSC (Southern), 395, Kumaratunga Mawatha, Pamburana, Matara. Tele: 041-2229792 Fax : 041-2224769	28/04/2021 14.00 hours
SUPPLY TENDERS							
16	Supply and Delivery of 5,000 Volumetric Displacement Type 20mm Domestic Water Meters Contract No : DGM/M&E/WM/20/2021/01	12,500/- + VAT **	Rs. 245,000/-	Manufacturers or their local accredited agent and Registration of the contract as per the Act.No.3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract		Tenders & Contracts Section, NWS&DB, Galle Road, Ratmalana. Tele: 011-2605328 Fax: 011-2635885	06/05/2021 10.00 hours
17	Supply and Delivery of Stainless Steel (316L) Material for Dankotuwa Water Supply Scheme Contract No : RSC(NW)/P&D/SS/CB/DAN/2021/07	6,000/- + VAT **	Rs. 140,000/-	Suppliers of Stainless Steel Structural Components comply to ASTM, AISI, JIS or equivalent Standard and Registration of the contract as per the Act.No.3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract		RSC (North-Western) Office, NWSDB, Dambulla Road, Kurunegala. Tele: 037-2221161 Fax : 037-2230086	28/04/2021 14.00 hours
18	Supply & Delivery of Bearing Heater (Induction heater) for Kandy North Pathadumbara Integrated Water Supply Project Contract No : KNPIWSP/SUPPLY/PC-2/2021-20	2,000/- + VAT	Rs. 10,000/-	Eligible bidder shall be a manufacturer's local accredited agents / distributors or importers		Kandy North Pathadumbara Water Supply Project, NWSDB, Pahala Kondadeniya, Katugastota. Tele : 081-2492287 Fax : 081-2492286	28/04/2021 14.00 hours
JANITORIAL SERVICES							
19	Provision of cleaning services for office buildings and premises at Anuradhapura South (Thalawa) Water Supply Scheme Contract No : O&M/NC/DGM/SER/APS/2021/004	2,000/- + VAT	Rs. 17,500/-	Registered for Janitorial Services		RSC (NC), Godage Mawatha, Anuradhapura. Tele : 025-2235993 Fax: 025-2225609	21/04/2021 14.00 hours
20	Provision of cleaning services for premises including Office Building, Treatment Plant, PVC stores, Employee lounge, vehicle / bicycle and motorbike parking lot, Security Hut, Generator room, High Lift Pumping Station, Filter building, Chemical Warehouse at Sacred City Water Supply System Office, Contract No : O&M/NC/DGM/SER/S.CITY/2021/009	2,000/- + VAT	Rs. 14,900/-	Registered for Janitorial Services		RSC (NC), Godage Mawatha, Anuradhapura. Tele : 025-2235993 Fax: 025-2225609	21/04/2021 14.00 hours
21	Provision of cleaning services for office buildings and premises at Thanthirimale and Oyamaduwala Water Supply Scheme Contract No : O&M/NC/DGM/SER/THR-OMD/2021/010	2,000/- + VAT	Rs. 19,850/-	Registered for Janitorial Services		RSC (NC), Godage Mawatha, Anuradhapura. Tele : 025-2235993 Fax: 025-2225609	21/04/2021 14.00 hours
22	Provision of cleaning services for office buildings and premises at Kahatagasdigiliya Water Supply Scheme Contract No : O&M/NC/DGM/SER/KGD/2021/011	2,000/- + VAT	Rs. 10,750/-	Registered for Janitorial Services		RSC (NC), Godage Mawatha, Anuradhapura. Tele : 025-2235993 Fax: 025-2225609	21/04/2021 14.00 hours
23	Provision of cleaning services for office buildings and premises at Anuradhapura North (Jaffna Junction) Water Supply Scheme Contract No : O&M/NC/DGM/SER/APN/2021/012	2,000/- + VAT	Rs. 8,600/-	Registered for Janitorial Services		RSC (NC), Godage Mawatha, Anuradhapura. Tele : 025-2235993 Fax: 025-2225609	21/04/2021 14.00 hours
24	Provision of cleaning services for office buildings and premises at Mihinthale Water Supply Scheme Contract No : O&M/NC/DGM/SER/MHT/2021/013	2,000/- + VAT	Rs. 9,200/-	Registered for Janitorial Services		RSC (NC), Godage Mawatha, Anuradhapura. Tele : 025-2235993 Fax: 025-2225609	21/04/2021 14.00 hours
25	Provision of cleaning services for office buildings and premises at Anuradhapura Ground Water (North Central) Water Supply Scheme Contract No : GW/NC/DGM/SER/GW/2021/021	2,000/- + VAT	Rs. 10,450/-	Registered for Janitorial Services		RSC (NC), Godage Mawatha, Anuradhapura. Tele : 025-2235993 Fax: 025-2225609	21/04/2021 14.00 hours
26	Provision of cleaning services for office buildings at Polonnaruwa Manager Office Contract No : O&M/NC/DGM/SER/ROP/2021/025	2,000/- + VAT	Rs. 12,500/-	Registered for Janitorial Services		RSC (NC), GodageMawatha, Anuradhapura. Tele : 025-2235993 Fax: 025-2225609	21/04/2021 14.00 hours
HIRING OF MACHINES							
27	Hiring of 01 No. of Backhoe Loader for Construction Section in RSC (W/N) Office Contract No : RSC(W/N)/SS/HIRING/CONS.(REC)/2021/47R	4,000/- + VAT	Rs. 6,000/-	As per the document		Regional Support Center (W/N) Office, No.433/4A, Ganemulla Road, Kadawatha. Tele: 0112922129 Fax: 0112922146	28/04/2021 10.00 hours
HIRING OF VEHICLE							
28	Hiring of a Three Wheel for Matale Water Supply Scheme Contract No : RSC-C/CN/SER/O&M/MATALE/2021/074	2,000/- + VAT	Rs. 6,680/-	As per the document		RSC (Central), Gatambe, Peradeniya. Tele : 081-2386068 Fax: 081-2388027	28/04/2021 14.00 hours
29	Hiring of a Three Wheel for Matale Water Supply Scheme Contract No : RSC-C/CN/SER/O&M/MATALE/2021/075	2,000/- + VAT	Rs. 6,680/-	As per the document		RSC (Central), Gatambe, Peradeniya. Tele : 081-2386068 Fax: 081-2388027	28/04/2021 14.00 hours

Please register on line www.drc.gov.lk of Registrar of Companies for get PCA 3 form (only for tenders marked as ****). Further please use gmail for registration.

Bidding documents will be issued on production of a letter of request on a business letterhead together with the payment receipt of non-refundable tender fee during 09.00 hours to 15.00 hours on normal working days up to day before the closing date.

Bidding documents may be inspected free of charge at the place of issuing documents during normal working hours.

Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' authorized representatives who choose to attend. Late bids will be returned unopened.

Chairman, National Water Supply and Drainage Board



SRI LANKA STATE PLANTATIONS CORPORATION

21, Meeraniya Street, Colombo 12.



SALE OF GREEN LEAF SLSPC PLANTATIONS MAY/JUNE - 2021

TENDER NO : SLSPC/PL/GreenLeaf/T-77/2021

Bids are invited for the sale of Green Leaf for period of 02 months, in the following estates belonging to Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation situated in Kandy/Matale districts.

Name of Plantation	Non-Refundable Fee (Rs.)	Refundable Deposit (Rs.)
Allakolla Estate	5000.00	100,000.00
Cottaganga Estate	5000.00	100,000.00
Galphille Estate	5000.00	100,000.00
Goomera Estate	5000.00	100,000.00
Hagalla Estate	5000.00	100,000.00
Harepark Estate	5000.00	100,000.00
Hunnasgiriya Estate	5000.00	100,000.00
Nicholoya Estate	5000.00	100,000.00
Waithalawa Estate	5000.00	100,000.00
Woodside Estate	5000.00	100,000.00
Opalgala Estate	5000.00	100,000.00

Tender forms including tender conditions could be purchased from SLSPC Head Office at No.21, Meeraniya Street Colombo 12 up to 12.30 p.m. on 28th April 2021 and from SLSPC Regional Office upto 4.00 p.m. from 27th April 2021 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs.5000/= (Five Thousand Only) .

The refundable tender deposit of Rs. 100,000/= (One Hundred Thousand) per each plantation should be submitted separately and the said deposit should be paid to the (Shroff) Cashier of SLSPC, or credit to the bank Account No. 046 1002 40000 933 of the People's Bank, 1st City Branch, and a copy of the receipt should be submitted along with the duly completed tender Forms.

Duly completed tender forms should be placed in the Tender Box kept for the purpose at the Colombo Head Office of SLSPC to be received at or before 1.00 p.m. on 28th April 2021. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Tender Opening Committee at 1.30 p.m. on 28th April, 2021 and the Tenderer / Purchaser or his accredited agent will be allowed to be present. Late Bids will be rejected and the decision of the Chairman, Procurement Committee will be the final.

**Chairman
Procurement Committee
Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation
21, Meeraniya Street,
Colombo 12.**

05-04-2021

INVITATION FOR BIDS



PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR THE SRI LANKA AIR FORCE

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee of the Sri Lanka Air Force invites sealed Bids from eligible bidders for the following goods and services.

S/ No.	Procurement Identification Number	Description	Date and time of Bid closing / opening	Non Refundable Fee (Rs.)
01.	AHQ/21/PUB/E/1001	Purchase of Qty Two (02) Brand New Passenger Vans to Sri Lanka Air Force.	07 th May 2021 at 1030 Hrs	6,000.00
02.	AHQ/21/PUB/E/1002	Purchase of Qty Three (03) Brand New Ceremonial Motor Cycles to Sri Lanka Air Force.	07 th May 2021 at 1030 Hrs	6,000.00
03.	AHQ/21/PUB/E/1003	Purchase of Qty Ten (10) Brand New Water Bowsers with Stainless Steel Tanks to Sri Lanka Air Force.	07 th May 2021 at 1030 Hrs	14,500.00
04.	AHQ/21/PUB/E/1004	Purchase of Qty One (01) Brand New Fork Lift (05 Ton) to Sri Lanka Air Force.	07 th May 2021 at 1030 Hrs	3,500.00
05.	AHQ/21/PUB/E/1005	Purchase of Qty One (01) Crane (Rough Terrain) 25 Ton to Sri Lanka Air Force.	07 th May 2021 at 1030 Hrs	20,000.00
06.	AHQ/21/PUB/MED/1002	Procurement of Medical Investigations Facility From Private Sector Hospitals To The Sri Lanka Air Force (on Annual rate approval basis for the year 2021)	07 th May 2021 at 1030 Hrs	2,000.00

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure and tender mentioned in above subjected to two envelop method.
3. A complete set of bidding document in English could be inspected by the prospective bidders from the Sri Lanka Air Force website www.airforce.lk and may be purchased from the Procurement Division (Tender Section) during **1000 hrs to 1400 hrs** on any working day from **7th April 2021 to 06th May 2021** upon payment of the above non-refundable fee to the Shroff at Sri Lanka Air Force Station Colombo. The bids without the receipt of the payment will not be accepted.
4. The sealed bids in **duplicate**, shall be addressed to **"The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee** and may either be dispatched by registered post or deposited in the Tender Box at the Main Guardroom well before the closing time. Late bids will not be accepted. Bids will be opened soon after closing of the bids. Bidders or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the opening of the bids, upon presentation of their National Identity Card and letters of authorization from their employers. No bidder or his representative will be permitted to attend the bid opening after the bid closing time.
5. The items are listed in the "Schedule of Prices" of the bidding document and the applicable rates shall be indicated for each item listed therein. The offered rates shall not be subjected to variation on any account.
6. The supplies shall be made to Sri Lanka Air Force Base Katunayake and the prospective bidders shall bear all taxes, duties and levies applicable for the goods and the transport cost. The applicable VAT shall be indicated separately in the Schedule of Prices.
7. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further informations from the Chief Procurement Officer (Tel. **011-2325468 Extension 23550**) or Procurement Officer Tenders (Tel. **011-2441553 or 011-2441044 Extension 23569 Fax: 011-2441553 and 011-2347694**).
8. The address referred to above is:

**The Chairman
Departmental Procurement Committee
Sri Lanka Air Force
Air Force Headquarters
P.O. Box 1592
Colombo 02**

COMMANDER OF THE AIR FORCE

INVITATION FOR BIDS



SRI LANKA TRANSPORT BOARD (SLTB)

SUPPLY OF PRE-CURING SERVICES FOR 295/80R 22.5 RADIAL TYRES

(SLTB/TS/GEN /65-1/2021)

1. The Chairman, SLTB Major Procurement Committee on behalf of Sri Lanka Transport Board will receive sealed quotations from Tyre Pre-curing Service Providers for Supply of Pre-curing Services for. 295/80R 22.5 Radial Tyres, up to 10.30 a.m. on 28.04.2021 under National Competitive Bidding Procedure. Bids should be submitted on the forms available with the Secretary, Tender Board, Sri Lanka Transport Board, 200, Kirula Road, Colombo 05. Bidding documents will be issued from 07.04.2021 to 27.04.2021 on payment of a non refundable application fee of Rs. 15,000/-, on working days during 9.00 am and 3.00 pm.

Description	Bid Bond (Rs)
Supply of Pre-curing Services for 3792 Nos. (Approx.) 295/80R 22.5 Radial Tyres	700,000.00

2. Bids shall be valid up to 29.07.2021 However prices quoted shall be valid for one year from the date of award of contract.
3. Bids shall include a Bid Security valid till 28.08.2021, irrevocable & unconditionally encashable upon the first written request by SLTB and issued by a registered commercial Bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka or an Insurance Agency registered with the Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka. Any Bid not accompanied by a valid Bid Security will be rejected.
4. All pages of the Bid Documents shall be initialed by the Bidder and his seal affixed.
5. (a) Any person who acts as an Agent, Sub agent, Representative or Nominee for or on behalf of a Bidder should register with Registrar of Public Contracts, "Samagam Medura", D. R. Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo 10. in terms of Contract Act Number 3 of 1987 before submitting the bid .
(b) The bidders shall also register themselves immediately after the submission of bids and prior to the award of the procurement in terms of the Public contract Act. No. 03 of 1987. The procurement shall not be awarded to any bidder unless such bidder has submitted the Certificate of Registration issued in terms of the Public Contracts Act to the relevant Procurement Committee
6. Bids should either be deposited in the Bid Box maintained for this purpose at this office or sent by post under registered cover in duplicate. The sealed cover, containing the 'Original' and the 'Copy' of the Bid in two separate envelopes, should be marked **"Supply of Pre-curing Services for. 295/80R 22.5 Radial Tyres"** at the top left hand side corner of the envelope.
7. Bidding will be closed at 10.30 a.m. on 28.04.2021 and Bids will be opened immediately thereafter at the Tender Section, Sri Lanka Transport Board, 200, Kirula Road, Colombo 05. Bidders or their authorized representatives are requested to be present at the opening of Bids.

**The Chairman,
SLTB Procurement Committee,
Sri Lanka Transport Board,
No. 200, Kirula Road,
Colombo 05.**

**Inquiries : Secretary, Procurement Committee
Tel: 011 7706110, 0117706111, 0771056110 Tel/Fax: 011 2588457**



Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority

Invitation for Bids

DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALL, COMMISSION, AND MAINTENANCE OF SOLAR PV (ROOF-TOP) WITH A STORAGE SYSTEM (BATTERY) AT INDURANA TRAINING CENTER OWNED BY SRI LANKA SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AUTHORITY

Procurement Number : SEA/PD/RMP/13-2021

1. The Chairman, Procurement Committee of Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority invites bids from suitable suppliers for "DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALL, COMMISSION, AND MAINTENANCE OF SOLAR PV (ROOF-TOP) WITH A STORAGE SYSTEM (BATTERY) AT INDURANA TRAINING CENTER OWNED BY SRI LANKA SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AUTHORITY"
2. This system is mainly used to provide training for university students, technicians, and engineers on battery storage systems and hybrid inverters and also used to solve the prevailing street light issue at Indurana Training Center. Therefore, supplying party should have competent individuals who can provide comprehensive training and documentation on advanced battery storage components as well as experience in providing street light solutions. The system should be capable of carrying out demonstrations, carry out practical experiments, and give hands-on experience to the experts in the energy sector. We encourage the use of locally manufactured and/or value-added equipment where possible. Bidders who have previous experience in Design, Engineering, Supply, Install, Commission, Operate, and Maintain rooftop solar PV or ground-mounted solar PV or off-grid solar PV with energy storage systems (battery) or similar work are eligible to bid. Once awarded the bid, the system shall be designed, supplied, installed and commissioned within three months from the date of the award.
3. Interested bidders must be registered Solar suppliers of Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA) and interested bidders can inspect Bidding document from official web site: www.energy.gov.lk free of charge and complete set of bidding document in English language may be obtained by interested bidders from the above web site. Non-refundable tender fee of LKR 1,000/=, has to be made for tender document and payment shall be deposited to SLSEA general current A/c No 0074944408 of Bank of Ceylon (code is 7010) - Torrington Square branch (code is 453) clearly mentioning the procurement reference SEA/PD/RMP/13-2021. Cash Deposit Slip or e-receipt (for on-line transfer) of non-refundable tender fee shall be submitted with the bid. The bids without the copy of the payment receipt will be rejected. Online pre-bid meeting will be held on 20th April 2021 at 10.30a.m as mentioned in the bid document.
4. The sealed bids marked 'SOLAR PV WITH A STORAGE SYSTEM (BATTERY)' on the top left-hand corner shall be sent to reach the Procurement Division, Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority, Block-05, 01st Floor, BMICH, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07 through hand delivery or by registered post on or before 10.30 a.m on 29th April 2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened online soon after closing time. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of LKR 20,000/= and valid until 19th July 2021 as mentioned in the bid document.
5. Due to Covid 19 situation in the country, the bids will be opened and read out the prices through a "Google Meet" without physical participation of bidders and will be opened on 29th April 2021 at 10.30 a.m. Bidders, who wish to participate at this online bid opening shall mark an email address and telephone number in the outer side of the envelope (of the bid).
6. Further details may be obtained by calling on telephone numbers 0112677445 or 0112676515 ext. 211 during office hours or by writing to Ms. A. Katugaha, Apsara.katugaha@gmail.com.

**Chairman
Department Procurement Committee
Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority
Block 5, First floor, BMICH
Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka.**

Tel: 94 (0) 112677445 Fax: 94 (0) 112682534

Email: info@energy.gov.lk

Web: www.energy.gov.lk

07 April 2021

My No: RG/NB/11/2/47/2020/82/82

NOTICE UNDER THE LAND REGISTERS RECONSTRUCTED FOLIO ORDINANCE (CAP. 120)

- I hereby give notice under Section 04 of the Land Registers Reconstructed Folio Ordinance (Cap. 120) that Land Register Folios, particulars of which appear in Column 1 of the schedule hereto, affecting the land described in Column 2, thereof which have been found to be missing or torn, have been reconstructed in full in provisional folios and relate to the connected deeds, particulars of which are shown in Column 3 of the said schedule.
- The provisional folio will be opened for inspection by any person or persons interested therein at the Office of the Registrar of Lands, Delkanda, 09.04.2021 to 23.04.2021 between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on all working days.
- Any person desirous of lodging any objection against any entry included in a provisional Folio or against any of the particulars contained in any such entry and any person desiring to make a claim for the insertion of any entry or of any particulars alleged to have been improperly omitted from any entry must do so, by an objection or claim in writing addressed to the undersigned which must be sent under registered cover and must reach the Office of the Registrar General not later than 30.04.2021. The matter in respect of which the objection or claim is made must be clearly and fully set out in the objection or claim, and the objection or claim must be accompanied by all documentary evidence relies upon the support of it.

SCHEDULE

Particulars of Damaged Folios of the Land Registers	Particulars of Land	Particulars of Deeds Registered
Folio No. 296 of volume 2572 of Division M of the Land Registry Delkanda in Colombo District.	All that allotment of land in Plan No.: 1468 dated 04.03.1966 made by S. Pegathisan, Licensed Surveyor of the land called "Kakunagahawatta" situated at Udahamulla in the Palle Pattu Salpiti Korale in the District of Colombo, Western Province and bounded on the, North by : Lot 13 East by : Lot 02 South by : The land of Mrs. Fernando West by : Mirihana Pannipitiya Main Road Extent : A:00 R:00 P:20.50	-

W.M.M.B. Weerasekara
Registrar GeneralRegistrar General's Department,
No. 234/A3,
Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mw.,
Battaramulla.Replies to
Classifieds

&

Casual
Advertisements
published
C/o the**Daily News**should only be
sent by
ordinary post.Replies sent
under
registered cover
will not be
accepted.**SOUTH EASTERN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA**
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**Providing Cleaning and Janitorial Services for
South Eastern University of Sri Lanka - 2021/2022**

The South Eastern University of Sri Lanka (SEUSL) invites sealed Bids for providing Cleaning and Janitorial Services for South Eastern University of Sri Lanka from Registered Business Organizations, having a minimum of five years' experience in providing Cleaning and Janitorial Services of which at least two years' of satisfactory services to a state University in Sri Lanka.

Bids will be accepted up to **3.00 p.m. on 28.04.2021** and opening will be held immediately after the closing time. For further details, please visit the University Website <http://www.seu.ac.lk>

Chairman
Department Procurement Committee,
South Eastern University of Sri Lanka,
University Park,
Oluvil.

07.04.2021

Invitation for Bids (IFB)**Western Provincial Council
Engineering Organization**

- The Chairman, **Procurement Committee of Relevant Divisional Engineer's** now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **the following works** as described below.
- I. "Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB). Since the Total Cost Estimate of this procurement (excluding VAT and other taxes) is below Rs.50Mn., regional Preference and CIDA grade preference shall apply as stipulated in Public Finance Circular No.04/2016(iii)."
II. Public Finance Circular No 03/2020(i) is entitled to this Procurement and, "If the State Owned Enterprises (SOE) are quoted for bids, five percent (5%) preference will be given."
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been black listed or assigned contracts should not be defaulted or not completed in given time period beyond bidders control or terminated prematurely and shall meet the following requirements and Qualifications should be fulfilled as in the Bidding Document.

(1) Serial No	(2) Contract No	(3) Description of Work	(4) Requirement of Public Contracts Act No. 03	(5) CIDA Registration	(6) Non-Refundable Fee (Rs.)	(7) Bid Security/Bid Security Validity Period	(8) Place of Issuing and submission bidding documents and contact Phone No.
1	WP/DB/CON/21/111	Renovation of Kitchen Building at District Hospital - Divulapitiya	Yes	C7 and C6	3,000.00	Cash Deposit - Rs.50,000.00 Bid Security - Rs.100,000.00 (105 Days)	Divisional Engineer's Office Minuwangoda, T.P. -: 0112-296418
2	WP/DB/CON/21/112	Development of Drug store at District Hospital - Divulapitiya	No	C8 and C7	1,000.00	Cash Deposit - Rs.10,000.00	
3	WP/DB/CON/21/113	Renovation of Emergency Treatment Unit (ETU) and (OPD) waiting area at District Hospital - Divulapitiya	No	C8 and C7	2,000.00	Cash Deposit - Rs.25,000.00	
4	WP/DB/CON/21/114	Renovation of Emergency Treatment Unit (ETU), Roof, Drainage System and outer Fence in Primary Medical Care Unit (PMCU) - Dunagaha	No	C8 and C7	1,000.00	Cash Deposit - Rs.10,000.00	
5	WP/DB/CON/21/115	Construction of Fence & Gate at District Hospital - Akaragama	No	C9 and C8	1,000.00	Cash Deposit - Rs.10,000.00	
6	WP/DB/CON/21/116	Construction of Retaining Wall for Vishaka Ward to Prevent Soil Erosion at Elder's Home - Meerigama	Yes	C7 and C6	3,000.00	Cash Deposit - Rs.50,000.00 Bid Security - Rs.100,000.00 (105 Days)	
7	WP/DB/CON/21/117	Construction of Ceiling for Emergency Treatment Unit (ETU), Staircase for microscopic Center and Toilet for Consultants at Base Hospital - Meerigama	No	C8 and C7	1,000.00	Cash Deposit - Rs.20,000.00	
8	WP/DB/CON/21/118	Construction of Partition & Other Repairs at Divisional Education Office - Minuwangoda	No	C9 and C8	1,000.00	Cash Deposit - Rs.10,000.00	
9	WP/DB/CON/21/119	Improvement to District Hospital - Ja - Ela	No	C8 and C7	1,000.00	Cash Deposit - Rs.10,000.00	Divisional Engineer's Office Wattala, B/25/1, Magulpokuna Road, Ragama. T.P. -: 0112952126
10	WP/DB/CON/21/120	Construction of Establishment of a Emergency Treatment Unit (ETU) and (OPD) Waiting Area at Primary Medical Care Unit (PMCU) - Stage 01 - Kandawala, Katana	Yes	C7 and C6	3,000.00	Cash Deposit - Rs.50,000.00 Bid Security - Rs.100,000.00 (105 Days)	Divisional Engineer's Office Negombo, No.75, Lewis Place, Negombo. T.P. -: 0312232357
11	WP/DB/CON/21/121	Renovation of OPD and Emergency Treatment Unit (ETU) at District Hospital - Biyagama	No	C8 and C7	1,000.00	Cash Deposit - Rs.10,000.00	Divisional Engineer's Office Biyagama, Udupila Road, Makola, Biyagama T.P. -: 0112-963524
12	WP/DB/CON/21/122	Roof Repair & Other Essential Repairs at Primary Medical Care Unit (PMCU) - Kalagedihena	No	C9 and C8	1,000.00	Cash Deposit - Rs.10,000.00	Divisional Engineer's Office Gampaha, Court Road, Gampaha. T.P. -: 033-2222515
13	WP/DB/CON/21/123	Repairing of Dispensary Building & Construction of Chain Link Fence at Ayurveda Central Dispensary - Awissawella	No	C8 and C7	2,000.00	Cash Deposit - Rs.15,000.00	Divisional Engineer's Office Homagama, Court Road, Homagama T.P. -: 0112-855719
14	WP/DB/CON/21/124	Renovation of Ward No.04 (ETU & Acupuncture Clinic) at Ayurveda Hospital - Meegoda	No	C8 and C7	2,000.00	Cash Deposit - Rs.25,000.00	
15	WP/DB/CON/21/125	Renovation of Ward No 01 at Ayurveda Hospital - Meegoda	Yes	C6 and C5	3,500.00	Bid Security - Rs.200,000.00 (105 Days)	
16	WP/DB/CON/21/126	Construction of Open Ambulance Garage at District General Hospital - Awissawella	No	C8 and C7	1,000.00	Cash Deposit - Rs.10,000.00	Divisional Engineer's Office Battaramulla, Depanama, Pannipitiya T.P. -: 011-2844354
17	WP/DB/CON/21/127	Renovation of Primary Medical Care Unit (PMCU) - Folk Art Center - Battaramulla	No	C8 and C7	1,000.00	Cash Deposit - Rs.10,000.00	
18	WP/DB/CON/21/128	Essential Renovation & Expansions of District Hospital - Moratuwa	No	C8 and C7	2,000.00	Cash Deposit - Rs.25,000.00	Divisional Engineer's Office Rathmalana, No.25, Maligawa Road, Rathmalana T.P. -: 0112-622517
19	WP/DB/CON/21/129	Renovation of Toilet System and Other Minor Repairs at District Hospital - Piliyandala	No	C8 and C7	2,000.00	Cash Deposit - Rs.25,000.00	
20	WP/DB/CON/21/130	Renovation of Nursing Quarters Building (Stage 01) at Base Hospital - Panadura	No	C8 and C7	1,000.00	Cash Deposit - Rs.10,000.00	Divisional Engineer's Office Panadura, Sri Maha Vihara Road, Panadura. T.P. -: 038-2234774
21	WP/DB/CON/21/131	Proposed alteration and additional to existing Mortuary at Bandaragama Hospital - Bandaragama	No	C8 and C7	2,000.00	Cash Deposit - Rs.25,000.00	

- Interested bidders may obtain further information from **Relevant Divisional Engineer's offices given in the Table** and may free inspect the bidding documents at the same office during the office hours.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by any prospective Bidder or their accredited agent on the submission of a written request to the **Relevant Divisional Engineer's** (As in the Column No.09 of the table) of the Western Provincial Council upon payment of non - refundable fee from **9.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs** in any working day from **05.04.2021** until **27.04.2021**. Payment shall be made in cash.
- Sealed bids shall be delivered in duplicate with separate envelopes project name written at the top left hand corner and addressed to the **Relevant Divisional Engineer's offices (As in the Column No.08 of the Table)** on or before **28.04.2021 at 10.30 a.m.** Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of bidders or bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Late Bids will be rejected.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a bid security or cash deposit (As in the Column No. 07 of the Table)
- Bidder shall have been registered under the Public Contract No 03 of 1987 and the Certificate of Registration should be submitted. (As in the Column No.04 of the table)

Head,
Procurement Unit,
Engineering Organization (W.P),
5th Floor,
#204, Denzil Kobbakaduwa Mawatha,
Battaramulla
05.04.2021
T.P. -: 0112 -092504
Fax: 0112 - 092505

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Obtaining Buildings on rent basis for establishing New Courts

- Buildings are required that could be obtained for a period of 03 years on rent basis for establishing new Courts and to widen the space in the existing Courts in addition to the existing courts in various areas in the island.
- Information on Building requirements on rent basis

Ser. No.	Courts Intended to be Established	Courts Division and intended City to be established	Space in the required Building
01	Additional Civil Appellate High Court	Colombo	Court Hall 40' x 25' Judges Official Chamber: 20' x 15' - 02 Rooms (with Toilet Facilities)
	Civil Appellate High Court	Kalutara	Office: About 600 sq. ft. Record Room: About 400 sq. ft. Lawyers Rest Room: About 400 sq. ft. Judges Parking Yard: Space for 02 Vehicles Common Parking Yard: Space for about 15 vehicles Toilet Facilities: Common 02, Office 02, Lawyers 02
02	Additional High Court	Colombo 01	Court Hall 50' x 25'
		Colombo 02	Judges Official Chamber: 20' x 15' - 02 Rooms (with Toilet Facilities)
		Galle	Office: About 750 sq. ft. and a room of around 144 sq. ft. (30' x 25' and 12' x 12')
		Badulla	Juror's Room: About 100 sq. ft.
		Kurunegala	Record Room: About 600 sq. ft.
		Homagama	Case Production Room: About 250 sq. ft. Lawyers Rest Room: About 400 sq. ft. State Counsel's Office: About 180 sq. ft. (with Toilet Facilities) For Crown Witnesses 02 Rooms of 10' x 10' Judges Parking Yard: Space for 02 Vehicles Common Parking Yard: Space for about 15 vehicles Toilet Facilities: Common 02, Office 02, Lawyers 02
03	Additional District Courts	Kurunegala	Court Hall 30' x 25'
		Balapitiya	Judge's Official Chamber: 20' x 15' - 01 Room (with Toilet Facilities)
		Galle	Office: About 750 sq. ft. and a room of around 144 sq. ft. (30' x 25' and 12' x 12')
		Attanagalla	Record Room: About 900 sq. ft. Lawyers Rest Room: About 400 sq. ft. Family Counseling Office: About 150 sq. ft. Court Commissioner: About 100 sq. ft. Judge's Parking Yard: Space for 01 Vehicle Common Parking Yard: Space for about 15 vehicles Toilet Facilities: Common 02, Office 02, Lawyers 02
04	District Courts	Colombo	Court Hall 40' x 25'
		Kotapola	Judge's Official Chamber: 20' x 15' - 01 Room (with Toilet Facilities)
		Monaragala	Office: About 750 sq. ft. and a room of around 144 sq. ft. (30' x 25' and 12' x 12')
		Hambantota	Record Room: About 900 sq. ft.
		Mahiyanganaya	Lawyers Rest Room: About 400 sq. ft.
		Tissamaharama	Family Counseling Office: About 150 sq. ft.
		Mawanella	Court Commissioner: About 100 sq. ft.
		Wariyapola	State Counsel's Office: About 180 sq. ft. (with Toilet Facilities)
		Wellawaya	Judge's Parking Yard: Space for 01 Vehicle
		Dehiattakandiya	Common Parking Yard: Space for about 15 vehicles
		Attanagalla	Toilet Facilities: Common 02, Office 02, Lawyers 02
05	Magistrate's Court	Mirigama	Court Hall 60' x 25'
		Beruwala	Judge's Official Chamber: 20' x 15' - 01 Room (with Toilet Facilities) Office: About 900 sq. ft. Parade Room: About 100 sq. ft. Witnesses Room: About 100 sq. ft. Record Room: About 900 sq. ft. Lawyers Rest Room: About 400 sq. ft. Case Production Room: About 500 sq. ft. Legal Aid Office: About 100 sq. ft. Community Correctional Office: About 100 sq. ft. Probation Officer's Office: About 100 sq. ft. Judge's Parking Yard: Space for 02 Vehicle Common Parking Yard: Space for about 15 vehicles Toilet Facilities: Common 02, Office 02, Lawyers 02
06	Additional Magistrate's Court	Kalutara	Court Hall 60' x 25'
		Mawanella	Judges Official Chamber: 20' x 15' - 01 Room (with Toilet Facilities)
		Mahiyanganaya	Office: About 900 sq. ft.
		Kesbewa	Parade Room: About 100 sq. ft.
		Horana	Witnesses Room: About 100 sq. ft.
		Panadura	Crown Witnesses Room: About 100 sq. ft.
		Homagama	Record Room: About 900 sq. ft.
		Attanagalla	Lawyers Rest Room: About 400 sq. ft.
		Chilaw	Case Production Room: About 500 sq. ft.
		Marawila	Judge's Parking Yard: Space for 01 Vehicle
		Kuliyapitiya	Common Parking Yard: Space for about 15 vehicles
Bandarawela	Toilet Facilities: Common 02, Office 02, Lawyers 02		

07	Labour Tribunal	Kaduwela	Court Hall 30' x 18' Judge's Official Chamber and Garage: 12' x 30' (with Toilet Facilities) Office: About 300 sq. ft. Record Room: About 225 sq. ft. Lawyers Rest Room: About 400 sq. ft. Common Parking Yard: Space for about 15 vehicles Automatic Generator Facilities Toilet Facilities: Common 02, Office 02, Lawyers 02
08	Pre-Trial Court Halls	Wellawaya	Court Hall 30' x 20'
		Chilaw	Judge's Official Chamber: 20' x 15' - 01 Room (with Toilet Facilities)
		Marawila	Office: About 400 sq. ft.
		Dehiattakandiya	Record Room: About 900 sq. ft.
		Bandarawela	Lawyers Rest Room: About 400 sq. ft. Judge's Parking Yard: for 01 vehicle Common Parking Yard: Space for about 15 vehicles Toilet Facilities: Common 01, Office 01, Lawyers 01
09	Small Claims Courts	Kandy	Court Hall 60' x 25'
		Colombo Court 01	Judge's Official Chamber: 20' x 15' - 01 Room (with Toilet Facilities)
		Colombo Court 02	Office: About 750 sq. ft. and a room of around 150 sq. ft. Record Room: About 900 sq. ft. Lawyers Rest Room: About 400 sq. ft. Court Commissioner: About 100 sq. ft. State Counsel's Room: About 200 sq. ft. (with Toilet Facilities) Judge's Parking Yard: Space for 02 Vehicles Common Parking Yard: Space for about 15 vehicles Toilet Facilities: Common 02, Office 02, Lawyers 02
10	Department of Debt Conciliation Boards	Kurunegala	Court Hall 25' x 20'
		Borella	Office: About 400 sq. ft.
		Kollupitiya	Official Chamber: About 600 sq. ft. (with Toilet Facility) Public Yard: 600 sq. ft. Judge's Parking Yard: Space for 03 Vehicles Common Parking Yard: Space for about 05 vehicles Toilet Facilities: Common 02, Office 02, Lawyers 02

- Even the buildings that are closest to the requested sizes will also be considered.
- Rent will be paid monthly based on the value of government Assessor.
- If there is balance space in the land and premises it will be taken into consideration.
- Building should be situated within the relevant Court Division and should be within 2 km circumference of the existing court with easy access to the general public.
- Title of the land with the building should be clear. Access road should be of single ownership (of the owner) and the land with the building should be covered with a parapet wall or boundary fence.
- Buildings with more than two floors should have electric elevator facilities.
- Continuous electricity, water and telephone facilities should be available for the building.
- Access way for disabled persons should be available.
- Building should be available on rent for at least three (03) years.
- Owner of the property should not be a party of any case.
- Decision of the Ministry Procurement Committee will be final regarding Buildings that are selected after the site inspection of the selected buildings.

Interested parties may submit their applications along with the following documents either by registered post addressed to "Accountant (Supplies), Ministry of Justice, Superior Courts Complex, Colombo 12" or hand delivered to receive before 11.00 a.m. on Thursday, 29.04.2021.

Specimen application form may be downloaded from www.moj.gov.lk website.

Documents to be submitted along with the application;

- Copy of Building Plan
- Certified Copy of the Title Deed of the land and certified copy of the Survey Plan.
- Plan showing the access from the Main Road or a sketch of the location of the building
- Certificate of Conformity obtained from the relevant local authority where the building is situated.

Further details may be obtained from the Additional Secretary (Development) by calling on Tel. Nos. 0112 320 784 or 0718 332 180.

A pre-bid meeting regarding this will be held at 10.00 a.m. on 23.04.2021 at the Ministry of Justice.

If any dispute arises regarding any matter / consequential matter that is not covered by this advertisement, the decision taken by the Secretary to the Ministry of Justice will be final.

M.M.P.K. Mayadunne
Secretary
Ministry of Justice
Superior Courts Complex
Colombo 12.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

ASHRAFF MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - KALMUNAI

- The **Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, Ashraff Memorial Hospital Kalmunai** invites sealed bids for the work mentioned in the table from eligible and pre-qualified bidders who possess CIDA registration for the Grade given below.
- Bidding Documents may be purchased during office hours up to **3.00 p.m on 28.04.2021** at the office of the **Procurement Division, Ashraff Memorial Hospital, Kalmunai** on submission of receipt for the proof of payment for non-Refundable fee mentioned below, made at the **Finance Division, Ashraff Memorial Hospital, Kalmunai**.
- Procurement method will be National Competitive Bidding System.
- A Bidder is entitled to obtain only one set of bidding documents. Interested bidders may inspect the bidding document free of charge prior to collection if desired and obtain further information from **Procurement Division, Ashraff Memorial Hospital, Kalmunai. (Telephone No: 067-2229496-Ext-113)**.
- Bids accompanied by a bid security for the amount mentioned below shall reach the **Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, Ashraff Memorial Hospital, Kalmunai on 29.04.2021 or before at 10.30 a.m.** 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 Meeting will be conducted on 19.04.2021 at 10.30 a.m. at Office of the Medical Superintendent, Ashraff Memorial Hospital, Kalmunai.
- Procurement Committee's decision will be the final decision in Awarding contract.

TABLE

Name of Work	Construction Cost (Rs)	CIDA Grade	Non-Refundable fee Rs.	Contract Period	Bid Validity	Bid Security	
						Amount	Validity Period
Construction of Boundary, Wall - Stage I	5,158,973.00	C7 or above	3,500.00	03 Months	91 Days	60,000.00	119 Days
Construction of Boundary Wall - Stage II	6,830,615.00	C7 or above	3,500.00	03 Months	91 Days	80,000.00	119 Days

Dr. A.L.F. Rahman
Chairman
Regional Procurement Committee,
Ashraff Memorial Hospital,
Kalmunai.

07.04.2021

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

National Competitive Bidding (NCB)

Ministry of Agriculture, Minor Irrigation, Animal Production and Development, Agrarian Development, Inland Fisheries, Hindu Cultural and Estate Infrastructure Facilities, Central Provincial Council

Construction of Proposed office Building for Provincial Department of Irrigation (CP) - Stage II

The Chairman of Procurement Committee on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, Animal Production and Development, Agrarian Development, Inland Fisheries, Hindu Cultural and Estate Infrastructure Facilities, Central Provincial Council now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Construction work as described in the table below, Construction cost and Construction period and Source of fund are mentioned in the table below.**

- 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 Grade as mentioned below in the field of Building Constructions.**
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Accountant of Provincial Ministry of Agriculture on working days and inspect the bidding documents at the same office and complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the Accountant of the Ministry from 07th April 2021 until 27th April 2021 from 09.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m., upon the payment of the prescribed Bidding document fee.
- Pre bid meeting will be held at **10.00 a.m. on 22nd April 2021** at the following address Auditorium.
- Seal bids (two sets of completed bids mentioned as the original and the duplicate and enclosed in an envelopes) should be delivered either by registered post address below or deposited in the Tender box kept at the Accountant's office in the below address on or **before 10.00 a.m. on 28th April 2021.**
- Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- All bids should be accompanied by a **"Bid-Security, for the value given in the following table obtained from the reputed Commercial Bank operating in Sri Lanka or from the Construction Guarantee fund (CGF) validity period mention in the table below.**
- Acceptance or rejection of any bid rests with the Chairman, Procurement Committee. The decision of the Procurement Committee is final.**
- When the BID value exceeds. 5 million, the successful bidder should submit a registration certificate issued by the registrar of companies under chapter 8 of the Public Contract Act No 3 of 1987.
- 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 preferences and CIDA grade preferences shall apply as stipulated in Public Finance Circular No. 04/2016 (iii).

Bid No	Work	Source of Fund	BOQ Amount (Rs. Million) without VAT	CIDA Registration No	Refundable Value of Bid Security (Rs.)	Construction Period in Days	Validity Period of Bid Security in Days	Non Refundable Bidding Document Fee (Rs.)
CPC/PID/3/1/IRRI/B/01/2021	Construction of Proposed office Building for Provincial Department of Irrigation (CP) -Stage II	PSDG	30.92	C3 or C4	300,000.00	196	26.08.2021	5000.00

Chairman, Procurement Committee,
Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, Animal Production and Development, Agrarian Development, Inland Fisheries, Hindu Cultural and Estate Infrastructure Facilities, 1060, Gatambe, Peradeniya.
Tele. - 081 2386084, Fax - 081 2388336

07.04.2021

SALE OF TODDY RENTS 2021/2022

PUTTALAM DIVISIONAL SECRETARY'S DIVISION

Tenders will be received for toddy rent sales for the period of 01st July 2021 to 30th June 2022, till 10.30 a.m. on 03rd of May 2021. Further particulars, please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on 16 April 2021.

02. Schedule referred to toddy rent is as follows :

Division	Village	Hour of Opening	Hour of Closing	Date & Time of Close of Tender	Tender Deposit Rs.
Puttalam Divisional Secretary's Division	1. Sena Kudirippuwa	10.00 a.m. 5.00 p.m.	2.00 p.m. 9.00 p.m.	03.05.2021 10.30 a.m.	1000.00

S.A.Y.R. Jayathilake,
Divisional Secretary,
Puttalam.

Divisional Secretariat,
Puttalam.

Date : 01st April 2021



THE COMMITTEE ON HIGH POSTS OF THE PARLIAMENT OF SRI LANKA TO EXAMINE THE SUITABILITY OF PERSONS APPOINTED/NOMINATED TO THE STATE SERVICES AND STATE CORPORATIONS

The Committee on High Posts of the Parliament of Sri Lanka is due to examine the suitability of the persons appointed / nominated to the following posts: -

No.	Name and Address	Designation
1.	Mr. P.M. Amza No. 91/16B, Watarappala Road, Mount Lavinia	Nominated as the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
2.	Mr. D.M.S.P. Dassanayake No. 52, 2 nd Lane, Ratmalana	Nominated as the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Federative Republic of Brazil
3.	Mr. G.M.V. Wishwanath Aponso Foreign Ministry Housing Block, B/2/1, 117/17, Block "B", Elvitigala Mawatha Colombo 08	Nominated as the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Islamic Republic of Iran

Any organization or individual desirous of making representations with regard to the above appointments/ nominations should send duly signed written memoranda under registered cover to **The Secretary, Committee on High Posts, Committee Office, Parliament of Sri Lanka, Sri Jayewardenepura, Kotte** on or before **21 April 2021**. Representations may also be faxed to fax No. 011-2777300 or be sent via email: highposts_c@parliament.lk.

The Committee may require such memoranda to be supported by oral evidence. The advertisement is also available in the Parliament Website (www.parliament.lk)

Secretary to the Committee
Secretary General of Parliament

Parliament of Sri Lanka
Sri Jayewardenepura kotte
07 April 2021



GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS
ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



INVITATION FOR BIDS

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF THERMO PLASTIC MATERIAL TO RDA EXECUTIVE ENGINEERS' OFFICES ATEASTERN , NORTH WESTERN, NORTH CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN PROVINCES

- The Chairman, RDA Procurement Committee on behalf of the RDA, invites sealed bids for Supply & Delivery of Thermo Plastic Material to RDA Executive Engineers' Offices at Eastern , North Western, North Central and Southern Provinces.
- Bidding documents shall be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Director (Procurement), Procurement Division, Road Development Authority, 4th floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", No. 216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mw, Koswatta, Battaramulla from **07.04.2021** until **27.04.2021** during **09:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs. 9200.00 (inclusive of VAT)**, by depositing to the Bank of Ceylon -Corporate Branch Account Number 0000001943 in favor Director General , Road Development Authority .

CONTRACT NO	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY (RS.)	BID DOCUMENT FEE-WITH VAT (RS.)
RDA/DPR/RMEP/2021/79	Supply & delivery of Thermo Plastic Materials - Eastern Province	White: 125,000 kg Yellow: 7,000 kg Glass Beads: 8,000 kg	250,000.00	9,200.00
RDA/DPR/RMNWP/2021/80	Supply & delivery of Thermo Plastic Materials - North Western Province	White: 411,200 kg Yellow: 36,000 kg Glass Beads: 25,050 kg	850,000.00	9,200.00
RDA/DPR/RMNCP/2021/81	Supply & delivery of Thermo Plastic Materials- North Central Province	White: 82,000 kg Yellow: 13,250 kg Glass Beads: 3,375 kg	150,000.00	9,200.00
RDA/DPR/RMSP/2021/82	Supply & delivery of Thermo Plastic Materials - Southern Province	White: 474,000 kg Yellow: 15,550 kg Glass Beads: 22,500 kg	950,000.00	9,200.00

- Bidding documents may be inspected free of charge at the office of the **Director Procurement, Procurement Division, 4th floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", Koswatta, Battaramulla** during office hours.
- Separate set of bidding documents will be issued for each contract.
- Bid shall be valid up to **91 calendar days** from the date closing of the Bid & Each Bid shall be accompanied by a Bid security (**Valid up to 25/08/2021**) for the amount mentioned in bid document. Any Bid not accompanied by a valid Bid Security will be rejected.
- Please indicate **"SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF THERMO PLASTIC MATERIALS TO PROVINCE | CONTRACT NO: RDA/DPR/...../2021/....."** on top left hand corner of the envelope. (Submit separate Bids to relevant contract No)
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to Chairman, RDA Procurement Committee, Road Development Authority, **1st floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", No. 216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mw, Koswatta, Battaramulla on or before 14:00 hrs on 28.04.2021.** Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after the closing, in the presence of the bidder's representatives at Procurement Division.
- For further details, please contact Director Procurement, RDA on **Tel : 011-2046482/ 011-2884790/ E mail : procurement@rda.gov.lk**

Chairman
RDA Procurement Committee,
Road Development Authority,
1st floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", No. 216,
Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mw, Koswatta,
Battaramulla.

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AMALGAMATION OF ASIAN TYRES (PRIVATE) LIMITED WITH CEAT KELANI RADIALS (PRIVATE) LIMITED

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice in terms of Sub Section (3) (b) of Section 244 of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007 (Act) of Amalgamation of Asian Tyres (Private) Limited (Company Registration No. PV 89355) with Ceat Kelani Radials (Private) Limited (Company Registration No. PV 784) in terms of Section 242 (1) of the Act

Further to the previous notice of the proposed amalgamation of Asian Tyres (Private) Limited with Ceat Kelani Radials (Private) Limited on 24th February 2021 in Dinamina, Thinakaran and Daily News circulating in Colombo and on 26th March 2021 in the Government Gazette pertaining to the above, we hereby give notice that the amalgamation has now been completed and that effective date of amalgamation is 31st March 2021 which is the date shown in the Certificate of Amalgamation.

By order of Directors of Ceat Kelani Radials (Private) Limited
P.R. Corporate Services (Private) Limited Secretaries

On this 5th Day of April 2021



INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Ministry of Provincial Roads Development, Rural Infrastructure, Tourism, Sports and Youth Affairs

Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council

Sealed Bids are hereby invited by the Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee, Ministry of Provincial Roads Development, Rural Infrastructure, Tourism, Sports and Youth Affairs of the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council from eligible and qualified bidders for the Supply of Sports equipment, Sports-gear, Sports Technical Wear, Sports General / Common Wear, for the Department of Sports Development, Sabaragamuwa Province, for the Year 2021.

Further details could be obtained by visiting www.sg.gov.lk Website, and log into the Institute therein and enter into the Web Page of the Ministry of Provincial Road Development or by entering into the link of <https://f.lis/wNDb>

Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee,
Ministry of Provincial Road Development,
Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council,
New Town, Ratnapura.

045-2223154
07th April 2021

THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT (CHAPTER 460) NOTICE UNDER SECTION 7

MY NO : Mo/W/L/12/02

LAND : MIN : NO : 4/3/9/2014/I R/70

I hereby give notice of Section 7 of the Land Acquisition Act, that the Government intends to acquire the following land which is required for a **Uma Oya Multipurpose Development Project.**

Description of the land to be acquired :

Allotments of Land in F.T.P. No. 72, Supplement No. 24, Sheet No. 24 prepared by the Superintendent Surveyor in Moneragala, situated in Malwaththawala Village in the Wellawaya Divisional Secretary's Division of the District of Moneragala in Uva Province described as follows :

01. Lot No. : 296 Extent : 0.4977 Hec Name of Land : Dimbulamure Yaya Claimant : W.M. Keerthirathna	11. Lot No. : 308 Extent : 0.0581 Hec Name of Land : Claimant :
02. Lot No. : 297 Extent : 0.3818 Hec Name of Land : Dimbulamure Yaya Claimant : W.M. Podimenika W.M. Chandimala Thilakarathna W.M. Renuka Malkanthi	12. Lot No. : 311 Extent : 0.0017 Hec Name of Land : Nikapitiya Claimant : M.H.T. Premalal
03. Lot No. : 298 Extent : 0.0013 Hec Name of Land : Dimbulamure Yaya Claimant : W.M. Kumarasiri	13. Lot No. : 313 Extent : 1.6550 Hec Name of Land : Nikapitiya Claimant : Government
04. Lot No. : 299 Extent : 0.1633 Hec Name of Land : Dimbulamure Yaya Claimant : R.M. Jayathilaka	14. Lot No. : 314 Extent : 0.0377 Hec Name of Land : Nikapitiya Claimant : Government
05. Lot No. : 300 Extent : 0.0692 Hec Name of Land : Dimbulamure Yaya Claimant : W.M. Anulawathi	15. Lot No. : 317 Extent : 0.02020 Hec Name of Land : Nikapitiya Claimant : U.M. Jayawardana U.M. Sunil Shantha
06. Lot No. : 301 Extent : 0.0083 Hec Name of Land : Dimbulamure Yaya Claimant : W.M. Sunanda Sisira	16. Lot No. : 318 Extent : 0.3177 Hec Name of Land : Nikapitiya Claimant : U.M. Jayawardana U.M. Jayanthi Latha
07. Lot No. : 302 Extent : 0.0375 Hec Name of Land : Dimbulamure Yaya Claimant : S.W. Senewirathna	17. Lot No. : 319 Extent : 0.0216 Hec Name of Land : Nikapitiya Claimant :
08. Lot No. : 303 Extent : 0.0610 Hec Name of Land : Dimbulamure Yaya Claimant : S.W. Kularathna	18. Lot No. : 320 Extent : 0.0776 Hec Name of Land : Nikapitiya Claimant : R.A. Sumanawathi U.M. Indrarathna
09. Lot No. : 304 Extent : 0.0142 Hec Name of Land : Dimbulamure Yaya Claimant : R.M. Jayathilaka	19. Lot No. : 323 Extent : 0.0332 Hec Name of Land : Konwelena Claimant : M.H.T. Sarath
10. Lot No. : 305 Extent : 0.0159 Hec Name of Land : Dimbulamure Yaya Claimant : Mallaththawala Temple	20. Lot No. : 325 Extent : 0.0073 Hec Name of Land : Konwelena Claimant : M.H.T. Sarath

All persons interested in the aforesaid land hereby requested to appear or by agents duly authorized in writing, before me at Wellawaya Divisional Secretariat on the 27 day of April 2021 at 9.00 a.m. and are hereby requested to notify me in writing (in duplicate) on or before the 20 Day of April 2021 of the nature of their interests in the Land, the particulars or their claims for Compensation for the said land, the amount of compensation and the details of the computation of such amount.

Divisional Secretary
Wellawaya

Divisional Secretariat, Wellawaya.

29.03.2021

Pradeshiya Sanwardana Bank



INVITATION FOR BIDS

Obtain Transport Service on Rent basis for RDB
DGM/HR/RDB/2021-045

Chief Human Resource Officer of Pradeshiya Sanwardana Bank (RDB) invites SEALED BIDS from Reputed Vendors to provide, Transport Service (2 Carss-One Year Period) on rent basis to the Bank.

A set of bid documents can be collected from Admin Department at Ground floor of the Head Office of RDB between the hours of 9.00 am and 3.00 pm in working days until April 28, 2021 on payment of non refundable deposit of Rs. 1,000/- by cash.

Duly filled Bid Documents in sealed envelope marked "Obtain Transport Service on Rent basis for Pradeshiya Sanwardana Bank - DGM/HR/RDB/2021/045" on the top left hand corner of the envelope should either be sent by registered post to the following address or deposit in the tender box kept at the Pradeshiya Sanwardana Bank, Head Office, Ground Floor on or before 02.00 pm on 29th April 2021. Late bid submissions are not accepted.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives immediately after the bid closing on April 29, 2021.

All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid security of Rs. 20,000.00, which shall be valid for a period of 91+28 days from the date closing of bids (April 29, 2021 to August 25, 2021).

For further details, please contact Assistant General Manager - Administration Tel:011-2035454.

Chief Human Resource Officer,
Pradeshiya Sanwardana Bank, Head Office,
No.933, Kandy Road,
Weddamulla, Kelaniya.
T.P.011 2035454/011 2035455/011 2035456
Fax.011 2906883
www.rdb.lk
2021.04.07

Promotional Rates for Classified Advertisements (Only 15 Words)

Any Single Newspaper	Two Newspapers	Three Newspapers
රු. 300/- (Except Thinkaran Varanajani)	රු. 500/- (Except Thinkaran Varanajani)	රු. 650/-

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MONARAGALA
MONARAGALA 077 6 565 653
SRI RAMIN STORES, NO 23, 25, MONARAGALA.

MATARA
MATARA 047 2 230 093
NULUNI STORES - NO 68, DHANAPOLA MAWATHA, MATARA.

ANURADAPURA
THABUTTEGAMA 025 2 276 431
MUTHALUDA PAPER COOPER - No 68, Thabutttegama

ANURADHAPURA
ANURADHAPURA 025 2 221 411
MAHAJANA BOOK SHOP - Anuradhapura

ANURADHAPURA
ANURADHAPURA 025 2 222 806
SATKASA BOOK SHOP - 40, GAGAWANNA, ANURADHAPURA

ANURADHAPURA
ANURADHAPURA 025 2 222 575
ANURADHAPURA BOOK SHOP - 56/73, ANURADHAPURA, ANURADHAPURA

RATHNAPURA
RATHNAPURA 071 2 900 35
NO 25, CHURCH ROAD, RATHNAPURA

RATHNAPURA
RATHNAPURA 045 2 223 883
LAKE HOUSE ADVERTISING CENTER - NO 88, MAIN STREET, RATHNAPURA

HAMBANTHOTA
MIDDENIYA 047 2 27 245
SOMASRI STORES - HUNGAMA PRADAN MIDDENIYA.

**Government Officer's Benefit Association
112th of Annual General Meeting Preliminary Notice**

Considering the instructions provided by health authorities, we hereby announce the conduct of the 112th Annual General Meeting of the GOBA in the upcoming days with reference to the section 09 of the incorporated act of GOBA, No. 27 of 1971 read with no.11 and 13 of the rule accordingly.

01. Nominations will be called to (The Post of President, Post of two (2) vice president, and twelve (12) members of the Committee.) elect the management committee for the year 2021/2022 from 30th June 2021
02. Nominations will be accepted from 19th April 2021 until 12.00 noon on 13th May 2021.
03. Members' proposals and amendments to rules can be submitted until 12.00 noon on 13th May 2021.

(Members with valid membership can collect the nomination forms from the secretary and accountant during official working hours.) Requirement and applicant must have according to the rules of the process are mentioned on the www.goba.lk web site and the sample application format for the nomination.

Considering the instructions provided by ministry of Health Officials, the date and venue of the 112th Annual General Meeting will be Announce in due course

No. 65/1, G.O.B.A Avenue,
Sir chittampalam 'A' Gardiner Mw,
Colombo 02.
Tel:- 011 - 2434598,2473633,2473100
Fax :- 011 -2434212
Web site: www.goba.lk

By order, of Committee
D.L. Thilakarathne
Acct. Secretary & Accountant
Assistant Secretary

Award of Scholarships for the 112th anniversary - acceptance of Applications.

Applications for Scholarships awarded for children of members of the GOBA, based on the results of Grade 5 Scholarship examination of year 2020 and G.C.E. (A/L) examination of year 2019. Scholarship application, can be download from the web site (www.goba.lk) scholarship Applications for G.C.E. (A/L) examination result which received until 13th May 2020 will be considered for subject stream based scholarship and application for grade 5 Scholarship and G.C.E. (A/L) Examination which received afterword until the 112th Annual General Meeting date will be Consider for one - time Allowance only.

Acct. Secretary & Accountant

**DISTRICT GENERAL HOSPITAL
MULLAITIVU**

Invitation for Bids - 2021

1. Sealed bids are invited by the Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee on behalf of the District General Hospital, Mullaitivu of the Northern Province from eligible and qualified bidders for the works mentioned in the schedule below.
2. Bids will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
3. Qualification requirements are mentioned in Section 4 of the bid documents. Additional information is given in the schedule (Section 5) of the bid documents.
4. Eligible interested bidders may obtain further information from the District General Hospital, Mullaitivu (021 2061423) during office hours.
5. Interested bidders may obtain bid documents in English language between 09.00 hrs and 15.00 hrs on working days from 07.04.2021 until 27.04.2021 on submission of the perfected "Application for Bid Documents" available in this office upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rs. 3000/= for each procurement.
6. Perfected bids may either be sent by registered post or deposited in the Bid Box kept in the room of the Finance Branch of the District General Hospital, Mullaitivu to receive before 9.00 a.m. on 28.04.2021. These bids will be opened at 9.30 a.m. on 28.04.2021 at the Conference Hall of the District General Hospital, Mullaitivu in the presence of the authorized bidders or their representatives.
7. Pre bid meeting will be held at 9.00 a.m. on 19.04.2021 at the Conference Hall of the District General Hospital, Mullaitivu.
8. Bids should be accompanied by a bid security as mentioned in the schedule below.

Bid identification No.	Work Description	Estimated Cost (Millions)	Contract Period	Required Grade	Required Bid Security	
					Amount (Rs.)	Validity
DGH/Mu/PSDG/2021/ 01	Improvement of Internal Road (635 million)	13.55	147 days	C5 or C6	140,000.00	Up to 11.08.2021

Dr. J.M. Nilakshan
Chairman
Regional Procurement Committee
District General Hospital, Mullaitivu.



**COLOMBO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS' DEPARTMENT
INVITATION TO TENDER**

**TENDER TO REMOVE DECAYED GARBAGE (FREE OF CHARGE)
FROM MADAMPITIYA DISPOSAL SITE**

Tenders are invited for the removal of decayed garbage from Madampitiya Disposal Site for free of charge.

1. Bidder has to transport decayed garbage from Madampitiya Disposal Site to the suitable site provided by the Bidder for suitable purpose.
2. Bidder has to provide Tipppers for the transportation of decayed waste from Madampitiya Disposal Site to the selected site by the Bidder.
3. Colombo Municipal Council will undertake to load the decayed waste to the Tipppers at Madampitiya Disposal Site.
4. Colombo Municipal Council is not responsible for any matters arisen due to the operation by the selected Bidder.
5. Bidder shall indemnify Colombo Municipal Council from any losses, damages and claims made by any party related to this operation

Please submit your completed application indicating name, address, contact No. of Tipppers will be deployed daily. Required time period, expected quantity of waste to be transported etc. to **"Municipal Commissioner, Colombo Municipal Council, Town Hall, Colombo 07"** by registered post indicating subject matter. "Tender to Remove Decayed Garbage (free of charge) from Madampitiya Disposal Site" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. Site inspection can be arranged, if necessary prior to make application.

For more details please contact Director Engineering (Solid Waste Management), S.W.M. Division, Municipal Engineer's Department, Colombo Municipal Council on 0771093131 / 011-2691222.

**Roshanie Dissanayake - Attorney-at-Law
Municipal Commissioner,
Colombo Municipal Council,
Town Hall,
Colombo 07.**



**MOST OUTSTANDING
SRI LANKAN AWARDS
2021**

Lions Clubs International District 306 A1 invites nominations for the prestigious "Most Outstanding Sri Lankan Awards 2021".

These exclusive awards will be awarded in recognition of the outstanding contributions of Sri Lankans for the betterment of society and the advancement of their chosen fields, in harmony with the theme **"TOWARDS PROSPERITY - CHALLENGE TO COVID 19"**

The Awards Ceremony will be held at the Annual District Convention of Lions Clubs International District 306 A1, on 15th May 2021 at Eagles' Lakeside Banquet & Convention Hall, Kawdana Road, Attidiya.

Nominations are invited from Organizations/Public and direct applications are also welcome.

Winners will be selected from the following categories:

- * Tourism & Travel
- * Health Care
- * Public Administration
- * Hunger Relief & Welfare
- * National Security & Safety
- * Entrepreneurship in New Normal

APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON 20th April, 2021

For further details, please contact:

**Past District Governor Lion Dr. Upali Jayawardena
COMMITTEE OF MOST OUTSTANDING
SRI LANKAN AWARDS 2021
508 /13, Galle Road, Panadura.
Tel : Mob : +94 714 783 925
E-mail : upalij39@gmail.com**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
MINISTRY OF YOUTH & SPORTS**

**NOTICE FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE BIDDING
PERIOD FOR THE IMPROVEMENT TO PLAY
GROUND OF ST. ANTHONY'S GIRLS' COLLEGE AT
KATUGASTOTA - KANDY (BALANCE WORK)**

CONTRACT NO : MOYS/PCM/PRO/09/2021

1. Bidding period of the above Procurement which was published on **15.03.2021** has been extended from **16.03.2021 until 30.04.2021**.
2. Issuing date of Bidding Documents, from **16.03.2021 until 29.04.2021** from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs.
3. Validity of Bid Security shall be 105 days from the date of closing of the Bid (**Date 13.08.2021**).
4. Sealed Bids shall be delivered in duplicate marking as original & copy to the **address given below**, on or before **30.04.2021** at 12:00 hrs (bid should be submitted to Tender Box at the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Procurement Branch - Third Floor). Late Bids will not be accepted. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the Bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.
5. Other conditions of Invitation of Bid published on **15.03.2021** remain unchanged.

**Secretary,
Ministry of Youth & Sports
Procurement Branch
3rd Floor, No. 09, Philip Gunawardhana Mawatha,
Colombo 07.**

Tel. : 011-2670028

NOTICE

**DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR TRAFFIC
WERAHERA**

TENDER FOR CANTEEN - 2021/2022

Quotations are invited from eligible Institutions for Maintaining the Canteen at the Werahera Office Premises of the Department of Motor Traffic.

1. Institutions possessing 03 years experience in Maintaining Canteens and presently involved in Maintaining a reputed Canteen are eligible to submit quotations. The required building facilities, tables, chairs, electricity and water will be provided by this Department.
2. Procurement Documents could be obtained from the Commissioner (Administration) by calling over at the Head Office of the Department of Motor Traffic, Elvitigala Mawatha, Narahenpita during working days of the week from 07.04.2021 up to 28.04.2021 between 9.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. and paying in cash, a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2000/= to the Shroff at the Head Office (Narahenpita) in favour of the Commissioner General of Motor Traffic and the receipt thus obtained should be submitted along with a letter of request prepared by the Institute requesting the issue of a Tender Application Form in their name. A Bid Security to the value of Rs. 25,000/= valid up to 25.08.2021 obtained from a commercial bank registered at the Central Bank or a copy of the receipt obtained from the Shroff at the Head Office of the Department of Motor Traffic for payment of a similar amount should be submitted along with the Procurement Application.
3. Your Bids should be sent by Registered Post addressed to the **Chairman, Procurement Committee, Department of Motor Traffic, Narahenpita, Colombo 05** to be received at or before 2.00 p.m. on 29.04.2021 or could be deposited in the Tender Box kept in the Chief Accountant's Office. Bids will be opened at 2.00 p.m. on 29.04.2021 and Bids received thereafter will be rejected. An authorized representative of your Institute could participate at this Bid Invitation. The words **"Invitation for Quotations for Maintaining the Werahera Office Canteen"** should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing the Application.

You may contact **011-2688825 / 2698316** for further details.

**Chairman,
Departmental Procurement Board,
Department of Motor Traffic,
No. 341, Elvitigala Mawatha,
Colombo 05.**

**State Ministry of Rural Housing and Construction &
Building Materials Industries Promotion**



**STATE ENGINEERING CORPORATION
OF SRI LANKA**

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

**Supply of ABC Metal and Gravel for Road Projects
Matara, Galle, Kegalle & Matale Districts**

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Supply of ABC Metal and Gravel for road projects in following areas.
 - Matara District Weligama, Devinuwara, Kamburupitiya, Akuressa, Matara (08 tenders)
 - Galle District - Hiniduma (04 tenders)
 - Kegalle District-Galigamuwa, Dedigama, Mawanella Rambukkana, Warakapola, Kegalle (12 tenders)
 - Matale District-Dambulla (02 tenders)
2. Bid documents can be obtained from the supplies division between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. on working days on the payment of non-refundable fee of Rs. 500.00 by cash for each tender to the Finance Division at 7th Floor of below mentioned address.
3. Bids will be closed on 23.04.2021 at 2.00 p.m. Bids must be delivered to the below mentioned address on or before the time of closing.
4. For further details, please contact Chief Procurement Officer, State Engineering Corporation. Tel.No. 0112434485.

**Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee,
State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka,
No. 130, W.A.D. Ramanayaka Mawatha,
Colombo-02.**

VEHICLE SALE

MOTOR CYCLE	YEAR	YARD
BFE-8044 HONDA / NAVI	2016	KANDY
THREE WHEELER	YEAR	YARD
ABJ-8998 BAJAJ	2016	KURUNEGALA
ABF-8801 BAJAJ	2015	RAGAMA
ABD-4706 BAJAJ	2015	RAGAMA
ABF-9983 BAJAJ	2015	RAGAMA
AAR-7193 BAJAJ	2014	MATARA
AAM-9133 BAJAJ	2013	RAGAMA
AAF-8315 BAJAJ	2012	PANADURA
AAC-1972 BAJAJ	2012	MATARA
YX-3825 BAJAJ	2012	RAGAMA
YI-9605 BAJAJ	2011	MATARA
QU-0034 BAJAJ	2009	RAGAMA
AAT-5788 PIAGGIO / APE	2014	RAGAMA
MOTOR CAR	YEAR	YARD
CAC-2027 MICRO / PANDA	2014	NUWARAELIYA
KD-3911 TATA / INDICA	2006	RAGAMA
DUAL PURPOSE	YEAR	YARD
PW-6739 MAHINDRA / MAXXMO PLUS	2013	RAGAMA
ZA-9939 MERCEDES BENS / ACTROS	2005	RAGAMA
MOTOR COACH	YEAR	YARD
NA-2199 TATA	2006	RAGAMA
MOTOR LORRY	YEAR	YARD
LN-8985 ISUZU / ELF	2016	RAGAMA

The above vehicles can be inspected at the yards and that will be on Auction basis

RAGAMA 0113 288 893	MATARA 0414 935 734	KURUNEGALA 0374 943 738
NUWARAELIYA 0114 346 723	KANDY 0812 051 010	PANADURA 0773 610 142 Clint

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- COLOMBO DISTRICT**
- AVISSAWELLA** 036-2230446
Famous Bake House, No. 31, Seethawakapura
- ANGODA** 011 3069404
Kotikawatte Junction, Kudabuthgama,
- ATHURUGIRIYA** 011 2760479, 011 4876968
267, Godagama Road,
- BATHYTHARAMULLA** 011 2866705, 077 0736770
West Town, Bake House, Sweet House,
- BORALES GAMUWA** 071 6505533, 011 2519954
No. 17, Wewa Rd,
- HANWELLA** 011 4967962, 011 4967960
Sithumina Newspaper Agency, 144, High Level Rd, Pahathgama,
- HOKANDARA** 071 8685437
No. 501, North Hokandara,
- HOMAGAMA** 011 2892262, 077 7304046
"Aradanas", Senanayake Shopping Complex, Station Road,
- KADUWELA** 011 2579609
Nayana Bake House
- KADUWELA** 011 2412291, 011 4443566
375/1, Pahala Bominiya, Yakkala,
- KALUBOWILA** 077 3551145, 011 2767259
No 195, Hospital Road,
- KESBEWA** 011 2703415
Seedevi Newspaper Office, 19, Horana Rd,
- KIRULAPONE** 071 5439396, 011 2514166
Ramani Book Shop, 27-A High Level Rd,
- KOTTAWA** 011 2842569, 071 2510950
Srisara Groceries, No. 101/2,
- MAHARAGAMA** 077 7686683, 011 2896373
Supermarket Complex, 88, High Level Rd,
- MALABE** 011 2791782
Kumudu Stores,
- MEEGODA** 011 2858290, 011 2831120
Nandana Stores, No. 635/3, Padukka Rd,
- MORATUWA** 011 2647410, 077 5486719
Wijesekara Stores,
- MORATUWA** 0112 657326, 0114 212989
S.J.M. Fareed, 222, Egoda Uyana, Modera
- MT. LAVINIA** 011 2724820
Dayal Stores, Galle Rd,
- NUGEGODA** 077 3458785, 011 2811833
Ekwattha Rd, Mirihana,
- NUGEGODA** 011 2846100, 077 1652800
No. 4, High Level Plaza, Deikanda,
- PADUKKA** 011 2859186, 011 5638677
No. 03, Hanwella Road,
- PILIYANDALA** 011 2619967, 072 8069487
No. 05, Seeko Gardens, Gedabuwana,
- PITAKOTTE** 011 2823960, 077 0858585
No. 435, Pothgala,
- RAJAGIRIYA** 011 2861338
No. 51/2A, Rajahawatharana Road,
- RATHMALANA** 011 2626106, 011 2632006
Thusitha Newspaper Agency, Galle Rd,
- RAWATHAWATTE** 011 2655153, 071 4274689
No. 3, Soysa Road, Galle Road
- UDAHAMULLA** 077 6859780, 011 2810042
No 138, Station Rd,

classified@lakehouse.lk
011 2 429 342 | 011 2 429 343
Fax - 011 2 429 375 / 011 2 429 380

Bank of Ceylon

Requires a suitable building for the relocation of the following branches of the Bank of Ceylon

KUMBUKGETE AND MAWATHAGAMA

Proposed building should conform to the following Specifications:

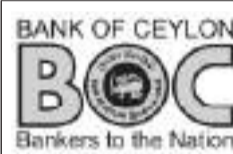
- ▶ Minimum road frontage should be at least 25-40 feet facing a main road and should be within town limits with minimum 40 perch land.
- ▶ Should have adequate parking space.
- ▶ Should have minimum 2500-3000 square feet of floor area.
- ▶ Should have 3 phase 60 AMP Electricity, Pipe Water, Sri Lanka Telecom Telephone Connection, separate Toilet facilities for males and females, emergency exit and other infrastructure facilities.
- ▶ Floor area of the Building should be properly tiled with 2'x2' floor tiles.
- ▶ Properly ventilated 100 square feet (10'x10') room behind the building for a power generator. (This room should be covered with iron grills)
- ▶ Should have a water tank of 1000 litres capacity.

Interested building owners are requested to forward the copy of building plan, Survey plan, Title certificate and the Certificate of Conformity (COC) and the expected monthly rental details to reach the following address within 14 days of this advertisement. The caption "Suitable Building for (Name of relevant Branch) should be mentioned on the left hand top corner of the envelope.

Assistant General Manager (North Western Province)

Bank of Ceylon,
North Western Provincial Office,
No. 18, Mihindu Mawatha,
Kurunegala.

Tel : 037-2223618 / 037-2222420
Fax : 037-2223619
Email : omnwp@boc.lk



Notice



Wayamba University of Sri Lanka Kuliyapitiya

Photographing of the 16th Convocation

Quotations are invited from institutions and individuals who have satisfactory experience in photographing Convocations for the photographing of the 16th General Convocation of the Wayamba University of Sri Lanka which is scheduled to be held on 06th and 07th May 2021 at the Pandit Amardewa Auditorium of the Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, Kuliyapitiya.

Tender forms could be obtained by interested applicants by submitting the receipt obtained upon payment of Rs. 1000/- to the Shroff of this University or a money order for the value of Rs.10 00/- drawn in favour of "Bursar, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, Kuliyapitiya" along with a written request to the "Senior Assistant Registrar - Examinations" during week days up to 3.00 p.m. on or before 20th April 2021.

Duly completed tender forms may either be sent by registered post addressed to "Registrar - Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, Kuliyapitiya" or deposited in the Tender Box kept at the office of the Registrar to receive before 2.00 p.m on 20th April 2021. "Photographing of the Convocation" should be mentioned on the top left had corner of the envelope. Tenders will be opened immediately after the closing of tenders.

Bidders or their representatives may be present at the tender opening and the decision of the Convocation Committee will be final.

Registrar,
Wayamba University of Sri Lanka
Kuliyapitiya.

01.04.2021

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SRI LANKA COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH POLICY

NATIONAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH - 2021

An award scheme for outstanding achievements in agricultural research has been initiated by the Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy (SLCARP). The objectives of the scheme are to encourage and motivate agricultural scientists to achieve excellence in research, assist improve their career prospects and bestow recognition on outstanding contributions made towards advancement of national agricultural development. Such contributions will be judged on the basis of the originality, scientific merit, output, outcome and impact of research on agricultural development in Sri Lanka.

Awards will be offered in the following three(03) major sectors.

1. Plantation including Forestry and Export Agricultural Crops
2. Non-plantation including Floriculture
3. Livestock and Fisheries & Aquatic Resources

Three awards will be given under each sector as follows:-

- 1st Prize : Rs. 300,000/-
- 2nd Prize : Rs. 250,000/-
- 3rd Prize : Rs. 200,000/-

ELIGIBILITY

- Individual or group of scientists employed in public and private sector institutions, universities and NGOs are eligible to apply.
- Research completed during the period of 2018 to 2019 will be considered.
- Research undertaken in Sri Lanka by Sri Lankan citizens or by local institutions will be considered (for instance where there is foreign collaboration, major part of the work should have been conducted by Sri Lankan scientist/s).
- Application forms and further details can be obtained from the SLCARP web site (www.slcarp.lk) or by sending an e-mail to slcarpawards@gmail.com
- Applications prepared as per the prescribed format should be submitted under registered cover to reach **The Chairman, Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy, 114/9, Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 07**, on or before: **24th May 2021**.

Chairman
Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy,
114/9, Wijerama Mawatha,
Colombo 07.

Tel: 011-2698001 / 011-2697648 / 011-2697103
Fax: 011-2682951

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SOUTHERN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL SOUTHERN PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. Bids are invited by the Chairman, Procurement Committee of the Southern Provincial Department of Education, No. 8, Upper Dickson Road, Galle from eligible and qualified contractors (Priority will be given to contractors within the Southern Province as per Finance Ministry Circular No. 04/2016(ii)) who are registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) for the under-mentioned construction and repairing works to select them under National Competitive Bidding Procedure and entrust the works.

Closing date for Bids: 10.00 a.m. on 28.04.2021.

Ser. No.	Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Minimum Qualification ICTAD Grade	Contract Period (Days)	Non Refundable Bid Document Fee (Rs.)	Refundable Bid Bond (Rs.)
Consolidated Fund (CF) National Schools						
01	Ma/Thihagoda National School – Construction of three storey Technological Faculty	46,323,441.25	C 5	360	8,000.00	460,000.00
02	Ma / Devinuwara National School – Repairing the Science Laboratory Building	2,905,651.50	C 8	90	1000.00	29,000.00
03	Ha / Sri Lanka Singapore Friendship National School – Making a concrete road for the Teachers Quarters (Guru Nivasa)	417,086.50	C 9	60	500.00	4,000.00
04	Ha / Mahanaga National School – Construction of three storey Technological Faculty	45,637,091.00	C 5	360	8,000.00	450,000.00

1. Engineering and Technical Staff

- For Works under No. 01 and 04 above
 - Worksite Engineer – B. Sc degree in Civil Engineering or equivalent qualification with 03 years experience
 - Technical officer 01 – National Diploma in Technology (NDT – Civil) or equivalent qualification with 03 years experience
2. For No. 01 and 04 above, the average annual volume of the building construction works performed within last five years should be double the estimated cost of the relevant work.
3. Bidder should have certified that the institution possesses the main essential equipment for the proposed construction works.
4. Interested and eligible bidders may call over at the Accounts Branch of the Southern Provincial Department of Education and inspect the bid documents free of charge during office hours from 08.04.2021.
5. Bid documents may be obtained during office hours from 08.04.2021 until 02.00 p.m. on 27.04.2021 on submission of the receipt obtained from the Shroff of the Department upon payment of the fees.
6. The specific refundable bid security may be paid in cash to the Shroff of this department or submitted in the form of a bank guarantee (Bank Guarantees from The Commercial Bank will not be accepted) valid from 28.04.2021 until 28.08.2021 in the form attached to the bid documents. If the bid security is submitted as a bank guarantee it should be drawn in the name given below. If paid in cash attach a photocopy of the receipt to the bid.
- Address: Southern Provincial Director of Education
Southern Provincial Department of Education
Upper Dickson Road,
Galle**
7. Bids in duplicate as "Original" and "Duplicate" in separate covers, should be reinserted in a single cover mentioning the name of the relevant work on the left hand top corner, sealed and may either be sent by registered post to the following address or deposited in the Tender Box kept in this department to receive before 10.00 a.m. on 28.04.2021.
- Address: Chairman
Departmental Procurement Committee
Southern Provincial Department of Education
Upper Dickson Road,
Galle**
8. Bids will be opened at 10.15 a.m. on 28.04.2021 at the Southern Provincial Department of Education and the contractor who has submitted the bid or his authorized representative may be present at the time of opening of bids.
9. Works No. 01 and 04 are implemented under the Technical Education Development Programme (TEDP Project) and OPEC Funds for International Development (OFID).
10. Further details regarding this may be obtained by calling on Tel. No. 091-2234234.

Nimal Dissanayake
Southern Provincial Director of Education
Southern Provincial Department of Education
Upper Dickson Road
Galle.

Date: 05.04.2021



GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS
ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



INVITATION FOR BIDS

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
(SINGLE STAGE: TWO ENVELOPE BIDDING)

RE_BIDDING OF SUPPLY OF AGGREGATE MATERIAL TO THE ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ASPHALT PLANTS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (01) YEAR-2021/2022

- The Chairman, Road Development Authority Procurement Committee, on behalf of Road Development Authority (RDA), invites sealed bids for Supply of Aggregate material to Road Development Authority Asphalt Plants for a period of One (01) year (2021/2022) from the interested Suppliers
- As per the Public Contract Act No. 03 of 1987, the Agent and successful winners of the tender shall be registered in the Department of Registrar of Companies

#	Contract No	Description	Size of Aggregate (mm)	Annual Total Quantity (MT)	Bid Security (Rs)
01.	RDA/MM/KEAG/2021/20	Re-bidding of Supply of Aggregate Materials to Asphalt Plant at Keragala	0 - 5	40,000	1,700,000.00
			5 - 12.5	27,500	
			12.5 - 19	20,000	
02.	RDA/MM/INAG/2021/21	Re-bidding of Supply of Aggregate Materials to Asphalt Plant at Ingriya	0 - 5	40,000	1,700,000.00
			5 - 12.5	27,500	
			12.5 - 19	20,000	
03.	RDA/MM/KOAG/2021/22	Re-bidding of Supply of Aggregate Materials to Asphalt Plant at Kotadeniyawa	0 - 5	40,000	1,700,000.00
			5 - 12.5	27,500	
			12.5 - 19	20,000	
04.	RDA/MM/MEDAG/2021/23	Re-bidding of Supply of Aggregate Materials to Asphalt Plant at Medayaya	0 - 5	40,000	1,700,000.00
			5 - 12.5	27,500	
			12.5 - 19	20,000	
05.	RDA/MM/KOTHAG/2021/24	Re-bidding of Supply of Aggregate Materials to Asphalt Plant at Kothmale	0 - 5	40,000	1,700,000.00
			5 - 12.5	27,500	
			12.5 - 19	20,000	
06.	RDA/MM/AMAG/2021/25	Re-bidding of Supply of Aggregate Materials to Asphalt plant at Ambanpola	0 - 5	40,000	1,700,000.00
			5 - 12.5	27,500	
			12.5 - 19	20,000	
07.	RDA/MM/MEAG/2021/26	Re-bidding of Supply of Aggregate Materials to Asphalt Plant at Medawachchiya	0 - 5	48,000	1,600,000.00
			5 - 12.5	21,500	
			12.5 - 19	17,000	
08.	RDA/MM/BAAG/2021/27	Re-bidding of Supply of Aggregate Materials to Asphalt Plant at Balangoda	0 - 5	40,000	1,700,000.00
			5 - 12.5	27,500	
			12.5 - 19	20,000	

- Bidding will be conducted through the **National Competitive Bidding (Single Stage: Two Envelope Bidding)**
- Interested Suppliers may obtain further information from the Maintenance Management Division, 6th Floor, Maganeguma Mahamedura Road Development Authority, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla (Telephone: 011-2882196, Fax: 011-2882195) and bidding documents shall be inspected during office hours free of charge at the above office.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language shall be purchased by interested bidders from the office of the Director (Maintenance Management), Road Development Authority, 6th Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla from **07/04/2021** until **27/04/2021** during **09:00 hrs. to 15:00 hrs.** Upon payment of bidding document fee of **Rs. 12,000.00** by depositing to the **Bank of Ceylon - Corporate Branch Account Number 0000001943 in favor of Director General, Road Development Authority for each Contract.** The original payment slip should be produced when purchasing the Bid documents.
- Pre bid meeting will be held on **21st April 2021 at 10:00 hrs** at the Maintenance Management Division, 6th Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura" Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla.
- Bidders are required to submit simultaneously two separate sealed envelopes, one containing the Technical Bid and a copy and the other envelope containing Price Bid and a copy both enclosed in one sealed envelope to **Director (Maintenance Management), Road Development Authority, 06th Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla** on or before **14:00 hrs. on 28/04/2021.** The **Technical Bid** shall be opened soon after closing in the presence of representative of bidders who choose to participate. Price Bids of the bidders who are technically qualified shall be opened in public on a later date and that date shall be informed in due course. Late bids will be rejected.
- Please indicate **"Re-bidding for Supply of Aggregate Material for Asphalt Plant at (Name of Asphalt Plant)"** On top left corner of the envelope (as relevant to the Bid)
- Bid shall be valid up to **91 calendar days** from the date closing of the Bid. Each bid shall be accompanied by a **Bid Security valid up to 25/08/2021 for the amount mentioned above and should be attached with the Technical Bid.** Any Bid not accompanied by a valid Bid security will be rejected.
- For the bids invited under this Invitation for Bids (08 number of bids) bidders shall be allowed to bid for one or more bids. However, **a bidder shall not be awarded more than two contracts.**

The employer shall evaluate and compare the bids on the basis of contracts or a combination of contracts, as such total of contracts in order to arrive **at the least cost combination to the employer.**

The Chairman
Road Development Authority Procurement Committee
Road Development Authority.

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<p>Matara Branch</p> <p>MATARA No.29, Upper Floor, Main Bus Stand 041 223 5412</p>	<p>Nugegoda Branch</p> <p>NUGEGODA 4th Floor Savsiri Complex, High Levelle Road 011 282 8114</p>	<p>Kataragama Branch</p> <p>KATARAGAMA Opposite Kataragama Bus Stand, Pussadewa Mawatha 047 223 5291</p>	

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D R Wijewardena Mawatha,
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Daily News

Classifieds

Automotive

106
Cars
For sale

WPKA-4367 **Tata**
Indica car for highest offer. Senkadagala Finance PLC, Kandy. Inquiries Monday to Friday. 0770107270, 0774789216. 026774

107
Toyota Cars
For sale

NW KE-3537 **Toyota**
121, 2003, car for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC, No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel. 0714542958. 026800

WPKF-6561 **Toyota**
IST car, for highest offer. Senkadagala Finance PLC, Kandy. Inquiries Monday to Friday. 0770107270, 0774789216. 026776

300-5184 **Toyota**
Starlet Car, for highest offer. Senkadagala Finance PLC, Kandy. Inquiries Monday to Friday. 0770107270, 0774789216. 026770

110
Maruti Cars
For sale

WPKK-9816 **Maruti**
Suzuki Alto car, for highest offer. Senkadagala Finance PLC, Kandy. Inquiries Monday to Friday. 0770107270, 0774789216. 026779

113
Suzuki Cars
For sale

WP CBG-4931 **Suzuki**
Wagon R, 2017, for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC, No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel. 0714542958. 026793

117
Vans
For sale

WPHT-1941 **Subaru**
Sambar van, for highest offer. Senkadagala Finance PLC, Kandy. Inquiries Monday to Friday. 0770107270, 0774789216. 026773

WPPA-7376 **Mitsubishi**
Minicab Van, for highest offer. Senkadagala Finance PLC, Kandy. Inquiries : Monday to Friday. 0770107270, 0774789216. 026748

251-5703 **Nissan**
Serena Van, for highest offer. Senkadagala Finance PLC, Kandy. Inquiries Monday to Friday. 0770107270, 0774789216. 026769

119
Buses & Lorries
For sale

EP PW-1829 **Tata**
Superace Truck, for highest offer. Senkadagala Finance PLC, Kandy. Inquiries : Monday to Friday. 0770107270, 0774789216. 026756

NPLD-7127 **Toyota**
Dyna F/B Truck, for highest offer. Senkadagala Finance PLC, Kandy. Inquiries Monday to Friday. 0770107270, 0774789216. 026771

NPLH-5180 **Isuzu**
Elf Freezer Truck, for highest offer. Senkadagala Finance PLC, Kandy. Inquiries Monday to Friday. 0770107270, 0774789216. 026757

NPPP-7744 **Tata**
Ace HT Truck for highest offer. Senkadagala Finance PLC, Kandy. Inquiries Monday to Friday. 0770107270, 0774789216. 026758

NWPU-5940 **Tata**
Superace Truck, for highest offer. Senkadagala Finance PLC, Kandy. Inquiries Monday to Friday. 0770107270, 0774789216. 026772

SGJD-3013 **Toyota**
Townace Truck, for highest offer. Senkadagala Finance PLC, Kandy. Inquiries Monday to Friday. 0770107270, 0774789216. 026760

UPLI-4157 **Tata**
1615 Dump Truck. For highest offer. Senkadagala Finance PLC, Kandy. Inquiries Monday to Friday. 0770107270, 0774789216. 026764

WPLK-7545 **Toyota**
Dyna Truck, for highest offer. Senkadagala Finance PLC, Kandy. Inquiries Monday to Friday. 0770107270, 0774789216. 026781

WPNA-6215 **Tata**
LP713 Bus for highest offer. Senkadagala Finance PLC, Kandy. Inquiries Monday to Friday. 0770107270, 0774789216. 026765

WPPX-4929 **Maxximo**
Truck, for highest offer. Senkadagala Finance PLC, Kandy. Inquiries Monday to Friday. 0770107270, 0774789216. 026766

227-7045 **Toyota**
Dyna F/B Truck, for highest offer. Senkadagala Finance PLC, Kandy. Inquiries Monday to Friday. 0770107270, 0774789216. 026768

47-2122 **Isuzu**
Motor Lorry for highest offer. Senkadagala Finance PLC, Kandy. Inquiries : Monday to Friday. 0770107270, 0774789216. 026753

122
M/Cycles & T/Wheelers
For sale

EPBIM-2064 **Hero**
HF Deluxe for highest offer. Senkadagala Finance PLC, Kandy. Inquiries : Monday to Friday. 0770107270, 0774789216. 026755

EPBIU-6927 **TVs**
Sport 100cc ELS, for highest offer. Senkadagala Finance PLC, Kandy. Inquiries : Monday to Friday. 0770107270, 0774789216. 026751

SP ABH-6443 **Piaggio**
Ape Three-Wheeler. For highest offer. Senkadagala Finance PLC, Kandy. Inquiries Monday to Friday. 0770107270, 0774789216. 026762

WP BDL-3847 **Bajaj**
Pulsar, 2016, SGBEO-9092 Bajaj Pulsar, 2016, motor cycles for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC, No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel. 0711210810. 026796

WP BIC-6397 **TVS**
NTORQ, 2019, Motor Cycle for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC, No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel. 0711210810. 026792

WP BIC-8238 **Yamaha**
FZ, 2019, motor cycle for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC, No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel. 0711210810. 026790

WP QU-7574 **Bajaj**
2009, SP AAP-5282 Bajaj, 2014, Three-wheel for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC, No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel. 0711210810. 026799

WP YG-2122, **Bajaj**,
2010, SP QP-6620 Bajaj, 2008, SG AA1-8934 Bajaj, 2013, Three-wheel for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC, No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel. 0711210810. 026794

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

OBTAINING A BUILDING FOR RELOCATION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

01. It has been scheduled to relocate the Superior Courts Complex Building where the Supreme Court of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka is established for complete reconstruction. As such, sealed Bids are invited from building owners from within the Colombo Municipal Council Limits for obtaining a Building on Lease Basis for a period of two years close to the Superior Courts Complex.

- This building should be according to the specifications mentioned below :
- The building should contain 17 rooms with a minimum area of 500 sq. feet including attached toilet facilities for the Hon. Supreme Court Judges.
 - Should consist of 07 premises with approximately 2000 sq. ft. each for the Court Halls of the Supreme Court.
 - Require approximately 9000 sq. ft. space for the Staff.
 - Require approximately 14000 sq. ft. space for the Record Room.
 - Require at least 12000 sq. ft. space for the Library.
 - Require approximately 4000 sq. ft. space for other common facilities.
 - We wish to obtain this building on the basis of a monthly payment of rent according to a Government Assessment.
 - The owner of the building should not be a party for any Court Cases.

02. Likewise, other facilities mentioned below should also be provided to this building to be given on lease.
- Secure parking facilities should be provided for about 40 vehicles of the Hon. Judges and Lawyers.
 - Should be provided with water, electricity and telephone facilities for this building.
 - This building should consist of a Fire Protection System approved by the Fire Department.
 - Should be installed with an Electric Lift for the upper floors of this building.
 - The access road to the main entrance should not be below 12 feet in width.
 - Should consist of a surrounding wall with a gate to be secured with locks and keys.

03. Parties interested in this matter should submit along with other documents mentioned below, the duly completed application downloaded from our website : www.moj.gov.lk and sent by Registered Post addressed to "Accountant (Supplies), Ministry of Justice, Superior Courts Complex, Colombo 12" to be received before 11.00 a.m. on 29.04.2021 or could be hand delivered. Bids received late will be rejected. Bids submitted in contrary to this procedure or by email will not be accepted.

04. Documents to be submitted with the application :
- Submitting the Bid along with a letter, in acceptance of providing the relevant building on lease basis for a period of two years.
 - Submitting a copy of the approved building plan.
 - A certified copy of the Title Deed and a certified copy of the Survey Plan.
 - Submitting a drawn-up plan of the land connecting to the Main Road or a sketch indicating the location.
 - Submitting a Certificate of Conformity (CoC) obtained from the relevant Local Government Institution.

05. Interested Bidders could obtain further information from the Additional Secretary (Development) of the Ministry of Justice. Telephone No. 0718332180/0112320784.

06. A Pre-Bid Meeting regarding this matter will be held at 10.00 a.m. on 23.04.2021 at the Ministry of Justice.

Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee, Ministry of Justice, Superior Courts Complex, Colombo 12.

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF TEXTILE & APPAREL

State Ministry of Batik, Handloom and Local Apparel Products

PROCUREMENT OF EQUIPMENT / ITEMS FOR BATIK CENTER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT - 160 CENTERS - NO. SLITA/EQ/03/2021

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of Sri Lanka Institute of Textile & Apparel invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for the supply and delivery of Equipment / Items listed below for Batik Center Development Project - 160 Centers distributed over all the Districts islandwide.
 - Chemicals for Batik Dyeing
 - Tools & Equipment for Batik
 - Fabrics for Batik Dyeing
 - Furniture - Batik Frames, Tables & Table Tops
 - Dye Baths & Waste Water Treatment Tanks
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Director (Operation) of Sri Lanka Institute of Textile & Apparel and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. on weekdays from 8 March to 23 April 2021.
- Bidding will be conducted under the National Competitive Bidding procedure published by the National Procurement Agency.
- 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 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 3,500/= . The payment is to be made in cash to the Accounts Division from 9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. on weekdays from 8 March to 23 April 2021.
- Bids must be inserted into the Tender Box placed at the address below or sent by Registered Post on or before 27 April 2021 at 2.00 p.m. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders or Bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 2.00 p.m. on 27 April 2021. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of 1.5% of the total bidding value in Rupees in each category, separately.

DIRECTOR GENERAL
SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF TEXTILE & APPAREL
KANDAWALA ESTATE, NO. 2,
GEN. SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA ROAD,
RATMALANA.
Tel : 0112632406
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Employment Opportunities



GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS
ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



VACANCIES

Posts of Technical Officer, Quantity Surveyor, Assistant Quantity Surveyor, Quantity Surveying Assistant, Research Assistant & Draughtsman

Applications are invited from the citizens of Sri Lanka for the above posts in the Road Development Authority.

The qualifications for the above posts are as follows.

01. Technical Officer (Civil)

Salary Scale : MA 2-2(B) – Rs.33,660 - 350x6- 600x14 – 44,160/-

Minimum Qualifications & experience

National Diploma in Technology (Civil) of the University of Moratuwa (NDT – Civil)

Or

Four year full time special Apprenticeship/NDES Course in Civil Engineering at the National Apprenticeship and Industrial Training Authority.(NAITA)

Or

The Diploma in Technology (Civil) in the Open University of Sri Lanka

Or

Higher National Diploma in Engineering (Civil) at Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education (SLIATE) or similar qualification equivalent to NVQ Level – 6 approved by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission (TVEC)

02. Quantity Surveyor

Salary Scale : MM 1-1 – Rs.53,175 – 10 x 1,375-15 x 1,910 - 95,575/-

Minimum Qualifications & experience

Graduate member of Institute of Quantity Surveyors of Sri Lanka (IQSSL)

Or

Graduate holding a degree in the field of Quantity Surveying, accredited by Institute of Quantity Surveyors of Sri Lanka (IQSSL).

Or

Full member with voting rights of an overseas Quantity Surveying professional institute, having a valid reciprocity agreement with Institute of Quantity Surveyors of Sri Lanka (IQSSL),

AND

A degree in the field of Quantity Surveying of not less than 120 credits recognized by Institute of Quantity Surveyors of Sri Lanka (IQSSL).

03. Assistant Quantity Surveyor

Salary Scale : MA 2-2(B) – Rs.33,660 - 350x6- 600x14 – 44,160/-

Minimum Qualifications & experience

Technical Member of Institute of Quantity Surveyors of Sri Lanka (IQSSL)

Or

Graduate holding a degree in the field of Quantity Surveying of not less than 90 credits recognized by Institute of Quantity Surveyors of Sri Lanka (IQSSL).

Or

Quantity surveying qualification of National Vocational Qualification Level VII as recognized by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission established under the Tertiary and Vocational Education Act.No.20 of 1990.

Or

Full member with voting rights of an overseas Quantity Surveying professional institute recognized by Institute of Quantity Surveyors of Sri Lanka (IQSSL), with a Higher Diploma in Quantity Surveying not less than 60 credits recognized by Institute of Quantity Surveyors of Sri Lanka (IQSSL).

Or

Full member with voting rights of an overseas Quantity Surveying professional institute recognized by Institute of Quantity Surveyors of Sri Lanka (IQSSL), with a Quantity Surveying qualification of National Vocational Qualification Level VI recognized by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission established under the Tertiary and Vocational Education Act.No.20 of 1990, or similar Quantity Surveying Qualification recognized by IQSSL.

04. Quantity Surveying Assistant

Salary Scale : MA 2-2(A) – Rs. 30,310 – 300x18 – 35,710/-

Minimum Qualifications & Service Requirements

Registered Member of Institute of Quantity Surveyors of Sri Lanka (IQSSL) with Quantity Surveying qualification of National Vocational Qualification Level IV recognized by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission established by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Act. No.20 of 1990.

Or

Diploma in Quantity surveying not less than 30 credits recognized by Institute of Quantity Surveyors of Sri Lanka (IQSSL).

Or

Quantity Surveying qualification of National Vocational Qualification not less than Level V recognized by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission established by the Tertiary and Vocational Educational Act, No.20 of 1990.

Or

Master's degree not less than 30 credits in Quantity Surveying recognized by Institute of Quantity Surveyors of Sri Lanka (IQSSL), with Quantity Surveying qualification of National Vocational Qualification Level IV recognized by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission established by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Act.No.20 of 1990.

05. Research Assistant

Salary Scale : MA (1-2) – Rs.27,910 – 300x14 – 32,110/-

Minimum Qualifications & experience

Having passed the G.C.E (O/L) examination in six subjects in one sitting with credit passes for four subjects including first language and Mathematics.

and

Having passed the G.C.E (A/L) examination with two (02) credit passes in Chemistry and Combine Mathematics/Physics in one sitting

With

03 years relevant experience in a recognized institution.

06. Draughtsman

Salary Scale : MA 2-2(A) – Rs.30,310 – 300x18 – 35,710/-

Minimum Qualifications & experience

Having passed the G.C.E.(O/L) examination in six subjects in one sitting with credit passes for four subjects including first language and Mathematics and three passes at the GCE (A/L) in one sitting

with

Possess the Draughtsman Apprentices Certificate / National certificate in Engineering Draughtsmanship of the Government Technical Collage

with

03 years working experience in Autocad draughting in the relevant field in a recognized institution.

Age Limit - Age should be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years

Terms of Employment - The appointment will be on Contract basis.

Other Benefits - Employees Provident Fund contribution by the Authority is 12%

against 8% by the Employee plus Additional contribution of 3% towards Employees Trust Fund and other government approved allowance.

Important

- The relevant application forms available in the RDA website on rda.gov.lk should be used, to apply for such posts by the applicant.
- The certified copies of relevant documents such as educational & professional certificates, experience certificates, etc should be submitted together with the application form.
- The applicants need to nominate two (02) non related referees and to provide their details in the applications itself.
- Incomplete applications and the applications be received after the closing date will be rejected without intimation.
- Applications should be reached to the **Director (Administration), Road Development Authority, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", No.216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Koswatta, Battarmulla** under registered post on or before **21.04.2021**. The post applied should be written on the top left hand corner of the envelope.
- Applicants employed in Govt. Departments, State Corporations, Boards and Authorities should submit their applications through the Head of their respective organization.

Director General
Road Development Authority

"Maganeguma Mahamedura", No.216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mw, Koswatta, Battarmulla
Email – headoffice198621@gmail.com

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